We support Better Soil, Cleaner Water, Greater Profits, Brighter Future

February 1, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Amme:

1 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on BLM's Vegetation Treatments EIS and Environmental Report. We would like to voice our support for Alternative B (expand herbicide use and allow the use of new herbicides).

2 The Utah Grazingland Network (UGN) is a coalition of state and federal agencies, organizations, and individuals with expertise and interest in healthy range and pasture lands. Our mission is to "protect and improve grazing lands, water quality, wildlife habitat, and forage production while enhancing grazing management and conservation ethics across Utah's landscape".

3 There is probably no greater threat to UGN and BLM missions than the onslaught of invasive species throughout western rangelands. If BLM cannot manage and control invasive species then private and public lands of all uses are in jeopardy no matter what efforts are made on private lands.

4 Herbicides are an essential part of the toolbox of any land manager that hopes to be effective. We believe that BLM should make use of (and be permitted to use) all available tools to manage vegetation to improve range health. Fire, managed grazing, rest, exclusion, chaining, fencing, seedings, herbicides, etc. are all useful techniques for improving ecological conditions according to local environmental and economic circumstances. To categorically rule out the use of any of these tools seems foolhardy and counterproductive. That is why we believe that the other alternatives are not wise - they would eliminate techniques or chemicals that might someday be the best hope to restore the integrity of a watershed, ecosystem, or rangeland.

Sincerely,

Darrell Johnson

Darrell Johnson, Chair
Utah Grazingland Network