

The War on Mesquite: Collateral Damage in Howard Buffet's Border Crusade- - Hodai in New Times

The use of herbicides on rangelands for the most part goes back only to the 70s, after the defoliant Agent Orange was banned in Vietnam and the US DOD made large stockpiles of the active ingredients (2,4-D and 2,4,5-T) available at low costs to ranchers via USDA and BLM.

While these particular chemicals have been replaced on rangelands by newer generation herbicides (2,4,5-T-- used on some Cochise County ranchland back then -- was banned after long legal battles), grants for herbicide use and a variety of other government subsidies to the livestock industry in many cases are the thing that keeps many ranchers in business -- though, as this Hodai article indicates, the chemical cowboys also get significant assistance from Buffet and his ilk, who find ranchers' killing of natural woody vegetation useful to their non-agricultural interests.

<https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/killing-mesquite-howard-buffett-warren-buffett-border-immigrants-11371378>