



by Ansel Adams in *This Is the American Earth*

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# SIERRA CLUB

Mills Tower, San Francisco 94104

Please Reply to:  
Department of Botany  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

23 July 1971

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Prof. Matthew Meselson  
Biological Laboratories  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Prof. Meselson:

I have been asked by the Executive Director of the Sierra Club to prepare a recommendation for the Club's policy regarding the use of herbicides on public lands. We are concerned about the effects on the behavior of the ecological systems on which they are being used, the dangers of drift to other areas, and the effects of these chemicals on humans and other animals. I know that you have been concerned recently with these questions and are chairman of an AAAS commission on the effects of herbicides in VietNam. I would like to ask if you can help in the formulation of our policy by providing summaries which have resulted from your studies of the effects of the various types of herbicides, any observations about the wisdom or need of broad use of these chemicals in brush suppression and other vegetation management projects, or appropriate references.

I might add that several members of our committee, including myself in the area of plant physiology, are able to understand and evaluate technical data. However, your investigations have undoubtedly produced facts of which we would otherwise be unaware. Any assistance you can provide will be most gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Cellarius  
Chairman,  
Environmental Research  
Committee

RAC:chl

cc: Michael McCloskey