

## POSTREL Dan

**From:** John Sundquist [jamsund@epud.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2008 7:57 AM  
**To:** Dan Postrel; Oregon Board of Forestry  
**Cc:** Lisa Arkin  
**Subject:** Pesticide reductions needed

March 5, 2008  
John Sundquist  
31139 Lanes Turn Rd.  
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to--Dan Postrel, ODF, and Gale Birch, Board of Forestry secretary

re--excessive pesticide use threatens human health, environment, forest soils

Hello,

Please present these comments to the Board of Forestry

I farm 33 acres, with woodlots, and have interests in 470 acres of timberlands in Lane County, all managed without herbicides, fertilizers, and chemicals. I have been interested in the herbicide issue since I began working in the woods in 1968. I have worked and contracted in clearing, logging, planting, thinning, fire-fighting, and trail construction.

The current laws, rules and policies concerned with pesticide use of forest land act to encourage excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Our forests are the most efficient biomass accumulators ever measured, all due to unseen underground biological activity--over 60% of activity occurs underground. Soil erosion and destruction occurs from a variety of currently legal (and encouraged) management practices, including roadbuilding, compaction, negligible buffer strips, slash piling, slash burning, broadcast burning, scarification, fertilizing and excessive poisoning with pesticides.

Oregon's forests grew just fine before the age of oil. We will need the biomass they produce when oil runs out, but that won't be an option if the soils are gone. The corporate timber companies understand the soils are depleting, and are separating their milling and land-owning, the land going to timber investment management organizations like Plum Creek. TIMO's ultimate goals are development, not forestry, hence their support of Measure 37. Their thinking here is as greedy and flawed as their destructive timber management practices, all necessitated by making the most amount of money in the least amount of time allowed by law. However those development issues play out, Oregon still need to change the destructive practices now and save the soil and resources for future generations. If we aren't ready for interruptions or depletions of oil and natural gas, even the short term lack of those resources we depend on for food and fiber could cascade quickly into panic and catastrophe. We have a lot of work to do, but stopping the poisoning is the first critical step.

When the poisoned soils are washed into our rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, they can never be put back on the mountains. As Oregonians watch their rivers run thick and brown, they watch their futures flow away.

**In order to preserve human and environmental health, save forest soils and ensure future prosperity, I urge you to request the legislature to enact the following--**

**1--repeal the Pre-emption Laws (ORS 634.057) which deny local governments the right to regulate poisons more vigorously than lax and unenforced state standards.**

**2--repeal the immunity provisions in the Right to Forest Laws (ORS 30.930 and 30.936) which protect landowners and applicators from liability for poisons that drift off-target or otherwise cause harm.**

**3--change the Oregon Forest Practices Act (ORS Chapter 527), to a policy of allowing herbicides only as a last resort.**

**4--send a resolution to Congress to make illegal the federal risk/benefit analysis currently used, which allows the sales commissions on forest herbicides to be the economic benefit for using the herbicides.**

The economy of Oregon is adapting to the realities of current market supplies of wood. The emerging markets are going to be for other forest products as well as wood. We have to prepare now for the day when the cheap oil and gas are gone, and organize our forestry practices to correspond with these inevitabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on these matters, I have much more to say. I look forward to working on these issues until they are resolved.

Sincerely, John Sundquist