Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2024 7:00:00 AM
First name: Willow
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Aug 7, 2024

Dear Ms Isackson, and to whom it may concern,

I am letting it be known that within my agreement and appreciation of the forest service attempts to manage invasive species, that I and many of our local Siuslaw national forest community, strongly disagree with the use of herbicides and pesticides in our forests, or in our watersheds.

We DO NOT CONSENT to having these (already used or suggested added) chemicals sprayed on our public forest land for ANY reason. Additionally we, as a community who reside near the Siuslaw national Forest, DO NOT CONSENT to having herbicides or pesticides sprayed aerially from helicopter NOR from Drone in our Forests, under ANY circumstance, ever.

We are 100% behind Carol Van Strum's detailed and knowledgeable submitted public comment on this SNF invasive treatment amendment issue, as well as Ursula Beckert's in conjunction; and urge you to fully research each and every claim and article submitted by each.

We have made our voices heard on the issue of these toxic pesticides repeatedly, and will not stop now.

We strongly urge the usda forest service to do thorough research on

the long term effects and benefits of an herbicide & pesticide free forest management approach. This would clearly include a varied canopy of ages, sizes and types of trees as to not invite invasive species or insect infestations brought on by monoculture tree farms, clearcutting and over thinning, nor the severe [naturally covered &moist] soil disturbance inviting these pioneer and invasive species in.

We are well aware that the use of chemicals, pesticides and herbicides, is a normal (and generally legal) management activity for ag and Timberland especially. We are also well aware of how it is a societal addiction brought on by the chemical companies, and advanced by the industry. We acknowledge that it may be a hard addiction to break, however as with many unhealthy life destroying and devastating addictions, this one too, must come to an end. Breaking free may not be easy, as we also understand the pressures put on by these massive corporations. However, the longevity and health of the very forests and communities that your agency is in care

of, depend on it. Change can be ominous and difficult, but the only righteous action to embrace in this case.

Due to the incredibly high volume of false information and "education" fed to schools, the public, media, forest managers, workers, officials & agencies by OFRI (Oregon Forest Resources Institute) and other timber industry ran & funded groups, organizations and agencies; along with the well known (now many decades of) "lost data", covering up, selective deleting or omitting, industry biased research summaries submitted, etc. up to, and including the EPA, we know fraud and profit/ returns based deceit well.

The SNF surrounding community truly hopes that the forest service does not believe and fall for this high dollar [now mostly Wall Street returns driven] ad campaign agenda, and instead, can see the forest for the trees.

Therefore, the public requests reliable & peer reviewed sources for the requested studies. NOT studies sponsored by or paid for by the chemical, Ag or timber industries in any way. (In other words, not studies sponsored by OFRI and not university research funded by Bayer, for example.)

Additionally, with the knowledge that the Forest service may strongly rely on timber sales for funding, we suggest procuring more funds from the national government for the fundamental Forest service operations, and are ready to help support these actions.

Acknowledging the forest service is critical, and a government agency, it seems funds could be more easily allocated if pressed for. Especially considering that the government is currently handing out millions of dollars for reparations done on private and public lands. Among these reparations are waterways, fish and animal habitat, drinking water sources, indigenous and rural underserved communities, as well as monies for communities to buy their own watershed for source water protection in order to protect themselves from the many damages incurred due to excessive monetary resource extraction.

It seems to us, very ridiculous that it is allowed to extract so many resources, timber being no exception, at such a huge cost to the ecosystem, environment and the communities relying on it; at the same time offering millions to recover from the very damage. As such, being that the forest service is a government agency, it appears that they would have a more secure route to procuring funding, than the public would, scrambling AFTER the fact, for the timber harvest and constant pesticide use damage caused.

This strategy Is extremely more efficient in the long run, and the Siuslaw community implores the forest service to begin action on both of these strategies immediately; a poison free management plan of the forests, (including less soil disturbance, exposure, heating & drying of the vital soil layers and understory, as well as maintaining the healthy natural canopy and stand temperature & moisture) along with securing funding for the agency to operate efficiently, without timber harvest being a part of the income.

This way, the forests can be gently maintained as natural mature forests, growing to be critical old growth, which is more frequently being recognized as far more important for not only the health of all that inhabit and rely on these older forests, but also that of the local communities and the planet, and climate as a whole.

I assume you are aware of the many recent studies stating that Siuslaw national Forest is incredibly crucial for the climate? It has been shown to hold more carbon per square acre than any other national forest! (And most of the planet). This small coastal forest is a climate superstar, and should be regarded as such- with extremely high standards to not be poisoned or cut, or degraded in any way. The SNF local affected communities are urging and supporting such high regard for this amazing forest.

The Biden administration's new protections for mature and old growth are at stake here. Contaminating the thick layer of duff on the forest floor, or any of the diverse species held within, any part of the many waterways- streams, creeks and rivers, many of which contain threatened or endangered species, is a huge blow to the administration's goals of protecting and maintaining these vital mature and old growth natural habitats for the climate and for the future generations.

It is our duty, as responsible residents and citizens, to protect the health and well-being of our families and the natural systems that support us. Because you are the usda Forest service, we expect the highest protections to come from you in your service to maintaining these forests for the long-term generational benefit of healthy moist nutrient dense biodiverse mature and old growth ecosystems.

It is a heavy duty that you have, but it is a true honor as well, to be granted the position of caring for the very natural coastal forest system that has created the environment that we call home. Our very human rights depend on your present and future actions, and it all begins with removing the possibility of adding more herbicides and Drone use to the forest.

In conclusion, the SNF community requests that you remove the four added herbicide mentioned in the amendment, as well as any present or future Drone or Ariel application of herbicides or pesticides. With that said, we do support the use of adding grazing animals to specific management areas as needed.

We also reiterate the aforementioned asks of thorough scientific research on the long terms effects of a non-herbicide or pesticide Forest management plan, along with procuring the allotment of more funds from the US government for forest service activity, maintenance and funding do not include the harvest of ANY mature or old girls trees (MOG). Because this is a an inclusive forest service plan, we have combined the current amendment for invasive species treatment along with the overriding issue of over harvesting, with forest habitiat disruption.

Please feel free to reach out to me for links or copies of any of the studies or documents cited in this comment I would be happy to provide them. As well as a plethora of reliable studies on cases with various chemicals that make up the herbicide and pesticide mixtures that are used in the forests as well as in agriculture. There are also many organizations within the SNF that would be happy to help with what has been suggested herein.

I will attach the comments referred to and previously submitted by Van Strum and Beckert.

I look forward to collaboration in the next steps in management of our globally significant Siuslaw national Forest.

"Where the forest meets the sea" is more than just Waldport's town sign slogan; it is a fact that makes this Siuslaw forest more special than anywhere else on earth.

It is an honor to be born and raised here, and on family property just minutes from SNF for five generations. I have personally seen many changes take place, and I'm happy to step in to take my place in this community for the protection of what is left of this grand legacy forest.

With kind regards, I thank you for your time, and for your thorough consideration in this matter,

Willow Kasner

S. Beavercreek

Lincoln County, Oregon

A few added links to articles that may be of interest. (Note, the first link has not been previously submitted in the comments referred to and uploaded here.)

https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/08/05/pesticides-existential-danger/

https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/10.1289/EHP13954

https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP15445?utm_campaign=Monthly+TOC+Alert&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SendGrid

https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP11512

https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP10634

https://www.corteva.us/content/dam/dpagco/corteva/na/us/en/products/us-land-management/DF_Aminopyralid_Family_of_Herbicides_Broch.pdf