BLOOM BLAST
JEMEZ MOUNTAIN BLOOM - TAOS PLATEAU

WHAT WATER CARRIES

Before pellets fall, Taos deserves the evidence.

BLM has announced a planned aerial tebuthiuron treatment across about 2,929 acres north of Cerro Chiflo and east of Cerro de la Olla. Tebuthiuron is designed to enter soil, dissolve with water, and be taken up through plant roots. The public deserves to see how that chemistry was evaluated in this specific landscape before any flight.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Groundwater: EPA's Tebuthiuron Reregistration Eligibility Decision reports historical groundwater detections in Texas and California. A Texas retrospective study found leaching at least 15 feet to the water table, with residues remaining detectable more than four years after application.

Runoff: A 2016 Queensland grazing-catchment study found tebuthiuron in runoff 100 days after application. Most off-site movement was dissolved in water, rather than attached to sediment.

Persistence: Long soil activity is the feature that makes tebuthiuron useful for brush control. It also makes local soil, water, slope, and downstream connections decisive.

WHAT BLM MUST RELEASE

Before an aerial application across a connected plateau, ask for the site-specific record on:

- soil depth and bedrock
- soil moisture and weather holds
- runoff, draws, arroyos, springs, and recharge areas
- groundwater and well screening
- treatment map, product registration, rate, and exclusions
- contractor, flight plan, monitoring plan, and grazing intersections

The question is simple: What happens after pellets meet water here?

CASE RECORD: CAMDEN, MAINE

A documented off-target tree-poisoning case involving tebuthiuron led to soil and vegetation removal, public-water monitoring, enforcement, and more than $1.7 million in reported fines and settlements. It is not the same as Taos. It shows why a persistent root-active herbicide demands attention to shallow soil, bedrock, water pathways, and non-target land before use.



WHAT SAGEBRUSH HOLDS

Big sagebrush is living cover: roots, branches, insects, nesting and shelter, seasonal forage, soil protection, and the plant community that helps rainfall enter the ground. A treatment decision changes more than a shrub count.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - 11 AM-2 PM - TAOS PLAZA
A quiet public sit-in for the Taos Plateau. Bring your instrument. Bring your voice. We will sit together and sing for the sage while we ask BLM to hold the flight and release the evidence. Firm. Factual. Lawful. Nonviolent.

SCAN FOR ACTION

Act now: bloomblast.lalagardens.com | BLM Taos Field Office: 575-758-8851 | jemezmountainbloom@gmail.com

Sources: U.S. EPA, Tebuthiuron Reregistration Eligibility Decision and Fact Sheet (1994); Thornton & Elledge, “Tebuthiuron Movement via Leaching and Runoff from Grazed Vertisol and Alfisol Soils…” (2016); NPR reporting on Camden, Maine (June 2024). This handout asks for Taos-specific evidence; it does not claim that Taos contamination has occurred.