Your Community Voice in the Carson

Re: Invasive Weed Draft EIS for 17 Western States - BLM

2/2/06

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On behalf of Carson Forest Watch, the following are our comments regarding the proposed 17 State Invasive Weed Treatment EIS and specifically our concerns:

1) We are residents of rural northern New Mexico, and many of us are organic farmers & livestock growers.

2) We recognize the invasive weed concern for ecosystems, but have numerous concerns regarding any herbicide use on our public lands.

3) Many of us are chemically sensitive and even small amounts of herbicides directly affect our health & safety.

4) We are members of the Taos County, New Mexico Noxious Weed Committee and have worked with the County and →

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we will begin to use it with love and respect."
— Aldo Leopold

the N.M. Dept. of Transportation to avoid herbicide use along Roads in our County.

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2 5) currently - there are moratoriums on any weed treatments using herbicides in Las Vegas, N.M. (San Miguel County, and Santa Fe N.M. municipal watershed, and we are working with TRES County on such a prohibition.

3 6) There are numerous, effective, safe, & proven alternatives to herbicides for treating noxious weeds. The DEIS needs to fully analyze these non-toxic methods & propose a wide range of alternatives, as per NEPA regs.

4 7) Backpack portable propane torches are an effective method successfully used in the Northwest we would use the BLM to evaluate. They are low-effective

5 8) Our western state's long-term drought needs to be analyzed in this DEIS - low water levels, dry soils, loss of vegetation, warm temps, etc all must be evaluated in this DEIS - as it directly affects the condition of our soils and watersheds. Also drought will affect any analysis of effects of herbicides - less ability of soils & water to dilute chemicals, absorption rates, etc.

6 9) many residents live in the 17 western states for clean air & water, & are chemically sensitive. This proposal directly threatens their health & safety. We do not support the use of herbicides to control noxious weeds. Thank you

Sincerely, Jan Berle
for CFW