

P.O. Box 328  
Garberville, CA 95542  
November 26, 2005

Brian Amme, Project Manager  
B L M  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Re: Herbicide Use

Dear Mr. Amme,

- 1 I don't know what to say. In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote her book 'Silent Spring', foretelling irreversible damage to the environment and the death of songbirds and other wildlife caused by use of pesticides.
- 2 It is difficult to believe that there are any agencies or human beings who do not understand the dangers to our planet, our only home, from the use of these toxins. And no one even knows the underlying destruction from using them in combination, and over and over.
- 3 There are plenty of ways to mitigate catastrophic wildfires and protect ecosystems from invasive weeds. I cannot believe you would put the word 'ecosystem' in the same sentence or even on the same page as 'herbicides' and 'pesticides'. They simply do not habit same universe.
- 4 These alternative ways may be more labor intensive. Remember, middle class jobs in the U.S. are shrinking faster than a sugar cube in hot water, creating a ready-made work force for ecologically safe practices.
- 5 These safe weed-removal practices include, but are not limited to fire, manual, cultural, and biological control methods. Instead of wasting taxpayer money on toxic chemicals that themselves destroy ecosystems, and instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on the ever-increasing cost of fossil-fuel-powered methods of reduction, please consider sane, healthy and life-enhancing non-depleting methods of doing your job.
- 6 Imagine if the BLM hooked up with environmental restorationists and adopted restorationist techniques for mitigating weed and other environmental problems. It would create a whole new economic niche that would be much safer for our planet.
- 7 For example, if industrial hemp were widely planted it would cut the number of illegal outdoor marijuana grows by a drastic amount. And hemp could save our planet. Jack Herer has a \$100,000 challenge – prove him wrong about hemp and you will get the money.
- 8 I know, I know, the only reward for sticking your neck out comes from inside yourself, as you might be vilified for turning against the traditional, the profiteering of chemical corporations on steroids. Can you do the right thing?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Robin West  
matriot and earthling,  
teen mentor, grad student,  
and massage therapist extraordinaire!