

Jan 22, 2006

Dear Sirs:

1 I feel herbicide use is a necessary tool in the control of noxious weeds, especially the knapweed complex, on western rangeland. It would be a travesty to risk the financial and ecological calamity that results when noxious weed infestations are allowed to displace the natural biodiversity with their monoculture of useless vegetative cover just to appease some radical environmentalist's paranoia concerning herbicide use.

2 I've been a chairman of the Adams County Noxious Weed Board for well over ten years in Eastern Washington State, and a member of the Washington State Noxious Weed Board for two years so am rather familiar with the problems involved, both botanically and politically. I am writing to you here only on my own personal behalf and want to make that perfectly clear.

3 To observe the devastation knapweeds can unleash, one only needs to travel to Thompson Falls or Hot Springs Montana. What an irreversible environmental collapse!

4 Thank You for this opportunity to comment. The ELM's increasingly large holdings in the Columbia River Basin is of growing concern, especially to those of us concerned about the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, both plant and animal.

Sincerely,

Herman Harder

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