

30306 Fox Hollow Road
Eugene, Or. 97405
March 4, 2008

Board of Forestry

Dear members of the Board,

My husband and I have lived on lower Fox Hollow Road in Lane County for thirty-nine years. Soon after we moved to our farm, my horses and dogs were inadvertently aerial sprayed with atrazine from a forestry project one half mile away. Needless to say, I started to do some research on that chemical, and found that it was known, even then, to have adverse effects on embryonic development. In those days, women in the Three Rivers area were experiencing birth defects in their children after being exposed to herbicides, and the Forest Service stopped using these forestry methods. The bad old days?? Oh no! The same practices are still going on with chemicals that more and more scientific studies prove are harmful and deadly to life, not just weeds. But there has been one big change. There are ten houses for every one that was on our road forty years ago. This is true all over rural Western Oregon. More families are choosing to live in the hills closer to timber lands. More humans are getting exposed to the toxins used in forestry. At the same time, the timber industry is shrinking in importance in our state's total economic picture. It is absolutely possible for homeowners and timber companies to be good neighbors, but the timber industry has to modernize its practices in response to the social and environmental context of the twenty-first century.

I am asking you to consider fundamental changes in your procedures and operating philosophies. Your policies favor the use of chemical dependent forestry above all other methods, despite the fact that this sort of forestry pollutes the air and watersheds with chemicals harmful to wildlife and humans, adds carbon to the atmosphere, and consumes huge quantities of precious fossil fuel. At present an operator has only to notify that the company will be spraying and to list the range of chemicals that might be used. There is no permission. Whatever the company wants to do is OK. Change this procedure. Demand that a timber company state exactly which herbicides and which surficants it will use. Demand that the method of least harm be used. That is, no aerial spraying if there is possibility of drift onto people's homes, schools, or health clinics. Demand that the timber company use the fewest and most 'benign' chemicals, and do not mix their chemicals, because the synergies of these toxins are not properly studied. Permission to spray should be granted or denied after the operator has submitted an EIS that the public has a right to comment on. In all cases, top priority should be given to reducing or eliminating aerial spraying in favor of backpack spraying or manual release. This one modest proposal is only a beginning in a long process of reforming our forestry practices, but it is an important step.

Very truly yours,

Reida Kimmel
30306 Fox Hollow Road
Eugene, OR, 97405

