John Bailey
Woodtrail Farm
19643 Woodtrail Road
Round Hill, VA 20141-1940
February 10, 2006

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

re: EIS concerning herbicide spraying on public lands

Dear Brian Amme:

1 I am an eastern cattle rancher and a Ph.D. scientist. I work hard to manage the quality of my land without chemicals. We are not "organic" but are very sensitive to the effects on the earth of past chemical use, much of which has been unintended and detrimental. By all means, do not condone the aerial spraying of our public lands with herbicides (I understand 262,000,000 acres in 17 states would be affected). As the steward of a tiny fraction of that much of our earth, and one who is works hard to avoid even comparatively insignificant amounts of contamination, this reckless plan angers me. The fallout, lasting residue, and potentially many unintended side effects that we both know could, and probably will, result from this program could haunt us for decades.

2 I want to make this short but let me point out that there is no way that one can pencil-and-paper study this issue, and to spray hundreds of millions of acres with herbicides that could change the balance of nature in permanent ways (look what has happened before) is hubris beyond belief.

3 Please step back and think about this with a long-term view and consider alternatives. It is almost never the case that natural balances that have taken millions of years to establish can be micromanaged by human chemicals in a net positive way.

4 I hope that this reaches you in due time; I only just now heard about the planned progam.

Sincerely,

John W. Bailey, Ph.D.