

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2015 2:25:16 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment on Grass Valley Fire Restoration

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed restoration project. I would like to register two points of opposition.

1.

I object to the use of Glyphosate (Monsanto's Roundup) as an herbicide, and

2.

Until other flowering plants can be established, I object to the eradication of the Scotch Broom that decorates our highways.

Glyphosate has recently been labeled a cancer-causing herbicide. I'm not sure if this will affect your plans to use this product, but more broadly, I object to the use of any herbicide (poison) at all, especially in the mountains.

One of the reasons we live up here is to get away from the cities' pollution.

This is a risk not only to the workers handling the product, but is widely used on crops to control insects (good and bad). It is also suspected of contributing to Bee Colony Collapse. The longer it is used, the more it will tend to move up the food chain.

We spend billions of dollars trying to find a cure for cancer, yet spray poisons all around us.

A couple of quick Google searches display other means of controlling this weed, including having goats feed on them and using imported from Europe beetle (*Bruchidius villosus*) that destroys the plant. This beetle seems to be naturally moving south from the Pacific Northwest.

I understand that this is a highly flammable plant, but can this attribute not be used to our advantage? I've watched the brush grow up along Waterman Canyon for the last twelve years anticipating another fire racing up the hill. Are there no plans to burn this fuel? Rather than wait for a fire to race up the hill, can we not burn this fuel from the top of the slope down to the bottom starting with the flammable Scotch Broom growing next to the highway (a natural barrier). As flammable as it is, you may be able to burn it on a rainy day. (I don't want to tell you your business.) I also understand (from Google) that fire may cause the Scotch Broom to spread more seeds. Apparently a follow-up burn will help destroy the seeds.

Thanks again for the opportunity to express my concerns,

Steve Druce

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Crestline