

TO: Oregon Board of Forestry
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Members Oregon Board of Forestry,

Please accept these comments as if I was present and speaking in person, as unfortunately, I cannot attend today's meeting.

My family, friends and I are survivors of forestry herbicide exposure. We were all exposed to 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D in the Oregon Coast Range valley of Deadwood during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Many of us suffer from debilitating diseases as a result of this exposure. We also have continued exposure from TCDD Dioxin (see below) which was a manufacturing by-product of the pesticides, which has no half-life, and which adheres to soil sediment and gets into the water (springs, streams, ground water, creeks, rivers, etc.)

I personally am a breast cancer survivor whom, I am happy to say, has recently passed my five-year milestone. But this achievement has not been easy, pleasant or something that I would want anyone else to experience.

Simply put, pesticides and particularly herbicides are NOT necessary in forestry use on national, state or private forests. But unfortunately, the standard in the forestry industry, established in the 1970s by Professor Emeritus Mike Newton of OSU, is to clearcut a unit, spray it with toxic herbicides, plant seedlings, and then spray repeatedly until the seedlings outgrow any broadleaf plants that may shade them. [Please see; <http://www.forestlanddwellers.org/schools/> for examples of repeated use of pesticides near our schools.] And sadly these herbicides are NOT benign, nor are the inerts inherent in the herbicides, nor are the TCDD dioxin and other toxic by-products.

Real Oregonians suffer greatly from exposure to these toxins. Many may not even understand how they became ill, because they don't know that they have been exposed to pesticides. Additionally, most medical doctors are not trained to recognize pesticide poisoning; so many people are never correctly diagnosed. And many who become ill can't do anything other than try to recover and so never speak up and demand that they and their neighbors stop being poisoned by the pesticide application practices sanctioned by the Oregon Board of Forestry.

In fact, if a person wants to learn whether and what pesticides and herbicides are going to

be used on the clearcuts near their home, school or workplace they MUST subscribe to the Oregon State Department of Forestry, pay money for that subscription, only to receive postcard notices that list sometimes six or more different pesticides that may or may not be used during a period of time that has no specific beginning date (just a month and year) and may go on for many, many months, with no actual end date. How can a person protect their family, neighbors and self with such vague information?

The Siuslaw National Forest (SNF) following the Northwest Forest Plan is the ONLY profitable forest in the nation. They do not use pesticides because they do not clearcut their forests. The late-successional-reserve thins take only the mid-size trees, leaving the old growth and small trees. By managing the SNF forest this way the old growth trees retain water, store carbon, produce cones for strong re-generation of the species, provide habitat for endangered and otherwise species, and shade the small trees. The small trees re-generate from cones dropped by the old growth trees, and grow into the mid-size trees which are later harvested to provide the wood for products we all use and value. Eventually forests that were managed into 'tree farms' from the 1970s-1990s become more like actual native forests and all the issues associated with clearcutting (no habitat for endangered species and subsequent lawsuits, silted creeks, landslides, use of herbicides and pesticides and the subsequent poisoning of human, aquatic and forest species, no storage for carbon in the era of global warming, etc.) become moot.

I believe that with a little forethought the Oregon Board of Forestry could establish rules to ensure that Oregon's state and private forests follow the excellent model of the Siuslaw National Forest's LSR thins. Management of Oregon's forests under that model could become of higher value and perhaps extremely profitable *and* sustainable.

Just think, pesticides are petroleum-based and as we all know petroleum discovery, exploration and extraction peaked in 2006. Therefore the cost of making, buying, and applying pesticides is only going to climb.

Secondly due to global warming, as state and a nation we need to store carbon instead of cutting down in mass quantity the actual life forms that store the carbon. In fact, loss of revenue to counties from Federal timber programs could actually be off-set by the Federal Government paying Oregon's timber rich-counties for the storage of carbon in the those federal forest. This principle could be applied by the Oregon Board of Forestry to state and private forests also.

If the SNF's NW Forest Plan's successful LSR model was adopted as a standard practice for Oregon's forests then the practice and use of pesticides on all of Oregon's Forest would be obsolete. They only ones to be resistant to this change would be the chemical companies, who complicitly are making money simultaneously from selling the pesticides *and* the chemotherapy people need once they are ill from exposure to the pesticides. Now, all good people would not want to endorse, support or give profit to companies that make profit from making Oregon's citizen's sick and then hopefully well, would they?

Of course, no one ever speaks about the secondary costs to the communities in Oregon due to the use of pesticides, but I feel I must mention these. Please consider the cost of the following:

- 1) The clean-up and the remediation of TCDD dioxin and other long-lived toxics in our soils and water;
- 2) The health costs and burdens to our state and national treasuries (costs for supporting once functional and productive people who now have life-threatening and debilitating conditions and disabilities);
- 3) The environmental and citizen lawsuits to stop clearcutting of old growth and 100 year + second growth trees, and violations to ESA, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Acts;
- 4) The loss of native species and plants: salmon, spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and many others;
- 5) The loss of stored carbon and future carbon stores;
- 6) The use of ever-scarcer petroleum-based products to pollute our stream and soils depleting that petroleum from being used to develop viable alternative energy resources to maintain our lifestyles and for our children.

Need I say that this 'standard practice of forestry' seems crazy in light of the fact that real options exist to use our forests in ways that actually make sense?

The Oregon Board of Forestry has in its power to change the policies from the 'standard practice' to a sincerely healthy forest practice. Please use your power wisely to change Oregon's forest policies, practices and rules, and stop the practices of clearcuts, application of pesticides on Oregon's forests. Please set policies to have pesticide companies and applicators remediate the soils and streams of toxins where pesticides had been and have been used for decades and currently are being used. Please establish policies to create our forests as carbon stores so that our children do not face a future without hope. Please address the realistic external costs to all of Oregon's residents and species. And please use your power with respect to all life on behalf of all of us.

Thank you,

Amy Pincus Merwin

Agent Orange Chemical, Dioxin, Attacks The Mitochondria To Cause Cancer, Study Shows

ScienceDaily (Dec. 21, 2007) ~ Researchers with the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine have demonstrated the process by which the cancer-causing chemical dioxin attacks the cellular machinery, disrupts normal cellular function and ultimately promotes tumor progression.

The team identified for the first time that mitochondria, the cellular sub-units that convert oxygen and nutrients into cellular fuel, are the target of tetrachlorodibenzodioxin, or TCDD. The study showed that TCDD induces mitochondria-to-nucleus stress signaling, which in turn induces the expression of cell nucleus genes associated with tumor promotion and metastasis.

The mechanism the research team has described is directly relevant to understanding incidences of breast and other cancers in human populations exposed to these chemicals. With a better understanding of this underlying cellular mechanism, researchers hope to improve their understanding of tumor growth and promotion.

"Now that we have identified this signaling mechanism we can look at ways to disrupt this complex chain of events," said Narayah Avadhani, chair of the Department of Animal Biology at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine and the study's lead investigator. "Our ultimate goal is to block the propagation of this mitochondrial stress signaling and inhibit the expression of the proteins that combine to assist cancer growth."

A well-characterized mechanism of TCDD action occurs through activation of arylhydrocarbon receptors, AhR, by directly binding to the protein subunits. Activated AhR mediates the transcriptional activation of many genes including those involved in fatty acid metabolism, cell cycle regulation and immune response. The present study, however, shows that TCDD starts the chain of events that promote tumor progression in vivo by directly targeting mitochondrial transcription and induction of mitochondrial stress signaling.

A unique feature of this TCDD-induced signaling is that it does not involve the action of AhR but occurs through increased calcium levels in cells and activation of calcium responsive factors. A net result of signaling cascade is slowing down of cellular apoptosis, increased cell proliferation and tumor cell metastasis. Taken together, this study describes a novel mechanism of TCDD-induced tumor progression and emergence of metastatic cancer cells.

TCDD is the most toxic compound in the dioxin family. Formed as a by-product during waste incineration, paper, chemical and pesticide manufacturing, it was the toxic ingredient in Agent Orange and closed the Love Canal in Niagara Falls. The public health impact of dioxin, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, compares to that of the pesticide DDT.

The study appears online and in the Dec. 17 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and was performed by Avadhani, Gopa Biswas, Satish Srinivasan and Hindupur Anandatheerthavarada of the Penn School of Veterinary Medicine.

The research was supported by a grant from the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health.

Adapted from materials provided by University of Pennsylvania.
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/12/071217171406.htm>

My name is Tammy Freire. I own a beautiful property in what used to be Greenleaf, Oregon just off of Highway 36 on a beautiful covered bridge road. Ironically, it is now a Deadwood address. My husband, 2 kids and I moved there in 1996 to start our dream organic farm and an Educational center about vegetation and ecosystems of the coastal range of central Oregon. We named it Camp Greenleaf. The first couple years were interesting. We noticed us and our children coming up with strange ailments we had not experienced before during certain times of the year. Rashes, sore throats, swollen glands, intense stomach griping, upper respiratory irritations, fatigue, anxiety, chest tightness, arrhythmia, dizziness, to name the most extreme. We had not experienced these symptoms prior to living in what we thought was a pure, clean and organic environment.

A neighbor, who was previously aware of the herbicidal and pesticide spraying, opened my eyes to what she had been battling since she had moved on our road in 1976. I began to keep a journal of our symptoms and dates of onset and studied up through the Agricultural Department at OSU on the chemicals that were being used and when. Sure enough the dates of applications of these chemicals matched up with the onsets of our health problems. Then I went to work for the local Doctor in Triangle Lake and the patterns became so evident in our community between the spraying/ applications and the waves of symptoms from rashes to chest pain of unclear etiology it amazed me that this was being allowed to go on and nobody who was aware could stop it. In 1999, after a severe spraying by the local electric company and several logging companies my family became severely ill. My husband had a heart attack, followed by a 3 way bypass at 42 and was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, our 22 year old son was taken to Sacred heart and went in to cardiac arrest and flat lined on the ER table (he was resuscitated) , our 10 year old son was taken to Sacred Heart in Eugene with severe chest pain and shortness of breath where he was later released.

No testing was done for chemical poisoning though it was requested due to no insurance coverage. I myself had a 8 lb. tumor removed by full hysterectomy at 39 years old. We had to move away or we feared someone may not live through the sprayings at that time in spring and fall. Especially when it began to happen 3-6 times a year due to the frantic amount of logging being done in west lane County. So now we have a beautiful 7 acre piece of property with a custom home built in 2000 sitting empty, for sale, we can't live in, has been labeled a "toxic waste dump" by a mortgage company we tried to do a refinance with because of an article trying to explain our situation in the Eugene Weekly and everything we worked to create over a half million dollar property is now going into foreclosure because of lack of sale.

This was our American dream~ to build a beautiful home, organic farm and retire in the coastal range of Oregon and because of the timber companies greed in how they take care of their land after clear cutting has stole our health, our happiness, our retirement and our dreams. There are alternatives to the methods the Logging companies use to "restore" their lands but they carry on with their ignorance even though they have been made aware what they are doing to the people, the wildlife, the salmon population and the land's health. Why should most of them care? They don't have to live there in the aftermath subjecting their families to what is equivalent to the spraying of agent orange in

Vietnam or the coca fields of Columbia. Yes, it is that serious! Now i sit her with permanent nerve damage, my husband with 1/3 of his heart not functioning, my children with apparent health problems they will unfortunately have to deal with through their lifetimes because of the laziness, greed and practices of private logging companies who have far greater power than us forest dwellers. Thank you for your time and Ipray with all of my heart that something I said in this letter makes a difference.

Tammy K. Freire
Florence, oregon
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dear Dan.

We are surrounded by forests out here at the back of the Mohawk valley.
My husband has a condition of reduced kidney function which makes him vulnerable to poisons.

He'll stay alive as long as we keep him safe.

I've been researching to support his health and have found that the major danger inherent in our chemical society is the **unintended recombination** of ingredients in all the cleaners, health drugs, herbicides etc. etc. that we use on a daily basis.

I know there are many ways of managing a forest **BESIDES** using poison. Even if we have to resort to human labor, that is actually best for all-- people outside interacting with the forest for the best health of all concerned.

Sincerely,

Ayala Talpai

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Robin Winfree
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January 9, 2008

Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State St.
Salem, Oregon

Re: Public Comment on Issue Scan

I am sorry that I am unable to attend this meeting today as I would really like to show my support for our Oregon forests. However, due to bad weather and work scheduling, I am instead submitting this testimony and comment via email (and saving my carbon emissions as well!).

We are entering what should be a new era in public policy. Climate change is becoming a household word; there is now much more understanding of how we must plan for the future. Cutting down on fossil fuels is one of the ways that we can conserve our resources and provide incentive for developing other forms of energy. People are also beginning to understand how important our forests are for balancing carbon emissions and helping to keep our air clean. This is a powerful movement, and Oregon has an opportunity to be situated at the forefront of research and implementation. Oregon forests should be recognized for the importance of their wide range of sustainable economic, recreational and environmental uses.

I believe we need a new policy in Oregon forestry as well. I have spoken with many people who have been harmed by current use of pesticides in forestry. Many studies are finding links between pesticide use and the rates of cancer, autism, developmental delays, learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and behavioral disorders. It is time we advocate for exploring new options to the practice of poisoning our environment. Every time an Oregon forest is sprayed with toxic chemicals, residues and traces of those chemicals can be found in increasing amounts in human beings and wildlife. Why is it that Oregon has one of the highest autism rates in the nation? (www.fightingautism.org) Why is it that the cancer rate is approaching 1 in 3 people?

I beg you to consider my concerns. I am a mother and a grandmother who has seen my own daughter have a spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) because of toxic exposure. We can change this practice. And thrive.

Thank you,

Robin Winfree

Good People,

I'm an organic farmer with woodlots, and pay taxes on 20 acres of property on the Upper Smith River in Douglas County.

Logging and pesticide spraying have a huge impact on me here, both for economic reasons such as possible degradation of my water supply from silt and chemical residues, but also physical and mental health reasons. I have chemical sensitivities and just the fear of exposure from overspray or residues in the water, coupled with the fear of losing my organic certification, weigh heavily on my mind. There is an adjacent new clearcut that touches my property line that is certain to be sprayed this spring.

I have had the honor of reading the comments being submitted by John Sundquist and would like to say that I agree with and whole heartedly support everything he said. Please take these comments to heart in your decision making process.

Thankyou,

Kathleen Rutecki
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