Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/5/2014 12:00:00 AM
First name: Carolyn
Last name: Beste
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Invasive Plants - comments on DSEIS?

Attention: Maria T. Garcia, Responsible Official

Dear Ms. Garcia,

Attached in Word format are my comments to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Invasive Plant Control Project.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Beste

Carolyn Beste
(505) 983-9090 Santa Fe

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION
CARSON AND SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS

In the Matter of DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL
PROJECT.

COMMENTS OF CAROLYN BESTE

These comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ("DSEIS") are submitted in response to the letter of March 17, 2014 from the Forest Supervisors of the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests, and the Notice of Availability for EIS No. 20140077 published on March 21, 2014 in the Federal Register.

While there is much I could say about my disagreement with the premise of this entire project, my comments will be limited generally to the very simple fact that this project as proposed presents a threat to my life. This threat to me extends into my own home. Moreover, approval of this plan would result in denial of access by me to the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests.

I was born and raised in the Chemical Valley of Kanawha County, WV. During the Vietnam War, I lived just a few miles from the now razed chemical plant which manufactured Agent Orange. Any statement that the application of herbicides in our forests does not adversely impact human health is nonsense. I know it acutely. The authors of any studies used to support this Invasive Plant Control Project know, or should know, that herbicide use has negative and terrible consequences to human health both in the short and long term. Ignoring the cruel impact of the application of herbicides in any National Forest is an intentional, willful act and should not be tolerated in our society.

I have a genetic condition which predisposes me to an enhanced negative response to toxic exposures. Combined with previous exposures- as in growing up in a narrow river valley lined with chemical plants- I am uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures. Where the general population may feel no immediate adverse impact, I may immediately suffer severe and, potentially, fatal injury.
In October, 2003, I was sitting inside my own home which was located near Santa Fe when a neighbor had his pinons sprayed with a neurotoxin. This neighbor's home was located 900 feet from mine and the pesticide was carried by the typically high winds of this region into my home. I immediately fell over and went into convulsions. Only the quick action of my husband saved my life. In the subsequent years, we spared no effort to recover my health but, sadly, I never regained my previous level of function. Today, I remain extremely ill as a long term consequence of this assault.

I ask in the strongest terms that the Forest Service not implement the Invasive Plant Control Project under any scenario that includes the application of herbicides, pesticides, any neurotoxins by any name and any use of prescribed burns.
This proposal implemented under such objectionable scenarios will not bring about the desired result. But, if implemented, may cause great harm-including death- to me. I ask not just for myself but on behalf of other weak, ill, vulnerable members of the human population. The same applies to animal populations as well.
Implementation of the Project as proposed will prevent my access to the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests.
Implementation of the Project as proposed will present a hazardous threat to my life even while inside my own home. The unpredictable nature of our winds here along with the general high wind speeds in northern New Mexico render any decision which allows the release of herbicides or any other neurotoxins into the atmosphere completely irresponsible. If a single ember, per the Forest Service, can travel 4 miles here, how much further can atomized herbicides travel?
This project should be rejected. Reject continuing the inhumanity to those of us living today and for those generations to come through exposure to this century's Agent Orange "treatments" to rid us of what is deemed undesirable for the moment.
The only sure outcome of implementation of this project is the infliction of suffering. Make the right decision. Reject this ill conceived project to rid us of today's "weeds". Reject causing suffering for the long term through today's poisoning of the earth and its beings.
Do the right thing. Do no harm-to me or anyone else.
Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Beste
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Santa Fe, NM 87506
505-983-9090

May 5, 2014