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WEED AND MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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February 10, 2006

Mr. Brian Amme, Project Manager, BLM
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Mr. Amme:

I would like to make the following comments on the Draft Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

I strongly support and urge for the adoption of Alternative B, Expand Herbicide Use and Allow for Use of New Herbicides. Exotic, invasive, or noxious species are continuing to increase on BLM lands in both the numbers of unwanted species present and the amount of land infested by unwanted species under currently used programs. The other Alternatives proposed restrict the use of valuable tools in the vegetation management program, and greatly increase the probability that unwanted species will continue to increase on BLM lands, as well as, threaten adjacent properties.

I strongly support the inclusion of a process for evaluating and approving new herbicides for use on BLM lands. I do feel that the 2 to 3 years necessary to complete the process as currently proposed should be re-addressed to shorten the process for allowing the use of newly registered herbicides. As proposed, it is particularly cumbersome when addressing rapid response to new invasive species. It also delays the timely use of newly registered products that could be both more effective and less environmentally threatening than currently approved products.

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