2/3/06

Dear Mr. Annes,

I am writing you this letter to voice
1 my strong opposition to your plan to
spray poisonous herbicides on BLM
lands in the West.

Noxious weeds are a real problem, but they don't
kill human beings. Herbicides, by contrast,
are extremely carcinogenic and kill hundreds,
probably thousands of people every year.
My late mother was an ardent user
of 2-4D-containing products known as
"endocrine disrupters". Despite the constant
protests of my sister and I, explaining
2 that the weedkillers she used on her
lawn were potent carcinogens, my mother
continued to use the herbicides, thinking that
they were harmless, because of chemical
company lies. Unfortunately, she
developed a type of cancer (lymphoma)
caused by exposure to endocrine disrupters
that contributed to her early death, causing her
unspeakable suffering. This tragedy could
have been prevented if she hadn't
used the weedkillers for so long.

My surviving family and I live
in Oregon. Every year, we pick hundreds
3 of pounds of berries and mushrooms
from public lands. We fill
our freezers with berries and we dry
the mushrooms for future use. We like
to harvest wild foods from public lands
because we know they haven't been

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sprayed with pesticides. We also like to camp out near the blackberry patches.

Please don't spray ~~herbicides~~ herbicides on BLM land! If you do, you'll be exposing lots of people to potent carcinogens. The workers, most of them uneducated about the health dangers, will be greatly amplifying their own chances of dying from cancer. Hikers, hunters, wildcrafters, fishermen, residents who live near BLM land and campers will all be exposed to the toxic sprays.

4

There are many alternatives to chemicals for weed control. The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides has the facts of the health effects of using ~~herbicides~~ herbicides, as well as lists of proven control methods for all kinds of pests (that don't rely on chemicals.) Their website is "www.pesticide.org". They would love to help BLM to kick the herbicide habit, before it starts again!

5

To sum it up, kill weeds, not people! Don't use chemical herbicides - use manual control or products like "Burnout" that kill weeds without causing disease and death. The life you save could be your own!

6

Sincerely,
Matthew Pile