

Sample Letter

Date:

Re: BLM Programmatic EIS for Herbicide Vegetation Treatments in 17 Western States

Dear Public Official,

I have recently learned of the proposed herbicide spraying on BLM lands in the western states for vegetation treatments. As a California resident and user of public lands, I am writing to express my outrage about the large amounts of herbicides proposed in these plans. I ask you to do everything in your power to stop the use of pesticides on our public lands.

I am concerned that the BLM will be more than tripling its current herbicide use, applying herbicides using both aerial and ground based methods, over forests, rangelands, grasslands, and aquatic natural areas, totaling 932,000 sprayed acres annually. I do not approve of this excessive and irresponsible toxic chemical spraying and especially of the use of such persistent and mobile chemicals, including known developmental and reproductive toxins. Several of the herbicides proposed do even not have products currently registered for use by the California by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. As a California resident and user of public lands I worry about the irreparable damage these chemicals will do to the natural surroundings and public lands I enjoy, as well as the health hazards these chemicals pose to my family.

These ill-conceived spray plans will negatively impact water quality, soils productivity, native vegetation and wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic), native peoples (during cultural plant gathering practices), workers (those applying these hazardous chemicals), not to mention recreationalists and members of the public who use and live near these lands.

I am concerned that these plans are unnecessary and unsafe for both human and environmental health. Public land management should be based on long-term ecological health, the best science available, and should err on the side of safety and conservation. I am troubled that massive amounts of extremely toxic poisons are being justified using peoples fear of catastrophic wildfires and invasion of invasive species. Non-herbicide vegetation treatment options are available! The proposed actions appear to meet financial needs of chemical companies and other large corporate interests, rather than for support ecological integrity and public interests. I worry about the long-term costs of all these pesticide applications, particularly those to the environment, the natural area, and the people who live near and use BLM public lands and natural areas.

I urge you to support Alternative C, the no herbicide use alternative, in the Programmatic EIS. Please recognize I represent a significant portion of Californians in my opposition to herbicide use in our public lands, and that we strongly urge you to utilize alternative, non-chemical treatment methods. Please use the power of your office to help put an end to these toxic spray proposals in our public lands and protect our forests, rangelands, and watersheds.

Sincerely,