

emc-0083

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12/29/2005 08:33  
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Herbicides and invasive plants

To

cc

Subject

Brian Amme, Project Manager  
BLM Nevada State Office

Dear Mr Amme,

It has recently come to my attention that the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to spray almost a million acres per year with herbicides to kill invasive plants, triple the agency's current herbicide use, and that BLM is asking for comments about this proposal.

In my opinion, this is not an effective way to deal with your agency's invasive plant problem. Instead, you need to consider the causes of invasive plant problems, and then act in a manner to prevent and reduce the problem. For instance, livestock grazing, road construction and use, use of off-road vehicles, timber harvests, and fuel reduction projects all encourage invasive weeds on BLM land. BLM needs to change the way the agency manages these activities in order to prevent invasive plant problems. BLM also needs to make a strong commitment to reducing its reliance on herbicides.

BLM must adopt strong prevention-based practices for activities like livestock grazing, road construction and use, off-road vehicles, timber harvests, and fuel reduction projects, all of which encourage invasive plants. In conjunction with prevention practices and management of these activities so that they don't encourage the spread of weeds, the BLM needs to make a specific measurable commitment to reducing reliance on herbicides.

Thank you for your attention and effort.

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