

emc-0097

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To

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cc

Subject

Better management, not more pesticides

Bureau of Land Management:

I am not an environmental specialist, just a simple "end-user." My family lives on 2 acres in Oregon. I watched, as the rain fell, bubbles and foam forming in the streams flowing down our residential hill as I drove to our little town yesterday. It was frightening. I couldn't help but wonder what effect our minor residential use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer was having on the salmon that fill the Clackamas River at the foot of our hill--let alone what huge amounts of spraying must be doing to the watershed and wildlife living at the foot of Mt Hood to the east of Oregon City, where we live!

1

Your proposal to spray almost a million acres per year with herbicides to kill invasive plants, tripling the agency's current herbicide use, is not an effective way to deal with the agency's invasive plant problem. So far BLM has refused to consider the causes of invasive plant problems. Instead, the agency is putting itself on a treadmill of pesticide use.

2

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. BLM also needs to make a strong commitment to reducing its reliance on herbicides.

3

I urge the agency to adopt strong prevention-based practices for activities (livestock grazing, road construction and use, use of off-road vehicles, timber harvests, and fuel reduction projects) that encourage invasive plants. Also tell BLM that the agency needs to make a specific measurable commitment to reducing reliance on herbicides.

4

So much is in your hands. Please do the right thing.

-Maisie MacKinnon, Oregon City

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