Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2024 7:00:00 AM
First name: Chuck
Last name: Willer
Organization: Coast Range Association
Title: Executive Director
Comments: Dear Ms. Isackson,

The uploaded pdf file title Beckert - VanStrum letters of concern are submitted as the Coast Range Association's own statement of concern regarding the use of chemical herbicides on the Siuslaw National Forest (SNF).

The history of the Siuslaw National Forest's management does not provide us with confidence that the future chemical eradication of invasive plants will produce the desired results.

New information on the harmful effects of herbicides, including the recognition of PFAS chemicals, warrants a drastic rethinking of the use of toxic chemical.

Almost daily, headlines such as these from the Guardian appear "PFAS widely added to US pesticides despite EPA denial, study finds. Research shows 'forever chemicals' increasingly found in products as agency claims the chemicals aren't being used."

In addition, the Forest Service and the SNF management appear deaf to the wishes of local citizens proximate to SNF owned lands. The majority of people who live near SNF lands do not want your toxic chemical in their air or water.

Prior agency behavior going back decades was characterized by lying and duplicity in regards to the use of chemical. We have wonder if there is not a broader agenda for herbicide use due to decades of plantation thinning.

Please review the factual assertions in the Beckert and VanStrum comments. And please respond to the many insightful questions that each asked.

If you wish to hear ideas about an alternative vegetation strategy for the SNF please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Chuck Willer

Executive Director

Coast Range Association