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12/20/2005 10:13
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To
vegeis@nv.blm.gov

cc

Subject
NO to Aerial Spraying of public
land

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

Mr. Brian Amme,

1 I have reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's proposal for pesticide applications to public lands in western states. As a user (and citizen owner) of these public lands, I am deeply concerned with allowing such a large use of pesticides on public lands, including National Monuments and National Conservation areas.

2 An integral part of this proposal involves aerial spraying of toxic pesticides, which increases negative impacts on non-targeted vegetation, wildlife, and people, including recreationists, tourists, and native peoples (pesticide application areas include Alaska, where native fishing and plant gathering is widespread). Although the proposal claims care would be taken in applying the pesticides in a controlled manner, these chemicals are known to drift much further than anticipated and cause unexpected health and ecological impacts. The pesticides that would be used include persistent and mobile chemicals, including known developmental and reproductive toxins.

3 U.S. biologists, ecologists and wildlife managers have a vast array of alternative vegetation management tools to choose from, without having to resort to applying toxic chemicals to our public lands.

Thank you for your care and consideration,

C J Rietsema