



IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

P.O. Box 167 • 500 West Washington Street
Boise, Idaho 83701-0167 • (208) 342-2688
FAX (208) 342-8585

February 7, 2006

Brian Amme
BLM PEIS Project Manager
1340 Financial Boulevard
PO Box 12000
Reno, NV 85920-0006

Dear Mr. Amme:

1 On behalf of the more than 62,500 member families of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), please accept our comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Vegetative Management on BLM lands.

IFBF supports Alternative B for the following reasons:

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 - Excessive fuel loading and ever increasing invasive plant species populations jeopardize the long-term health of our western public rangelands.
- 3
 - Large wildfires in recent years can be attributed to the build-up of these fuels.
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 - Treatment of public lands through the use of herbicides provides the BLM with an effective management tool to help the agency reduce the spread of invasive and noxious weeds and reduce fuel loads. The BLM needs to be able to utilize all of the tools available to combat this problem.
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 - The herbicides that BLM proposes to use pursuant to Alternative B have been determined to be both effective and safe through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) registration process.
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 - The EPA has found no evidence that the herbicides BLM proposes to use through Alternative B pose any harmful risks to human health if used in accordance to their label instructions.
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 - The BLM manages more than 260 million acres of land in the western United States. Due to the vastness of these lands, we feel that aerial spraying of herbicides is a much needed management tool for reducing invasive weeds and fuel loads.
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 - IFBF also believes that active livestock grazing should be used as an active management tool. Livestock grazing on public lands produces many other benefits on top of fuels reduction and noxious weed control.

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IFBF hopes the BLM will make the decision to move forward with Alternative B. Without the use of herbicides as an effective and safe treatment method, the health of our rangelands will continue to be jeopardized by the build-up of fuels and invasive and noxious weeds. Alternative B is the best option for improving the health of our public rangelands and ensuring their productivity in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We reserve the right to further comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank D. Priestley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "F".

Frank Priestley, President
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation