

Attachment III. Public Comments on Final PEIS



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

September 23, 2022

Leonard Notah
Regional NEPA Coordinator
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Navajo Regional Office
Branch of Environmental Quality Compliance and Review
P.O. Box 1060
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Subject: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Navajo Nation Integrated Weed Management Plan, Navajo Nation, Arizona, Utah, New Mexico (EIS No. 20220131)

Dear Leonard Notah:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA submitted comments on the Draft PEIS on December 7, 2021. At the BIA's invitation, we participated in a call with BIA and Cooperating Agencies on February 3, 2022 to discuss ways to address our recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss and found the call to be productive.

We appreciate the BIA's changes to the Integrated Weed Management Plan and revisions to PEIS to address our comments regarding prioritization of less-toxic and non-chemical controls, Restricted Use Pesticides, mitigation measures for air quality, and continuing public involvement. Based on our review of the Final PEIS, we have no further comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this Final PEIS. When the Record of Decision has been signed, please provide an electronic copy. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 947-4167, or contact Hugo Hoffman, the lead reviewer for this project, at (415) 972-3929 or hoffman.hugo@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jean Prijatel
Manager, Environmental Review Branch

cc (via email): Eugenia Quintana, Environmental Department Manager, Air & Toxics Department,
Navajo Nation EPA
Sabrina Kleinman, EnviroPlan Partners, LLC



Sabrina Kleinman <skleinman@enviroplanpartners.com>

Fw: [EXTERNAL] Weed eradication project concerns

IWMP, NN <NNIWMP@bia.gov>

Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 12:29 PM

To: "Notah, Leonard" <Leonard.Notah@bia.gov>, Sabrina Kleinman <skleinman@enviroplanpartners.com>, "Padilla, George" <George.Padilla@bia.gov>, "Curley, Calvert" <Calvert.Curley@bia.gov>, "Minard, Anne E" <anne.minard@sol.doi.gov>

We got mail.

From: Dorothy RI Yazzie <dryazzie1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:58 PM

To: IWMP, NN <NNIWMP@bia.gov>

Cc: Jonathan Nez <jonathannez@navajo-nsn.gov>; Rudolph R. Shebala <rudyshebala@navajo-nsn.gov>; Francis Honie <frank.honie30@gmail.com>; Daisy Kiyaani <dtkiyaani@gmail.com>; Johnson, Amos F <Amos.Johnson@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Weed eradication project concerns

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I got very concern about this project which we just heard of & no information or MSD was shared ahead of the plans? Some times BIA or NN just do stuff to us without proper information or notification ahead?

I m concerned about the safety of chemicals to be used to humans and livestock.? We are in rainy season and a lot of of flooding now, thus chemicals used can not be confined to ROW.? I wished those in authority would be more transparent about the plans ahead of time.? BIA should be on KTNN to explain this project not just announcement & contacts!?

This project should be delayed until sufficient information is shared with impacted people.

Thank you for attention.

Dorothy Yazzie, 520-307-0932

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone



Sabrina Kleinman <skleinman@enviroplanpartners.com>

Fw: [EXTERNAL] Comment on PEIS

IWMP, NN <NNIWMP@bia.gov>

Mon, Sep 19, 2022 at 9:30 AM

To: Sabrina Kleinman <skleinman@enviroplanpartners.com>, "Notah, Leonard" <Leonard.Notah@bia.gov>, "Padilla, George" <George.Padilla@bia.gov>, "Minard, Anne E" <anne.minard@sol.doi.gov>, "Curley, Calvert" <Calvert.Curley@bia.gov>

Another comment.

From: Fannie <flookingglass@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 1:19 AM

To: IWMP, NN <NNIWMP@bia.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on PEIS

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I am glad that the BIA has developed a plan to implement weed control management. Last year, the tumble weeds got very bad. These tumble weeds piled against fence lines and even ruined the fences. I have seen piles of tumble weeds against the fences along the highways too. Last year was the worse probably as a result of the drought and the winds.

For several years I had problems with puncture vine which we normally hoed, sprayed with chemicals or burned them. This year, the puncture vines suddenly spread in no time from the monsoonal rains. As soon as they were hoed more of them came up. I have seen them growing on the roads too. I believe it has taken over about 3 acres in my area. I really need help in eliminating this weed once and for all. I was hoping that the use of biological control was a part of the plan. I've read that puncture vine weevils can be used in widespread areas but that they need to be purchased from a local source. Since the plan is already developed, I would like to know how I can arrange for chemical control by those trained to use chemicals. I am agreeable to assuming the cost if necessary.

Sincerely,

Fannie LookingGlass, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Voter