

emc-0185

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01/05/2006 03:13
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To

cc

Subject

BLM spraying

I'm writing to add my comments to the discussion about BLM spraying.

I am one of millions, literally millions, who have been poisoned by the use of pesticides. I am 37 and was once had a thriving life as the president of a small business and as an active young woman. | The cutting edge research that I have been a part of has recently proven that one in four people are genetically susceptible to debilitating toxic injury, from things like even small amounts of "drifting" pesticides because of the difference in how we metabolize toxins. Exposure to low levels over time, through air, water, food, etc or one massive exposure is all we need to become disabled, which I am now. |

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I've met so many other people, including young children, who like me are living the silent, ignored life of those injured by pesticides. We are silenced by the chemical companies who have so much influence trying to push their products and trick the world into believing they are safe...similar, if you recall, to the tobacco industry's work for 50 years plus.

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I've been homeless on and off since my injury, as there is no way to avoid pesticides - and any exposure, even weeks after spraying, nearly kills me. My only freedom has been open space and hiking and camping. | And now there is this awful, sadly ignorant and uninformed plan that will take that away for me and the millions of others...not to mention the fact that 25% of the people affected will also then be permanently disabled. Most people and doctors have yet to make the connection but the rise in asthma, allergy, chronic illnesses, and cancer is clear and proven to be related to pesticides. There is plenty of information out there - from the tribe that was split up, one exposed to pesticides and one not, and how all the exposed children showed mental disorders or deficiencies. |

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At some point - someone has to face the reality that we are poisoning our

planet and discuss alternatives. Also - below I list more reasons that this makes no sense, because pesticides don't work in a sustainable manner:

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(a) Invasive species cannot be eliminated without eliminating the causes of weed invasion.

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(b) Herbicides are not only poisonous and expensive, but they fail because they are "treating" symptoms, not the causes, of weed invasion and undesirable vegetation.

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(c) The BLM should analyze the Restore Native Ecosystems Alternative in the DEIS/PER, a citizens' alternative submitted to the BLM that addresses both the causes and the effects of weed invasion and undesirable vegetation on public lands (www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/vegEIS/vol2/PEIS_Appendix_G_RNEA__Alternative.pdf).

Unfortunately, I'm already a guinea pig in the dangers of pesticides. I can only spend the rest of my years hoping that my life was destroyed so that others may not be. Please take me seriously --- find alternatives, they are out there. Weeds and even continuing the natural species in an environment can't have more value than human lives...

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can they?

Thank you for listening.

Jill Sverdlove
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