

409 Missouri Avenue  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

1901-2001

### A Century of Service

February 7, 2006

RE: COMMENTS for the Draft Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS (PEIS)

1

The Powell County Board of Commissioners has appointed a Weed Board to enforce Montana's County Noxious Weed Control Act and has adopted the Powell County Weed Management Plan. The Powell County Weed Management Plan was implemented to protect the economic and natural resources of Powell County by preventing the spread of noxious weeds.

2

The Board of Commissioners makes annual financial provisions to allow for implementation of the county weed management plan. These resources are directed to the weed board to manage noxious weeds on county owned or controlled land and to facilitate local landowner led Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's). A majority of all private lands in Powell County are encompassed and actively participating in 14 CWMA's. The board of Commissioners appreciates the support for and participation of the BLM within the CWMA's.

3

Participants in the CWMA's have contributed significant resources to controlling noxious weeds. Current management efforts are at best, slowing the growth of infestation size. New invaders are continuing to appear and are creating BLM management efforts are to be applauded, increased resources are necessary to more effectively manage noxious weeds on BLM ground.

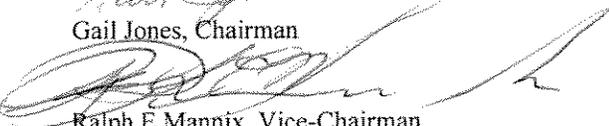
4

The Powell County Board of Commissioners supports Alternative B as the preferred option in the Draft Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic EIS (PEIS). By treating more acres and by providing an opportunity to utilize new tools in the future, the PEIS allows BLM to more effectively manage noxious weeds and protect the economic and natural resources of Powell County.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Jones, Chairman

  
Ralph E Mannix, Vice-Chairman

  
Dwight O'Hara, Member  
Powell County Board of Commissioners