

OKANOGAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

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ATTN: Brian Amme, Vegetation EIS Project Manager
SUBJECT: BLM Programmatic EIS for pesticide Vegetation Treatments
DATE: January 5, 2006

COMMENTS:

1 In Washington State, according to RCW 17.10., it is the responsibility of all landowners, federal, state and private, to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds from his/her property. In order to best facilitate the removal of invasive species infestations from properties, we recommend utilizing an integrated approach to noxious weed control. All available methods of control should be used, including the utilization of site specific selective herbicides.

2 We recognize the importance of current and sound scientific data to ensure that herbicide use will be efficient and effective in controlling the various species of noxious weeds. While we agree that herbicides are not the only answer to weed control, we also realize that herbicides are effective and can substantially reduce the control costs of invasive species. Also, with current and future trends that minimize the amount of product needed to provide control, we realize that newly available products may be the best possible use of resources to ensure adequate control of noxious weeds.

3 We have reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's proposal for pesticide applications to public lands in western states. We agree with the preferred alternative and are urging BLM to choose Option 2 (B) in its proposal, wherein expanded herbicide use would occur. As an agency for control of noxious weeds, user (and citizen owners) of these public lands, we are deeply concerned regarding the increasing infestations of noxious weeds on public lands, including National Monuments and National Conservation areas.

Please choose Option 2 (B).

Prepared by:
Anna Lyon, Field Supervisor