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Brian Amme, Project Manager
USDI, Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

EMC0413

RE: COMMENTS for Draft Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Amme:

1 I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the recently released Draft Programmatic EIS for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides and subject the following comments for review. Noxious weeds are a serious threat to public and private lands across the West. As the manager of the largest acreage of rangeland in the western U.S., it is essential that the federal government take a more responsible and effective role in managing noxious weeds.

2 I offer my support of the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B, to expand use of herbicides and allow for new herbicide use on western rangelands outlined in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

3 An integrated vegetation treatment program aimed at restoring and rehabilitating plant communities that are resilient to invasive plants should include herbicides as an option. The safe and proper application of herbicides is a necessary part of efforts to manage and control noxious weeds. I believe the BLM has done a satisfactory job of evaluating and selecting appropriate herbicides and application methods for this program as well as providing for future evaluation and use of new herbicides once approved by the US EPA. Limiting or stopping the use of herbicides on BLM lands will result in greater economic hardship for neighboring properties (federal, state and private) since invasive plants respect no boundaries.

4 I also support the additional, non-herbicide treatments for reducing excess fuel loads, restore and revegetate land damaged by wildfire or invasive weeds and other agency objectives as proposed in the Programmatic Environmental Report (PER).

5 These documents outline an essential and long overdue approach to responsible and effective management of noxious and invasive plants on BLM managed lands in the western U.S. and I appreciate your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Dave Brink
Coordinator,
Mineral County Weed District