

Subject: Comment on Proposed Vegetation Treatment on BLM-Managed Public Lands

Date: 1/15/2006

EMC0379

From: UP Project [www.UPproject.org](http://www.UPproject.org)

1 The UP Project's mission is to restore the ecosystem health of the Uncompahgre Plateau in western Colorado by using best science and public input for the benefit of wildlife, public and local communities. The rationale for the creation of the UP Project was to develop strong communication, collaboration and teamwork among the federal agencies and communities and to develop a more effective and efficient approach to managing landscapes on an ecosystem basis. This area encompasses over 1.4 million acres of public lands of which the BLM is the major holder.

2 In order to achieve ecosystem health by 1) increasing species and age diversity and quality/productivity of native plant and animal communities; 2) improving watershed health and water quality; 3) improving habitat quality for wildlife species all depend on the removal or control of invasive species. If a major effort is not undertaken immediately, noxious weeds will continue to alter natural plant communities and change natural functions for ever.

3 The use of herbicides per label is critical to the land manager's ability to achieve or maintain ecosystem health. This partnership made of community leaders, environmental groups, user groups, and resource managers support the use of using herbicides to obtain and maintain native plant communities.

4 The UP supports ecosystem restoration by restoring native plant communities. This can only be accomplished by the use of integrated manage techniques which includes the use of herbicides by both aerial and ground applications.

/s/ James C. Free

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