Subject: Comment on BLM Programmatic EIS for Herbicide Vegetation Treatments in 17 Western States

Brian Amme, Project Manager
BLM, P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

See FL-0001

Mr. Brian Amme,

I have reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's proposal for herbicide applications to public lands in western states. I am urging BLM to choose Option 3 (C) in its proposal, wherein alternative control methods, other than herbicides, would be used. As a user (and citizen owner) of these public lands, I am deeply concerned with allowing such a large use of herbicides on public lands, including National Monuments and National Conservation areas.

An integral part of this proposal involves aerial spraying of toxic herbicides, which increases negative impacts on non-targeted vegetation, wildlife, and people, including recreationists, tourists, and native peoples (herbicide application areas include Alaska, where native fishing and plant gathering is widespread). Although the proposal claims care would be taken in applying the pesticides in a controlled manner, these chemicals are known to drift much further than anticipated and cause unexpected health and ecological impacts. The pesticides that would be used include persistent and mobile chemicals, including known developmental and reproductive toxins.

U.S. biologists, ecologists and wildlife managers have a vast array of alternative vegetation management tools to choose from, without having to resort to applying toxic chemicals to our public lands. Please choose Option 3 (C).

Thank you for your care and consideration,

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