

If you owned and managed a business that was injuring your neighbors' health, would you be morally obligated to change your business practices? Aerial pesticide spraying is difficult to control and has often proven to have unintended consequences on people, wildlife, and water supplies. When there are economically reasonable and healthier alternatives for forest management, why choose to use the most hazardous? It is because aerial spraying is cost-effective for timber businesses. Yet, for the good of people and the environment, the Siuslaw National Forest and Oregon Department of Transportation have limited or curtailed the use herbicides and pesticides in public forest and on highway 101 south of Newport to Yachats.

Viable alternatives exist. According to scientific research by USDA Forest Service (PNW-RP-500 September 1999), hand cutting forest brush is more effective. The measure does not limit applications by hand backpack spraying. Manual release eliminates the possibility of overspray and keeps pesticide residues out of our downstream water supplies. Ultimately, aerial spraying is about short-term profit for the timber businesses without regard to the long-term expenses of degraded health and waterways to us, the residents of our communities.

The forest communities of Triangle Lake, Rockaway Beach, Gold Beach, and others have suffered from pesticide drift resulting from aerial pesticide spraying. Presently, there are recently clear-cut forests above the water supplies of Newport and Yachats that are threatened with the prospect of aerial pesticide spraying.

Forest practices and pesticide regulations in our state must change as there is clear evidence of their harmful effects. For many years, attempts at revising our state's forestry regulations have failed, largely due to corporate influence. With ballot measure 21-177, Lincoln County communities are stepping up with a reasonable ban on aerial pesticide spraying to help assure our rights to peace, safety, and happiness as enumerated in the Oregon state constitution.

Please vote yes on 21-177.

Joanne Kittel
Chair, View the Future
Yachats