

**The Robinsons**  
**1795 Houston Road**  
**Phoenix, Oregon 97535**

January 12, 2006

Brian Amme  
Bureau of Land Management  
PO Box 12000  
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Re: Vegetation Management EIS

Dear Mr. Amme:

1 Please consider these comments on the environmental impact statement about vegetation management on public lands in 17 western states. This concerns us because we live near BLM public lands, including the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. We understand the proposed action contemplates using chemical herbicides on 930,000 acres per year and using non-chemical treatments on 5 million acres per year. This would triple BLM's current use of herbicides.

2 We are alarmed to read that herbicides could be used in BLM's national monuments, and possibly in other units of the National Landscape Conservation System such as national conservation areas. *All those areas should be excluded absolutely* from this herbicide program. Surely widespread use of herbicides would be in violation of the laws and proclamations that reserved those lands for conservation of nature.

3 We prefer Option C, which emphasizes non-chemical means of vegetation management. Land managers have developed methods such as prescribed fire and biological, cultural, mechanical and manual controls. These should be used instead of widespread herbicides.

4 Broad use of herbicides by either aerial spraying or surface application would impose unacceptable impacts on the flora and fauna of the public lands. This is important because the future health of these lands rests on maintaining and restoring the native ecosystems. That is one of the most important discoveries of forest and range research during the past 50 years. BLM and the Forest Service are beginning to work with native ecosystems, instead of against them. BLM's proposed action in this EIS is like turning the clock back to a time when single-species management was in vogue. We believe spraying these chemicals widely on BLM public lands would harm the health of native ecosystems and impede their restoration.

5 In the final EIS please adopt Option C, to avoid the impacts of herbicides. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely yours,

