



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON
FEDERAL AREAS
Stan Leaphart, Executive Director

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December 28, 2012

Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director
Renewable Resources and Planning
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, Room 5644
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Roberson:

The December 21, 2012 *Federal Register* (pg.75648) contained a Notice of Intent from the Bureau of Land Management to prepare an environmental impact statement to evaluate the use of three new herbicides on BLM managed public lands in 17 western states, including Alaska. The notice lists dates and locations for 3 public scoping meetings to be held in early January 2013. Inexplicably, there are no public scoping meetings scheduled in Alaska. This letter is a follow-up to my December 21 e-mail request sent to your office and is our second formal request that your agency schedule public scoping meetings in Alaska.

The BLM manages some 75 million acres in Alaska, more than a quarter of all the lands under its management in the United States. These lands are used extensively by Alaskans on a daily basis. Climate and environmental conditions in Alaska are notably different than the other western states. These conditions must be taken into account during the evaluation process for the three herbicides in question. The BLM can benefit from the various studies on herbicide use here in Alaska. More importantly, a meeting should be held in Alaska during the scoping period in order to provide the public the opportunity to express its views on this issue. Once the draft EIS is complete and released for public review, additional meetings must also be held in Alaska. We look forward to a response to this request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Leaphart".

Stan Leaphart

cc: Stuart Paulus – Project Manager
Bud Cribley – BLM Alaska State Director
Elaine Busse Floyd – ADEC