



Washington State Senate

Committees:
Judiciary
Government Operations & Elections
Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee

Senator Bob McCaslin
4th Legislative District

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February 14, 2006

Brian Amme
Vegetation EIS Project Manager, BLM
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Brian,

- 1 The BLM states the need for the PEIS as a means for reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improving the health of the nation's forests and rangelands. Alternative B would allow the proper use of the most effective herbicides for specific vegetation treatments on more acres. Herbicides may not be needed in a healthy wildlife environment where stress on an intact plant community is limited or infrequent. The use of herbicides must be an option for any integrated vegetation treatment program.
- 2 Alternative B would also allow for the use of newer technology. The use of new herbicides, which are effective at lower use rates, will help to reduce the overall amount of herbicides applied to control weeds, build more resilient plant communities reducing the need for annual herbicide treatments, encourage growth of desirable fire retardant vegetation, and allow for improved rapid response to weed problems.
- 3 I strongly believe a national policy that disapproves herbicide use, restricts the use of inhibitor herbicides or prohibits all aerial application will severely hamper rehabilitation and improvement of BLM lands infested by harmful noxious weeds. Consequently, limiting or stopping use of herbicides on BLM land will result in greater economic and ecological hardship for neighboring land owners (federal, state and private).
- 4 I strongly urge the BLM to support preferred Alternative B, combined with the use of aerial application and reject all other alternatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob McCaslin".

Senator Bob McCaslin