

Bluecamaslily@aol  
.com

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PM

vegeis@nv.blm.gov

invasive@pesticide.org

To

cc

Subject

Vegetation Treatments Using  
Herbicides Programmatic EIS

Brian Amme:

1 I was recently informed that the BLM plans to spray nearly 1,000,000 acres per year with herbicides to kill invasive plants. As a taxpayer, and therefore a personal funder of the BLM, I am strongly opposed to that effort.

2 My wife and I own more than 5000 acres in Eastern Washington that have severe invasive plant problems (due entirely to the poor agricultural, logging and grazing-of-animals policies of the previous owners). We, however, are steadfastly opposed to poisoning the earth, and thus have refused to use herbicides to fight these invasives (knapweed and others). Instead, we have enlisted the aid of biologists from Washington State University (WSU) to battle the invasives using biological controls--and we are winning. So..... we know it is possible to fight invasives without poisoning the earth.

3 Further, the BLM needs to open its eyes and recognize the causes of the invasives before taking a shotgun, detrimental-to-the-earth approach. In particular, livestock grazing (at lease rates which do not even cover the cost of land maintenance), road construction/use (with concomitant siltration of abutting streams), allowance of off-road vehicles, non-sustainable timber harvests, and fuel reduction projects (which often are merely pretexts to allow timber companies to cut more trees) all encourage the growth and rampant spreading of invasives. Thus BLM should first seriously consider changing the way it permits and manages these activities.

4 In addition, if it is to use any herbicides, BLM needs to make a specific, measurable commitment to reducing the use of these poisons. It should also contact WSU and other universities which are researching alternative ways

to control invasives.

Sincerely,

David Gladstone