

## **Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates ("Eco Advocates"), [eco-advocates.org](http://eco-advocates.org)**

Tomorrow (Jan. 4) is the Last Day to Submit Comments on BLM's Poison Plan! (by Dec. 1)

Please take a minute to e-mail the BLM your comments on its Vegetation Treatments EIS (herbicide plan). Brief comments are fine. Be sure to include your address, any relevant credentials (scientist, herbicide victim, outdoors enthusiast, human rights advocate, taxpayer, etc.), and clearly state which Alternative you support (see in BMBP's action alert below). E-mail your comments by tomorrow (Jan. 4) to [orvegtrtments@blm.gov](mailto:orvegtrtments@blm.gov) and ask for confirmation of their receipt.

Here are some clear, concise comments you can use:

- 1) I enjoy recreating on BLM land, and I don't want my children or myself exposed to poisons while doing so. [Especially note if you or your family members have asthma or other conditions that make them more susceptible to injury from herbicides. We should have the ability to enjoy what's left of our forests without worrying about being exposed to herbicides. [Herbicides are poisons used to kill plants but do harm and can even kill other organisms, including people.]
- 2) Put prevention first in terms of invasive weeds. Increasing the acreage sprayed and number of herbicides used without changing the BLM's forestry practices (i.e. clearcutting) that overwhelming result in invasives is a waste of tax dollars, and the harm to our rivers incalculable.
- 3) BLM lost in court years ago and mostly had its ability to apply herbicides revoked. In fact, the Eugene BLM District hasn't used any herbicides for decades as a result. Why are we repeating the BLM's horrific past? [The BLM and Forest Service were essentially spraying leftover Agent Orange chemicals over rural areas in which women had an alarming number of miscarriages and deformed babies. 2,4-D, one that BLM now proposes to use, is a component of Agent Orange.]
- 4) Many weeds can be controlled using manual labor without the use of toxic chemicals. Given high unemployment and economic hardship in rural communities, we should rural Oregonians real green jobs removing weeds by nontoxic means.

It is common and beneficial to make references to comments that other groups and individuals have submitted. Jan Wroncy has posted comments from various groups and individuals at:

<http://gaiavisions.org/deiSHerb/>

Contact Jan at [jan@ghdigital.com](mailto:jan@ghdigital.com) to have your comments posted.

See also below for a briefing from Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project on the EIS and issues involved.

The BLM kicked off this poison plan process during the good ol' WOPR days. They didn't like having to explain why this herbicide plan was separate from the WOPR and proposed no prevention while they proposed a massive increase in logging, which spreads invasives, and they shelved it for a while but now are moving forward with it again although in a shroud of silence.

Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates ("Eco Advocates") will also be submitting comments. I wrote an article for The Runoff (newsletter of the Many Rivers Group of the Oregon Sierra Club) about it over a year ago and questioned the BLM at a forum held about it back in 2008. Eco Advocates supports Alternative One because: 1) prevention should come first, 2) herbicide research has generally been inadequate to determine long-term consequences and the results of exposure to mixtures of herbicides (quite common in the field but virtually never tested in the lab), 3) even milder herbicides can be especially detrimental to children and aquatic organisms already negatively impacted by herbicides from private forest lands that are routinely poisoned (40,000 Oregonians live within a half-mile of BLM land, and the BLM is proposing to spray the areas most frequently visited by people), and 4) we could create green jobs by putting people to work doing nontoxic weed removal. The BLM is least likely to choose Alternative One without a lot of public pressure in favor of One.

--Samantha Chirillo

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