

emc-0070

----- Forwarded by Brian Amme/NVSO/NV/BLM/DOI on 01/03/2006 01:48 PM -----

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To

12/29/2005 02:02 PM

cc

Vegetation Treatments Using
Herbicides Programmatic EIS

Subject

Brian Amme, project manager, BL Nevada State Office,

1 I have read that you are planning to expand your spraying of herbicides for invasive plants. I strongly oppose this unnecessary way of poisoning our public lands.

2 I support efforts to preserve and restore native plants and native ecosystems but the use of herbicides or other pesticides, in my view, is usually not the best approach. Invasive plants are often spread by inappropriate uses of public lands such as livestock grazing, road construction and use, the use of off-road vehicles, timber harvesting, and poorly managed fuel reduction projects. Hikers, campers, horse users, and pet owners could benefit from education programs about cleaning themselves and their animals to reduce the spread of invasive plants. All the worst invasive plant infestations I have seen have been around unnecessary or poorly managed land use activities such as those listed above. Spotted knapweed, for example, in the part of central Oregon I am familiar with, almost always gets a foothold and spreads from areas denuded by humans and their land uses. On my families tree farm, we have controlled spotted knapweed without herbicides by disturbing the ground less and regularly pulling it by hand.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Erik and Jessyca Burke
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