

msund

From: "John Sundquist" <jamsund@epud.net>
To: <msund@epud.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 5:07 PM
Subject: Fw: Oregon Forestry Issues Scan--Herbicides

----- Original Message -----

From: John Sundquist
To: Dan Postrel
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 4:52 PM
Subject: Oregon Forestry Issues Scan--Herbicides

John Sundquist
 31139 Lanes Turn Rd.
 Coburg, OR 97408
 541-683-1905

to--Dan Postrel, ODF

re--Forestry Issues Scan--Herbicides

Hello Mr Postrel,

Please present these comments to the Board of Forestry

I'm a farmer with woodlots, and pay taxes on 150 acres of timberland on the Calapuya Divide, Lane County, and have interests in 320 acres of timberland up Gettings Creeks, 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. I hunt, fish, read and garden, but forest biology, ecology, and sustainability issues are my main interests.

I'll say first that fighting for children's health, clean air and water today is the same as fighting for tomorrow's decent jobs, healthy economy and great fishing.

There seems a huge gap between the knowledge of how forests work, and how that knowledge is applied to forest practices. The great majority of private foresters I meet are convinced that not only are herbicides and other pesticides, fertilizers and chemicals necessary to growing trees, but that the use of these toxic substances should occur in a setting of liability-free guarantees, as provided in the Right to Forest laws.

This attitude, combined with subsidized herbicide costs, generates a staggering amount of pesticides applied on private timberlands. This poisoning constitutes the greatest threat to the health, welfare, and viable economic future of our citizens. Just one example upstream of me, Weyerhaeuser, poisoned the McKenzie watershed with over a half-million pounds of active ingredients in 2006. Responding to citizen complaints against being involuntarily poisoned, Weyco continues with the same spray practices, but now with odor-masking agents. Their forestry practices are no more sustainable than the next tanker load of fuel, fertilizer, or poison. The motto we see on the back of Weyco chip trucks, "...Forests Forever!" is a complete lie.

Herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, additives, game-repellents and toxic fertilizers and erosive logging practices are used to get the most amount of investor return on forest ownership in the least amount of time. These destructive management practices are known as Chemical Dependent Short Rotation (CDSR) tree farming. CDSR management is utterly non-sustainable. CDSR ignores forest biology and destroys the forest soils that are our greatest natural resource, while at the same time its pesticides poison our citizens with acute and chronic disease.

Most private foresters, focused on getting the cut out, don't see a problem when CDSR practices destroy the native forest soils that are the critical resource base of our clean air and water, and our forest products, fishing, tourist and recreation industries. The foresters don't see bodies floating downstream, so where's the problem? It is important to note that most foresters in the past never saw a problem with check dams either.

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.

Forest productivity and wildlife are severely damaged by CDSR forestry, which is no problem for the timber companies, who will just move away. Pesticides and fertilizers have the same effect on our natural resources that methamphetamine has on our nation's children, taking away productiveness and beauty, and leaving chemical-dependent wrecks.

The cheap oil and natural gas that produce the fuel, fertilizer and poison pesticides essential to CDSR are disappearing fast, but the residual pesticide poisons will remain for generations, and some will never disappear.

Private timber operators would like to convince the public that they are sustainable, and spend a lot trying to do so. Most people never go out and see for themselves. The timber operators want the public to believe that they are sustainable and their market niches are full, which is why they can export logs. They want the public to believe that they are suing the BLM so that the poor Western Oregon counties can solve their temporary cash-flow problems.

We know in fact that no business enterprise can act to reduce profit to shareholders by bringing competitive resources into niche markets. What is happening is that CDSR plantations are losing so much productivity that they are producing wood fibers of such poor quality as to be nearly worthless for anything other than pulp. The longer-rotation BLM wood is much better, and many other valuable products come out of longer rotations, worth more than the wood. Sustainable forestry doesn't have to be invented, just implemented.

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.

CDSR forestry poses an unacceptable risk to our citizens and our economic future, and the Board of Forestry must act immediately to change forest practices to reflect biological reality. A good first place to start is to speak against machine piling and burning (under most circumstances), which destruction of nutrients, carbon and mulch leads to the "need" for fertilizers and pesticides.

A critical step is to partner with DEQ to monitor and test for poisons and toxic fertilizers (and their

effects) in rivers, streams, sediments, invertebrates, fish, wildlife and people.

Oregon has powerful interests representing the fertilizer and pesticide industries, such as Oregonians for Food and Shelter, the highest-spending lobby in Salem. These poison industry business representatives will always try to promote their products and avoid regulation and liability. They have been quite successful in getting their agenda advanced in the legislature and laws. Their greatest success in the attitudes of most foresters, farmers, state officials and regulators, convinced that pesticides are necessary or even safe. The attitudes are the big problem, in my opinion, but can be improved gradually. A good start is when biological reality is made apparent to decision makers, and becomes the framework for understanding what occurs in nature and what human choices will result in sustainable forestry and farming.

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

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