



## MALHEUR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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December 16, 2005

Bureau of Land Management  
PO Box 1200, Reno NV 89520-0006

### RE: Proposed Treatments of Vegetation on BLM Public Lands in Western US – Public Comment

1 The Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District (MC SWCD) works closely with the control of Juniper on private lands throughout the county and is an active partner with the Malheur Weed Board and the Malheur County Cooperative Weed Management Area ( MC CWMA). The continued control of Juniper on both private and BLM properties is one of the high priorities for the MC SWCD. Over the past 3 years, grants have been secured by the MC SWCD that have resulted in over 1800 acres of juniper control projects that aim to restore and improve water quality and quantity to our region by removing juniper. We strongly encourage the continued control and removal of the invasive Western Juniper on public lands in Malheur County by BLM. Coordinated efforts with our organization and BLM on juniper control and removal have been instrumental in aiding the conservation efforts of farmers and ranchers. The wildlife improvements and fire reduction are well worth the continued cost of the control and removal of Western Juniper and is supported by MC SWCD.

2 The treatment of noxious and other invasive plants has become a focus for conservation in Malheur County by the Malheur County SWCD (MC SWCD). MC SWCD in partnerships with the Malheur Weed Board and Cooperative Weed Management Agency (CWMA) are seeking grants to treat and control some of the class A weeds in Malheur County. These grants are targeting weeds like Rush Skeleton Weed, Leafy Spurge, Russian Knapweed, Jointed Goat Grass and other highly invasive species that are threatening land throughout the county.

3 The private ground treatment has been showing good results, but the lack of treatment on BLM ground that neighbors the treated areas result in continued spread of the weeds. A MOU between Vale BLM and MC SWCD has been in place since April of 2002 for treating BLM land, but the injunction that was imposed on BLM that limits what class of chemicals that can be used has taken away the ability of our cooperative efforts from being successful on both private and public ground. MC SWCD would like to encourage the removal of the injunction that is handicapping the control of these invasive species. New chemicals like Plateau, Tordon and Telar are the best treatment of these weeds and are unavailable to use as a tool on BLM land due to the injunction. MC SWCD  
4 would support the use of new chemicals like these that are less persistent and more selective on BLM ground. We also support the continued expansion of weed control efforts by BLM.

5 The Malheur County SWCD as the elected representatives for conservation in Malheur County, feels weed control is at the heart of not only conservation, but the livelihood of area farmers and ranchers. We encourage BLM to join these efforts to be successful stewards of the land.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda Rowe*

Linda Rowe  
Malheur SWCD Board Chair