

October 2016 • vol 17 • issue 213

HIPFISH MONTHLY

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OREGON'S SHAME

Part II by Roger Dorband
Aerial Spraying in the Oregon Forests

CREATE sponsors Beyond Toxics
With Lisa Arkin, Exec. Director
Learn about current research on
trends in aerial herbicide spray
• KALA Oct. 20

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COMING UP AT KALA

CREATE sponsors Beyond Toxics Thursday, Oct 20, 7pm.

Oct 20



CLEARCUTS IN OREGON FORESTS are nearly always followed by aerial spraying of herbicides. What does that mean? How is this spraying done and who or what is affected by it?

Learn more about the issue on Thursday evening, October 20 in a talk in Astoria by Lisa Arkin from Beyond Toxics. Lisa is a state-wide leader in addressing air and water quality issues related to pesticide application.

Ms. Arkin will speak about Beyond Toxics' current research on trends

in aerial herbicide spray, successful community action projects and new legislative projects. She will be joined at the podium by Roger Dorband, reporting on forestry issues in HIPFISHmonthly. The discussion is sponsored by the Columbia River Estuary Action Team (CREATE). The group will hold its monthly meeting at 6pm, and the talk by Ms. Arkin and Mr. Dorband will follow at 7pm. The public is invited to attend both or come for just the talk.

Food & Beverage will be available for sale.

You can find out more about Beyond Toxics at www.BeyondToxics.org.

KALA@Hipfishmonthly is located at 1017 Marine Drive in Astoria. 503.338.4878

Soup n' Swing Sunday w/ the Swing Cats at KALA

Oct 9 • 6pm to 9pm

KALA stage welcomes Astoria quartet THE SWING CATS on Sunday, October 9 for Soup & Swing! The evening offers an "all-you-can-eat" soup buffet, including bread and salad, 2 choices of soup, and the infectious sound of retro swingers, The Swing Cats; reviving 30's and 40's swing jazz, as in tunes like "Minnie the Moocher," "Jump Jive," and "Choo Choo Chaboogie." The group also presents classical jazz tunes and a bit of the blues from different eras.

The band is a revival of The Swingcats, a longtime Astoria favorite, with original band members Richard Thomasian, lead vocals, Dave Ambrose, bass, and newbies Larry Aldred, percussion, and Ted Brainard on guitar. Also look for musician guest spots.

Sunday, October 9. Doors open at 6pm for Soup Buffet and FULL BAR, with music following, from 6:30pm till 9pm. \$10 cover @ the door, includes a healthy fixin' of Soup & Swing. 21+please.

KALA is located at 1017 Marine Drive in Astoria, 503.338.4878.



ART@Kala • The art of SM@CK • Paul Soriano

KALA showcases 2 Portland artists the month of Sept/Oct. New acrylic paintings and drawings on paper from multidisciplinary artist SM@ck (aka Sergei Khlopoff), and paintings by Paul Soriano.

SM@ck, who lives and primarily works in Portland, Oregon, explores various media such as acrylic painting, watercolors, drawings, video and animation in his pursuit to define an autonomous voice and to examine our interactions with ourselves and with our local and global environments. Also on display will be select acrylic on canvas pieces from his "Alternate Evolutions" series, previously exhibited at the former Mark Woolley Gallery.

Lifetime painter Paul Soriano, and curator/director of Cock Gallery (2011-2014) will display new works, and retain pieces from The Coast is Queer show this past summer at KALA. Of his works, rich and detailed in layers of color, Soriano paints in the genre of erotica, his figurative subjects often interwoven with aspects of nature. Says Soriano, "My works are plays on the nature of the quantum universe. The process begins with a forty-five minute meditation in the Kundalini tradition. Paint is then randomly applied to the chosen surface. The resulting field becomes analogous of the universe. Within this field are the beginnings of a narrative that defines itself as it unfolds."

His works represent recent explorations of this process in an attempt to integrate into the visceral fabric of the work itself, both intentionally and subconsciously. KALA proudly exhibits the two artists that share a uniquely independent creative spirit.



SM@CK acrylic on canvas



Paul Soriano, UNFINISHED, oil on canvas

2nd Saturday Art Walk, Sat. Oct 8, 5-8pm KALA is located at 1017 Marine Drive in Astoria. Select weekends, events. Call for appt. showing 503.338.4878.

OREGON'S SHAME OREGON'S SHAME

I call it cruel
and maybe the root of all
cruelty to know what
occurs but not recognize the fact.

William Stafford
A Ritual to Read to Each Other

AGENT ORANGE IN THE OREGON FORESTS

Part II By Roger Dorband

Aerial Spraying Regulations, Health Risks and Herbicide Contamination, the Oregon Forest Practices Act and The Folks in Cedar Valley



TROUBLE IN CEDAR VALLEY

By all measures October 16th 2013 was a normal autumn day on the southern Oregon coast. During the chilly night a heavy fog had drifted up the Rogue River estuary shrouding Cedar Valley, a small community north of Gold Beach. By early afternoon the sun had burned through bringing temperatures into the comfort zone. Many of the Cedar Valley residents were outdoors.

John Burns, the 67 year old assistant chief of the local volunteer fire department, was doing some pruning in his yard. The loud noise of a helicopter interrupted his work. Because of the tall fir trees surrounding his property he couldn't see the helicopter until it was nearly directly overhead. It was yellow, flying at no more than 200 feet. Burns thought it was probably the local sheriff searching for marijuana patches. Shortly after the helicopter disappeared his eyes began burning and he detected a strange smell in the air.

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, Beau Hanson, who is a meat cutter by trade, was out in back of his house chopping firewood. His wife, Lilly, and his 8 month old daughter were nearby enjoying the sun. The whir and clamor of the helicopter barely registered with Beau who was intent on his chopping. He too thought that it was probably the sheriff looking for marijuana growers. A couple of minutes later the strange odor filled the air. Beau, who suffers from asthma, quickly summoned his wife and daughter and ran into the house.

Another neighbor, Kathryn Rickard, was indoors at her computer on that October afternoon. A former hairdresser and mother of five, she was studying diligently to become a medical assistant. She remembers hearing a faint mechanical noise and sensing a buzz and vibration in the room. Like Burns and Hanson, she figured it was just the sheriff doing a routine search.

Not long after the helicopter had left the area, Rickard stepped out onto her porch to check on her rescue dog, Mr. Leo, a Rhodesian Labrador mix that was outside. She immediately detected a "horrid smell". A wave of nausea swept over her and she felt the onset of "an instant headache". Once safely back in the house her arms began to tingle and a rash "like tiny pin pricks" appeared. Shortly

thereafter flu like symptoms and fatigue added to her misery. Mr. Leo and the family cat were out in the yard, vomiting.

By this time her neighbors, Burns and Hanson, weren't fairing well either. Burns eyes continued to bother him and he began having difficulty breathing. He too felt the flu like symptoms and headache but by far the worst was the attack on his respiratory system. He coughed up blood and his nasal sinuses began to flow heavily, a condition that lasted several days.

As soon as Beau Hanson got into the house with his wife and daughter he experienced a severe asthma attack. His wife felt generally ill and their daughter's hands swelled and her eyes turned red and puffy.

The reports of these individuals are a portion of the 45 separate health complaints made by Cedar Valley residents after exposure to the errant herbicide spray that took place over their community on October 16th 2013. Not all of the victims were human. Over that winter John Burns found 2 dead deer on his property. A neighbor found 3. Chickens and lambs died. A horse went blind. Some plants died. Shrubs and trees withered. Poor Mr. Leo, Kathryn Rickard's rescue dog, was never the same after the incident. For several months he lost weight and vitality until he finally wasted away to the point that he had to be euthanized.

The story of what happened that day in Cedar Valley and the efforts of the victims to seek redress over the next 2 years has been written about in numerous newspaper articles and aired on radio. The story is reiterated here in some detail because of its relative currency and because it underscores so many of the vexing problems with the aerial spraying of herbicides that are still unresolved.

A FAILED SYSTEM

In the immediate aftermath of their poisoning those suffering were confused and eager to find out what had happened to them and whether it was related to the appearance of the helicopter and the smell of chemicals. John Burns and his wife, Barbara, took the lead in contacting the local sheriff, the medical community, the Oregon Health Authority, and ultimately, with guidance from nonprofit Beyond Toxics, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Disease Control.

Over and over their credibility and that of the other complainants was called into question. "Are you sure it was the helicopter? How do you know that your illness has anything to do with someone fly-

ing over your home?" The other frequent response was a suggestion to call another agency. Finally the Burns learned from the Oregon Health Authority, which doesn't investigate pesticide exposure, that the agency they needed was the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The ODA is charged with pursuing violators as well as protecting the public and the environment from unintended exposure to pesticides (technically "herbicides" are in the general category of "pesticides"). To Rickard and her neighbors' great frustration the ODA didn't send an investigator to Cedar Valley until 7 days after she contacted them.

The ODA has only 9 investigators to cover the entire state. Presumably in order to allot their resources carefully they waited to investigate the Cedar Valley case because according to the spray records they requested from the Oregon Department of Forestry there was no reason for a helicopter to be passing over Cedar Valley that day. The ODF records showed only 2 parcels west of Cedar Valley and another parcel to the southwest, were scheduled for spraying during the time frame of October 16.

According to the Cedar Valley residents the ODA continued to express doubts about their account for months after the initial investigation. Belatedly the agency found out from the ODF that a 4th parcel had been sprayed southeast of Cedar Valley the same day. Both sprayings were done by Pacific Air Research Inc. of Eugene. It became a logical conclusion that the company's helicopter did fly over the homes between the 2 sites.

The apparent confusion at the ODF was most likely due to the fact that the 4th parcel had a different owner than the other parcels and that owner had registered the intent to spray 6 months before. Why it took so long to discover this information is open to question.

Applicators must give a date and time for the intended spraying but they are not held to the scheduled date. The ODF allows them a window of up to a year. In order for the public to receive notification of a spraying they have to pay an annual fee of \$25 per section and then they aren't guaranteed the date within the year long window. For years residents up and down the Oregon Coast Range have been saying that their only notification is the sound of a helicopter.

Residents cannot find out what herbicides are going to be sprayed either. Under ODF supervision timber companies and applicators are only required to provide the ODF with a list of which herbicides might be sprayed on a given parcel. Only the applicators have a record of what was actually sprayed.



Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Beyond Toxics, Speaks Oct. 20 at KALA

Another Cedar Valley resident, Susan Golay, called the ODA on October 14th the day before scheduled spraying because she was concerned about potential drift. The ODA representative gave her a perfunctory answer. The application would follow the rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act and directions on the herbicide label. She was also told that a stewardship forester from the ODF, which is charged with the supervision of herbicide spraying, would be on hand as well as an ODA investigator.

What the ODA representative didn't tell her is that the Oregon Forest Practices Act gives no mention to the protection of human health and in fact, at the time, provided no buffer from spraying around homes or schools. In spite of agency adamance about application according to the label, the OFPA allows for spraying over non-fish bearing streams. The label on frequently used 2,4-D cautions that it is toxic to fish and should not be sprayed where surface water is present.

The October 15th spraying was postponed a day due to weather. On the 16th there was no one from the ODA present. The forester from the ODF who was on site at one of the parcel was not in position to observe the helicopter flying over the residents of Cedar Valley.

During the week they waited for an investigation by ODA, the over spray victims' health problems continued and in some cases worsened. Headaches, dizziness and fatigue were common, so were coughs and rashes. Their physicians were

stymied in providing treatment because the toxin they were exposed to was still unknown and the helicopter spraying had not been confirmed.

When the ODA finally visited Cedar Valley they took 7 samples from leaves on a few of the properties. They did not test water or soil and declined the residents' offer to provide blood and urine samples. When questioned about their procedure later the director of the department, Katy Coba, said that "ODA investigations don't have a health component to them." Though they are charged

with protecting the public and the environment from pesticide exposure, by law they are not required to determine how or to what degree humans are exposed to pesticides.(!?)

Richard Kauffman, the former regional director of the Federal Center for Disease Control's Oregon Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, said, "Waiting a week to take a sample is completely inadequate. In order to understand toxicity and exposure the response needs to come within 48 hours and should include soil, water, blood and urine. ODA director Coba, later said that stricter notification rules could have triggered a different approach to their investigation in Cedar Valley.

Although the 1 week wait for samples to be taken was agonizing, the Cedar Valley folks experienced what they perceive as worse abuse from the ODA. In spite of their pleas, the ODA did not release the data on what they had been sprayed with for 6 months! It took involvement from the EPA, the Federal Center for Disease Control, and finally the advocacy group Beyond Toxics who fought a denial of the Cedar Valley residents' public records request and won a decision from the Oregon Department of Justice.

When the ODA finally told the residents what herbicides they had been sprayed with they blamed the delay on the helicopter pilot, Steve Owen. The ODA said that Owen had been uncooperative with the investigation and had lied about which herbicides he had sprayed and the

quantity sprayed. This resulted in what the ODA director described as one of the most complicated investigations in her 11 years there.

Richard Kauffman responded to the ODA's excuse by saying that the pilot's lying should have been only a minor impediment to the investigation. Through legal action the ODA could have quickly obtained the spray record from the helicopter service company and passed it on to the victims.

Kauffman has chastened the ODA before. While still with the Center for Disease Control, he participated in the 2011 Triangle Lake Herbicide investigation. At that time he told Oregon's Pesticide Analytical and Response Center representatives that state agencies' response to pesticide complaints was "sorely lacking". ODA, the primary investigative arm of PARC, still proceeds as though their only mission is to prove whether herbicides are used in accordance with the label. Rather than dealing with the victims' health concerns Director Coba said her agency had "sent the wrong message" to (the people Cedar Valley) because the department "became much more concerned about conducting an investigation that would hold up in court."

STRANGE BREW

In the final analysis it became clear that Steve Owen's helicopter tanks were loaded with herbicides the day he passed repeatedly over the Cedar Valley residents. The ODA found him guilty of "gross negligence". The eye witness reports indicate that his tanks were apparently leaking as he made his fly overs. Part of the blame for the incident rests with the ODF which is charged with the supervision of aerial spraying.

Initially Owen told the ODA that he had only sprayed Roundup near Cedar Valley on the date in question. Eventually he admitted to spraying a combination of 7 herbicides that day including Roundup, 2,4-D and triclopyr.

ODA and ODF's permission for applicators to mix herbicides is one of the most troubling of the agencies' policies. They seem to have an irrational trust in the EPA's standards for application regardless of what is mixed and an unfounded belief that applicators will always do the right thing. The ODA and ODF's laissez-faire attitude can only be understood in light of the fact that both agencies receive a large portion of their funding from the chemical and timber industries, respectively, and while charged with monitoring them they also promote the industries.

Chemical analysis is not within the scope of this article, however, it is a widely known scientific fact that there are synergistic effects to mixing herbicides that can increase their individual dangers. The same combination of 2,4-D and triclopyr in Owen's chemical brew is used in the product Crossbow. The data on Crossbow clearly states that it is "not for use on crops or timber being grown for sale or other commercial uses." The fact that triclopyr alone is known to be "moderately to highly toxic to fish" in some of its forms, should also raise serious concerns for Oregonians.

There are also questions about Owen's mixing Roundup with 2,4-D. This combination referred to as Enlist Duo by the agriculture industry, was temporarily banned by the EPA in 2015 due to incomplete scientific evidence regarding its toxicity to humans. It is currently approved under restrictions that do not include its use in Oregon, and yet Owen mixed the two ingredients without having a clue about their possible harm.

Neither the ODF or the ODA vets the mixture of herbicides. Rather they rely on EPA regulations and stand by the notion that all is well if the products are used "according to the label". For its part the EPA has strict standards for herbicides entering the country. Currently the 2,4-D that is used here comes from China, Russia, India and a host of other countries. Australia recently found some of their imported 2,4-D to be contaminated with dioxin. We can only hope the EPA is checking our "trusted" sources of 2,4-D and other herbicides on a regular basis.

...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

At the conclusion of their investigation in 2014 the ODA wanted to throw the book at Steve Owen and the company he owns, Pacific Air Research, Inc., The agency initially said both the company and Owen would have to pay separate \$10,000 fines and that Owens' applicator's license would be suspended for a year. Owen immediately appealed the ruling buying himself a full year to continue his operation. During that time there was at least one other alleged over spray incident by him in Douglas County.

In July of 2015 the ODA reached a settlement with Owen, dropping the fines entirely in exchange for his giving up his applicators license for a year and not disputing the finding that he had misled investigators. Department director Coba said in a statement that the economic losses from losing the license were far greater than the fines. She went



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The Burns of Cedar Valley, who suffered exposure when the defective tanks of a helicopter carrying herbicide flew over their home

on to say that, "Our number one priority was to have an immediate surrender of the applicator and operator license."

Coba's statement does not jibe well with the outcome in this case. Owen flew for an entire year after having been found guilty of gross negligence. According to Beyond Toxics which has been closely involved with this case, since the settlement Owen has continued operating his business under a second DBA which allows him to rent helicopters for aerial spraying some of which are operated in his stead by his son.

Of the settlement, John Burns of Cedar Valley asked, "Why does the industry have the right to govern themselves? No one is holding them accountable for the decisions they make."

AN EPIC BATTLE

In 2014 the Cedar Valley residents began seeking redress for the harm to themselves and their property. That struggle is still going on. There are two main obstacles to any claim to restitution or call to protect the health of the public and the environment. Restitution in the form of lawsuits against agricultural or timber companies that harm individuals' health or property is mitigated by the Oregon Right to Farm and Forest laws put into effect in the mid 1990s. Those laws protect the industries, as well as spray applicators, by granting immunity from lawsuits initiated because of the accidental spraying of herbicides on people or their property unless the spraying was done illegally or causes grave injury or death.

In the Cedar Valley case it is difficult to prove the event reached the bar set by the law because due to the delayed agency response doctors could not prove beyond a doubt that the residents' illnesses were caused by the spraying in spite of the overwhelming evidence supporting their claims. Cedar Valley resident Jim Welsh, a spray victim who had a heart condition, died of pneumonia 6 months later. His health declined precipitously after the spraying. Although the effect of the spraying seems to have been a contributing factor, cause and effect could not be scientifically proven.

The second obstacle to protection of public health and the environment is timber and chemical company lobbying and campaign contributions. Legislators who regularly receive large contributions from corporations such as Weyerhaeuser are more inclined to vote to maintain the status quo when it comes to Oregon's weak herbicide spraying regulations. Oregon's regulations on private and state forest land are in stark contrast to the stricter regulations in neighboring states. In federal forests herbicide spraying was completely banned in 1984 due to public health concerns.

The Cedar Valley residents began having meetings in Salem within a couple of months of having been over sprayed. Initially agency representatives and some legislators seem genuinely concerned about what had happened. The first real effort to bring about change to forest management practices was presented in 2015. The Public Health and Water Resources Protection Act, known as SB613, asked for a more robust notification procedure prior to aerial spraying, created no-spray buffers around residences and schools and enhanced protection for drinking water sources and fish bearing streams.

SB613 was introduced by Portland D-Senator Michael Dembrow and Lake Oswego D-Representative Ann Lininger, two legislators

who have fought for changes in herbicide regulation. The bill never got out of committee in either the house or senate.

The senate work group which considered the bill was chaired by Clatskanie D-Representative Brad Witt. According to Beyond Toxics, whose executive director Lisa Arkin was present during the session, Witt used his opposition to the request for timely notification of spray dates to kill the bill in committee. His rationale was that advanced notice could tip off eco-terrorists who might attack the helicopters. He stated that, "It is impossible for me to make a call on whose safety (neighboring residents or helicopter pilots) is more important."

It should be noted that Oregon has had only one such eco-terrorist incident which occurred over 30 years ago, a time period in which there have been hundreds of over spray complaints. It should be further noted that according to Rob Davis writing

in the Oregonian, "Witt was "working closely on the issue with timber and chemical industry lobbyists", and, " has received \$50,000 in campaign contributions from those special interests since 2008.

After a second attempt at getting reform to spray regulations during the 2015 session failed the legislature finally passed HB3549 which requires virtually no compromise on the part of the timber industry. Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, who participated in the work group for HB3549 has said it was virtually impossible to get compromise from the chemical and timber industry lobbyists present. In her words, "Bringing real change to Oregon's Herbicide regulations will be an epic battle."

Environmentalists have dubbed HB3549 the "baby buffer bill". It calls for 60 foot buffers around homes and schools and maintains the 60 foot buffer already in place for fish bearing streams. Oregon has had no buffers for home or schools since the early 1990s. The bill still fails to protect non-fish bearing streams and ground water sources.

Oregon's buffer regulations lag far behind those of Washington, Idaho, Alaska and California. Dr. Tom Titus, fish genetics researcher at the University of Oregon who testified in behalf of SB613, has said that compared with those states, Oregon's regulations are still in the "dark ages". For example, Washington has an arial spray buffer for fish bearing streams of 90-325 feet, compared with Oregon's 60 feet, and 50-100 feet for non-fish bearing streams which Oregon doesn't protect at all. Washington provides a 200 foot buffer for homes compared to Oregon's 60 feet. The same discrepancy applies to the protection of schools.

In Oregon the timber industry has long claimed that increased buffers would make it impossible for them to operate at a profit in Oregon. This argument loses credibility in that many of the same companies are operating profitably in Washington and Idaho which have much stricter buffer regulations.

Representative Brad Witt called HB3549 "an important first step". Included in the bill is the doubling of fines for spray applicators who violate regulations. Witt insisted in committee that when applicators spray people, "We need to put not only the person but the entire company out of business."

David Hampton, an executive with Hampton Affiliates, also chimed in during the work session on the bill to lay the blame for over spray incidents on applicators. He claimed that, "Modern technology eliminates the possibility of accidental drift." The comment does not comport with complaints of drift called into Beyond Toxics from hundreds of people around the state in the last few years.

SB3549 does include a new state hot line for reporting over spray or drift after the fact. This will hopefully lead to quicker agency response, however, whether it will lead to improved reaction to individual health concerns such as those in Cedar Valley remains unclear. The bill still doesn't require the timely return of spray records to state agencies and has not improved rules about notification. Timely notification would certainly help prevent harm to those residing near cleacuts and also increase public scrutiny of the efficacy of current spray regulations.

THE TAKE AWAY

The organization Beyond Toxics proved to be a powerful ally to the residents of Cedar Valley in negotiating Oregon's convoluted system of agencies and regulations, and in giving them a voice in the legislative process.

While it is true that most timber spraying don't result in complaints that does not mean that harm isn't being done in the form of water and soil contamination, harm to fish and wildlife, and health effects from chemical drift that may not show up for years. What we know about the potential harm of herbicides is frightening. What we don't know of their potential harm is daunting. Their rampant use has put an indelible stain on Oregon's reputation as a green state.

The Chapmans • Clearcut Story Aug 2016 Issue Update

Hampton has recently notified the Chapmans that they will be backpack spraying the entire logged area adjacent to their property in the near future. Ashley Lertora, local ODF forester has promised to be on site. Sounds like good news for the Chapmans and the environment.



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KTCB 89.5

KTCB broadcasts 4400 watts of power from Cape Mears, serving Tillamook county.

KCPB 90.9

KCPB broadcasts 400 watts of power from its transmitter on Megler Mountain.

Local residents lead campaign to SAVE SHORT SAND BEACH from toxic pesticide spraying.



Jamie Taylor of Manzanita at Oswald West

Photo: Steve Perry

OSWALD WEST STATE PARK, OREGON September 24, 2016 –The forestlands surrounding Oswald State Park and Short Sands Beach have been clearcut and if not already, will soon be aerially sprayed with a mix of toxic herbicides. These herbicides, sprayed from a helicopter, can easily drift into the State Park and wash into the streams that flow to Short Sands beach, one of the most heavily used beaches in the entire State. Timber owner, Weyerhaeuser has recently clearcut 80 parcels of forestland in Oregon's north coast, including several that border Oswald West State Park, Arch Cape and Neahkahnie Mountain. Many watersheds are impacted by these cuts, including Arch Cape Creek, Short Sand Creek and Necarney Creek, which all flow directly into the beaches in and around Oswald West State Park.

Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection is leading a coalition of conservation groups calling on legislators in Salem to reform Oregon's outdated forest practices laws, the weakest on the West Coast. The coalition insists that until those laws are improved, timberowners should notify Oregon State Parks who should in return notify the public anytime they may be exposed to toxic herbicides while recreating in Oregon's beautiful parks.

According to Mike Manzulli, a local activist who often surfs at Oswald West State Park, "Weyerhaeuser aerially sprayed herbicides southeast of Arch Cape on August 19th. That was the hottest day of the summer. The beaches were absolutely packed. Children were playing in all the coastal streams that day. Were State Park users exposed to the herbicides? I don't know, but herbicide drift happens and the State doesn't require notice to the public. Most industrial timber owners sure aren't going to go above what is legally required and draw extra attention to what they are doing, so no one knew it was happening."

While legal in Oregon, forest practices of clear cutting and spraying of toxic herbicides after each cut without notifying the public has significant negative impacts on coastal communities; exposing local residents and visitors to known carcinogens, damaging local drinking water, and destroying habitat for fish and other wildlife.

"In coastal Oregon, it is very apparent that forest practices determine

The forests surrounding one of Oregon's most heavily used State Parks and most popular surfing beach have been extensively clearcut and are scheduled for toxic pesticide spraying.

the quality and quantity of drinking water. What happens in our forests affects the health of all life downstream, from forest to sea: plants, fish, and other wildlife, as well as people. We all need clean air and water. Working together, we can safeguard these vital resources." said Nancy Webster, of Rockaway Beach.

"Rampant clearcutting and aerial spraying are problems throughout the state, but especially in the Coast Range, where industrial clearcuts dominate the landscape. Rural Oregon communities from Gold Beach to Florence, from Arch Cape to Triangle Lake, have been exposed to degraded drinking water and toxic herbicides, and the elementary school that my own kids attend found toxic logging chemicals in the school drinking water," said Jason Gonzales, a resident of the Central Coast Range and organizer with Oregon Wild.

For more information visit: Savesshortsands.org

About Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection

RBCWP is a citizen group working to ensure that North Coast residents have access to safe drinking water and clean air through education and advocacy. Sustainable and healthy living conditions with clean air and water within our coastal communities is a critical aspect of our advocacy. Our primary focus, in order to achieve these goals, is educating our residents so that we can all move forward together to change practices that are harming us and find alternatives that will benefit all of us.

ROCKAWAY BEACH CITIZENS for Watershed Protection and their partners successfully launched a new effort to stop the spraying of toxic pesticides in the area around Short Sands Beach and Oswald West State Park. A team of over 20 experts discussed the issue with several hundred park visitors on Saturday.

Nancy Webster of RBCWP said "We are so pleased with the extremely positive response from park visitors, area businesses and Park staff. We hope Weyerhaeuser is listening to the concerns of locals and Park visitors and stops the spraying."

"Save Short Sands" stickers and postcards are showing up from Astoria to Pacific City and everywhere in between. In the past 48 hours, hundreds of letters have been submitted to Oregon legislators about this issue.

RBCWP will be scheduling additional educational outreach events in the future. For more information visit savesshortsands.org



Jane Anderson (Garibaldi), Vivi Tallman (Manzanita) and Nancy Webster (Rockaway Beach) at Oswald West Photo: SP.