Subject: emc-0108

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----- Forwarded by Brian Amme/NVSO/NV/BLM/DOI on 01/03/2006 02:45 PM -----

Helen Banks
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12/31/2005 05:24
AM

To
vegeis@nv.blm.gov

cc

Subject
Comment on BLM Programmatic EIS for pesticide Vegetation Treatments in 17 Western States

Brian Amme, Project Manager
BLM, P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Mr Amme,

I am very concerned to learn that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to apply pesticides to vast areas of public land in western states of the USA. Included in this proposal is the use of aerial spraying of highly toxic substances which will affect not only the vegetation that is to be 'controlled' but also non-targeted vegetation, together with the wildlife that depends upon the area for its survival. I understand that the area in question includes parts of Alaska, where people depend on wild-gathering of food. To put these people's health at risk, and to introduce toxic substances into the wild in this way, with no knowledge of their long-term impact and interactions, seems reckless, shortsighted and irresponsible to me.

I understand that Option 3 (C) in the proposal recommends the alternative of using traditional methods of vegetation management. This seems to me to be not only far better for the area in terms of its impact on wildlife and humans, but in the long term more cost-effective. I urge BLM to choose this option.

Thank you.

Helen Banks
Cornwall, UK