

To: Brian Amme, Project Manager, BLM  
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From: Rich Bayers  
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Subject: Comments for Draft Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM lands in 17 Western States. Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

**Personal background and experience:**

2 Presently own and operate Back Country Spraying, LLC. We are applicators who control noxious weeds on private, county, state and federal lands. Prior to that I was a sales representative for Dow AgroSciences for 14 years, working in Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota, working primarily in rangeland. Family owns a ranch in Montana. I am a Board Member of the Wyoming Weed Management Association and the Wyoming Ag Business Association.

**Comments**

3 My comments concerning the alternatives brought forth in the Programmatic EIS will be strongly supporting Alternative B, which would allow BLM personnel to use ANY tool that is legal and makes good common sense to use to manage our federal rangelands, so that noxious weed spread is held in check. This would include tools currently used in integrated pest management (IPM). And that includes the use of registered herbicides. This allows BLM personnel to manage the lands and not be hamstrung in their efforts by taking valuable tools away from them.

4 The threat of noxious weeds spreading from BLM lands onto private, state and other federal lands is great here where I live and work in Wyoming. The reverse is also true, weeds coming onto BLM lands from other sources. To not consider using herbicides in a control program, would be like a carpenter taking some basic tools out of their tool box before starting a job! Doesn't make for an effective and efficient program.

5 In summary, I would approve of Alternative B but **would not** support Alternatives A, C, D or E. Thank you for letting me comment.

Sincerely,  
Rich Bayers