

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/6/2024 11:40:33 PM

First name: Nancy

Last name: McCarty

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly object to the US Forest Service's proposed amendments to the Siuslaw National Forest Plan. The Forest Service is proposing the addition of 4 more herbicides to the currently approved list of 10 herbicides and would allow drone spraying of these toxic chemicals in the the Siuslaw National Forest for the ostensible purpose of eradicating invasive weeds. I am very concerned about further loss of native forests and stream habitat by atrocious timber industry practices, including herbicide spraying, thinning of old growth/mature forests, and clear cutting. It is time to halt this immoral use of toxic chemicals in our forests and wetlands where it impacts ALL life including trees, fish, wildlife, and people. We have a RIGHT to clean water, free from toxic chemicals. Indeed this is a right spelled out in the Constitution of the State of Oregon.

It appears the US Forest Service is currently getting pushed to create more timber income in their amendment plan. It also appears the US Forest Service has shaky inventory where mature natural forest is intact in the Siuslaw National Forest, and where "thinning" has been done since the 1990s. The US Forest Service best idea is to "guess" where the mature forest is - based on aerial photography and production data on what has already been cut in the forest.

Here we are in fire season again with the timber industry showing a lack of concern of the fire danger propagated by their "thinning process". It is clear one of the best ways in preventing forest fires is to leave mature forests and old growth forests intact. Mature forests and old growth forests keep the ground cooler and wetlands intact, which slows down fire and prevents it from growing uncontrollably. There is a good example of this from last summer with a fire that occurred east of Florence. There was much less damage from this fire where mature forest existed, the area that severely burned was in an area that had been "thinned"!

The consequences of global warming, increased risk of fire, toxic chemicals in our water require a stop to this irresponsible management of our forests.