

emc-0085

----- Forwarded by Brian Amme/NVSO/NV/BLM/DOI on 01/03/2006 02:11 PM -----

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To

cc

12/30/2005 04:53  
AM

Subject  
Comments Re: Spraying Invasives  
Proposal

Dear BLM Personnel:

**1** I understand that the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to spray almost a million acres per year with herbicides to kill invasive plants. I further understand that this planned activity triples the agency's current herbicide use.

**2** My experience fighting invasive plants (weeds) is that this is not an effective way to deal with the agency's invasive plant problem. Without addressing the causes of invasive plant problems little good, and much bad will be accomplished. Pesticide use can easily create many more problems than it solves. Killing non-target species, water pollution, and unnecessary expense are the first three "bads" which come to mind.

Livestock grazing, road construction and use, use of off-road vehicles, timber harvests, and fuel reduction projects all encourage invasive weeds on BLM land. BLM needs to change the way the agency manages these activities in order to prevent invasive plant problems. For our health and watershed health, the BLM also needs to make a strong commitment to reducing its reliance on herbicides.

**3**

Thank you for including my comments in your assessment.

Sincerely,

George B. Hutchinson  
44 SW Brook Street  
Newport, OR 97365