



COLORADO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

"Representing the interests of Colorado's cattle industry since 1867"

February 7, 2006

Brian Amme, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Mr. Amme,

1 The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA), representing public lands beef producers throughout Colorado, is pleased to comment on the Proposed Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management lands. First and foremost, CCA supports the proposal's Alternative B which would expand herbicide use and allow for use of herbicides in 17 western states. CCA members have long since requested increased weed management strategies for public lands and applauds BLM for their proactive response to this issue.

2 CCA is strongly opposed to limiting the use of herbicides, limiting treatment acres to current thresholds, banning aerial applications, and using only mechanical methods as outlined in Alternatives A,C,D and E. These types of approaches will increase weed infestation problems on public and private lands. Invasive species displace native vegetative populations and compound future difficulties establishing desirable plant communities.

3 Alternative B embraces the proven method of herbicide treatment for weed control. Herbicide treatments are not only efficient, but cost effective tools that empower BLM to control the expanding weed problems throughout the West. CCA further supports the addition of the four active herbicide ingredients imazapic, diquat, diflufenzopyr and fluridone. These are important range management tools that will provide for significant improvements in rangeland health and forage availability for livestock.

4 Beef producers strongly support proper rangeland management. It is our feeling that herbicides are imperative to rangeland health and as tool for BLM land managers. In closing, CCA would like to reiterate our support for BLM's adoption of Alternative B for enhancing the desirable management of our nation's public lands.

Sincerely,

Bill Gray
President