

Dianne Lindsay  
846 Sperry Dr  
Las Vegas, NM  
87701

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Brian Amme, Project Manager  
PO Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 98520-6712

Re: Public comments to PEIS/PER Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM  
Lands in 17 Western States

1. The PEIS/PER fails to consider the real cost when stating that herbicides offer a resource efficient means of treating vegetation.  
-The most resource efficient means is prevention, by limiting resource extraction.  
- The unconsidered monetary costs are: litigation with sick people who will be exposed to these chemicals, and communities who do not accept degraded water and soil; increased costs of clean water is not resource efficient; and increased health care costs for people exposed to chemicals - when it is preventable- is not an efficient use of my taxpayer resources.  
- The unconsidered non-monetary costs are increases in illness and anxiety over risk of serious illness; loss of wild untouched areas, contamination of soil and water, and loss of wildlife, plants, and the other living organisms that are usually overlooked - that build soil, and generally support a healthy ecosystem. It is not efficient to lose the elements of nature that we depend on.

2. The PEIS/PER fails to adequately acknowledge the “cause “ of vegetation problems. The Proposed Action and Purpose and Need are erroneous as stated: (page 1 of the Executive Summary, paragraph 4 and line 8.) “Invasive vegetation and noxious weeds threaten soil productivity... It should state “Livestock grazing, timber extraction and other resource extraction threatens soil productivity...”

3. The PEIS/PER fails to outline the best way to improve ecosystem health is by limiting resource extraction. This option is not included.

4. The PEIS/PER fails to include a comparison of the risks to human life between the risk of wildfire and the risk of chemically induced illnesses. The statistics should include the actual statistics which enumerate the human illnesses from exposure to these chemicals.

5. The PEIS/PER fails to address prevention of the weed problem.

6. The PEIS/PER fails to list the full scope of human health risks.
- Monetary health care increases shared by everyone for increasing treatment of kidney, liver, lung, and skin problems.
  - The worry, grief, depression and financial stress to those families affected.
  - The mental anguish of friends and neighbors who, as taxpayers and voters feel responsible for their suffering and want to find ways to stop dumping poisons of all kinds into our lives.
7. The PEIS/PER fails to take a leadership role in managing unwanted vegetation in this 21<sup>st</sup> century of increasing global pollution and impending environmental crisis.
- Non chemical treatment should be obvious at this point, and agencies need to set examples for private landowners who look to you for the most informed methods.
8. The PEIS/PER fails to include the most up to date and broad research in regard to human and animal health. Petrochemicals behaving like estrogens are having a serious affect on people and wildlife. This kind of result may not show up in your research because it may affect the next generation more than the one exposed. It is not addressing the possible long term affects on our children and later generations. (References are available by request)
9. The PEIS/PER fails to use comprehensive studies. The research cites “a study” or “3 studies” on mice, rats, rabbits, dogs, birds. I saw no human health statistics re the increasing numbers of people who have diseases and problems which are linked to petrochemicals in our environment. I saw no wildlife studies or reference to the statistics on species extinction. I saw no statistics re cumulative affects. How can any study be relevant that leaves this out?
10. The PEIS fails to show value for animals. It follows that spraying wildlife and wildlife forage areas is of little or no concern in this proposal; the consciousness is consistent with research that is cited from work that is completed by administering poisons to helpless research animals.
11. The PEIS fails to use the most recent information regarding forest health. The use of herbicides to kill all but the conifers greatly reduces the soil building capabilities of other very important trees and plants.
12. The PEIS fails to adequately address drift problems with aerial spraying.

*Dianne Lindsay*