Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/20/2014 10:42:43 PM
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Title:
Comments: Invasive Plants

To: Maria T. Garcia, Responsible Official
Santa Fe National Forest

Attention: Invasive Plant Control Team

I received a notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Invasive Plant Control Project for the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests. From this notice, I am commenting on this proposal.

MY COMMENT

The proposed action, an integrated strategy, includes the use of herbicides. The two alternatives to this proposed action are listed as:

1. not allowing any herbicides
2. use only herbicides.

Only alternate proposal number one is acceptable. So-called "noxious" plants aren't deadly to life. Herbicides are! NO HERBICIDES!

Here are the facts as I and many others have experienced such:

Both the proposed action and alternative 2, using only herbicides, would be literally life-threatening to me and to others living in these regions. We are ones who have already been so seriously chemically poisoned that usage of herbicides in our areas could seriously injure or even kill us. We are the so-called "chemically sensitive" people. We should be called "previously chemically poisoned" people!

My Experience:

In1964, I was exposed to heavy amounts of pesticides. I did not work in agriculture. In my absence, my home and grounds were sprayed with thick foam pesticide. I attempted to clean up this chemical residue and became seriously ill. I never recovered from this exposure. I found it impossible to live or work in the usual chemical pollution of our towns, cities, and work environments. My ability to support myself, and later my two children, was seriously compromised.

Over twenty years later, Dr. David Root of Sacramento, California, a specialist in chemical injuries, tested me for levels of dangerous

chemicals in my blood and fat. I tested in the highest percentiles for pesticide residues, especially DDT, DDE, and so-called inert chemicals mixed with these applications which are not listed in the product literature. Dr. Root informed me that these "inert chemicals" were as dangerous or more so than the pesticides. I learned that such chemical residues remain in our bodies. Our bodies have no natural way to discharge them.

Unless you or someone close to you has experienced the effects of such poisonings, these facts are arguable. Once one is seriously poisoned, however, becoming aware of dysfunction-causing chemicals in one's environment becomes critical to being able to survive.

My land partner is also chemically sensitive. We moved to a relatively remote area of New Mexico, Mimbres, in Grant County, hoping to avoid any more chemical exposure. We count on the natural forest areas as safe places for us to visit. We drive the roads, as we must, to obtain supplies. With herbicide usage and herbicide drift, NO PLACE would be safe for us!

I recently met a woman who'd become extremely reactive to chemicals due to her profession. She was an animal doctor, a vet. She can no longer work. She lives in a specially designed travel trailer near natural areas remote from people. Her desperate attempt to survive would be seriously compromised by usage of herbicides. I know many others whose lives are challenged, over and over, by our culture's toxic chemical usage.

There is ample proof of the destructive effects of herbicides and other chemical agents used in our environments. There is no excuse for herbicides even being considered as a solution to weed control!

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