

Adopted: October 30, 2004

AMIGOS BRAVOS POLICY

Pesticides and Chemicals

The Mission of Amigos Bravos includes maintenance and restoration of clean unpolluted water and natural biological diversity. Situations arise which may create a conflict, for example, the use of piscicides (i.e., fish toxins) for restoration of native fish and the use of herbicides to control non-native problematic plants.

Generally, it is the policy of Amigos Bravos to oppose the use of pesticides and other chemicals that may contaminate the waters of New Mexico. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

When evaluating potential exceptions to the policy, the following items will be considered:

- Purpose of treatment: Is it necessary to restore or maintain native biological diversity, or natural ecosystem functions?
- Alternatives: Are there reasonable and practical alternatives? Cost alone, should not be the justification for using chemicals.
- All chemicals in a compound or product must be known.
- Has the product been thoroughly researched and approved by the EPA?
- Will any of the chemicals reach the surface or ground water?
- Are any of the chemicals persistent in the ecosystem?
- What are the toxic affects of the product and each chemical, such as direct mortality, carcinogen, endocrine disruption, cholinesterase inhibitor, behavioral or reproductive toxin, etc.?
- Is there a risk of synergism between chemicals?
- How long are the chemicals expected to remain in the system?
- How does each chemical break down and are the resulting chemicals toxic?
- What organisms will be affected? What non-target species will be affected and will they recover to natural population levels?
- Do any of the chemicals bioaccumulate?

- Who are the downstream users and will they be affected?
- What safeguards are proposed to protect the public and the environment?

A proponent agency or organization should be able to provide the answers to the above questions that are essential to analyzing the impacts of the project. Amigos Bravos will oppose projects until adequate information is provided.

Amended July 30, 2005 to include the following:

Having undertaken a thorough literature review on the impacts of Fintrol, Amigos Bravos generally approves the use of Fintrol provided the proposed treatment meets the other criteria in the "Pesticide and Chemical Policy". In particular, that the treatment is necessary to restore or maintain native biological diversity or natural ecosystem function; that there are no reasonable and practical alternatives; and that there are no additional unacceptable extenuating circumstances. Amigos Bravos staff, and if requested by the Director, the Board, will review proposed projects and determine the organizations position on a case-by-case basis.