

William B. <zoebuck@pacifier.com>

Reps Helm, Mitchell, & other committee members,

Visiting the Alsea River area of the Coast Range in 1976, I was struck with the passion & energy that opposition to forest spraying had evoked. Homemade signs were everywhere, objecting to the use of 2-4-D over re-planted clear cuts, especially abutting private homes, roadsides, creeks & streams.

As an 'urban' (Astoria) resident, & not involved day-to-day with ODF or woodlot management, I have to say I'm appalled to find that the State is still trying to decide how best to manage the issues of clear cutting & aerial spraying.

No matter how important the budget is for Oregon schools, the final priority should be in managing our forests for long-term best practices, & not just for short-term gain, & surely not involving methods & materials that compromise our drinking water, & the humans & fish & wildlife that depend upon it.

The width of our buffer zones along streams is the *least* of all NW states, by orders of magnitude?

Flying over the Coast Range today (thank you, Google Earth) gives a grim but clear picture of what our forest & land have been put through in recent decades.

Surely the notion of 'sustainability' has some role in forest planning & practices in the 21st Century?

Are we erring on the side of caution, to allow for the changes being wrought by climate warming? If not, then *why* not?? If the answer is that vested interests don't want to change, or are claiming economic harm to their businesses, I would suggest that the benefits to the many, both now & in the future, far outweigh the losses to the few, who have consistently failed to keep our public forests healthy & sustainable under the rules of the past several decades.

This looks like an emergency to me, & I'm sure I am typical of many Oregonians who would be voicing the same sentiments I have, had this issue been made more public.

Thank you for your work in Salem, & please keep in mind that the sawmill workers & private timber interests that undoubtedly swarm your hearing rooms will never out-number the rest of us regular people who have a more holistic view of how to use our public resources. We all just don't get the day off to go & make a showing in person!

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