

State admits spray enforcements lax

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

On the eve of new forestry board regulations regarding aerial herbicide use, the state Department of Forestry has admitted that existing rules are not being enforced.

In a wire service story released Tuesday, Assistant Forester Ron Smith said the department takes no enforcement action until herbicides are sprayed "closer to the water or in the water."

The board is expected to adopt new rules this week on the width of buffer strips left around major streams and residences, and the type of notice to be posted prior to spraying of 2,4,5-T and other herbicides containing dioxin.

Current regulations require the width of a helicopter's spraying swath — 80 to 100 ft. — be left unsprayed near streams. Two

proposals before the board would increase the buffer strip to 200 feet.

The Oregon Environmental Council asked the board to not only require a 200-ft. strip, but to post notice at forest access points and in local newspapers near areas scheduled for spraying.

A proposal submitted by Gov. Straub also requires a 200-foot buffer strip, but somewhat less stringent notice of intent to spray.

John Bonine, University law professor and director of the Environmental Clinic, a group of environmental law students, said he supports the wider buffer strip.

"Pilot error and enforcement problems indicate the 200-foot strips are needed," he said.

Five clinic students recently compiled information on herbicides for use in a support statement jointly submitted to the board by the OEC and the University law school's land-air-water independent legal

research group.

The support statement is critical of proposed herbicide regulations that both the forestry department staff and Assistant Attorney General Lou Bonney submitted after a two-day public hearing in August.

Both proposals, which the board will consider along with the OEC and the governor's suggestions, are much more lenient with regard to buffer strips and posted notice.

John Platt, OEC executive director, said the group is "shocked to see the recommendation that dwellings and populated areas receive only 60 feet of protection, when the U.S. Forest Service has now adopted a one-mile buffer, and Dow Chemical's approved 2,4,5-T label states that under adverse conditions 'fine spray droplets may drift a mile or more.'"

At the August hearing, timber industry spokespersons testified that to reduce al-

lowable buffer strips would remove too much timber from production, although logging companies do not generally object to notification of intent to spray.

The forestry department staff's proposal and Bonney's proposal include posted notice requirements, but according to OEC's Platt, "Their proposed notice is informative only to those who already are informed. We note the vague, unenforceable and discretionary language of most of the department's recommendations."

"We ought to at least attempt to enforce the rules whenever there are real intrusions into the buffer strip," he said.

Carl Stoltenberg, chair of the forestry board, said there has been a mistake if violations of herbicide regulations are taking place on state forests.

"We ought to at least attempt to enforce the rules whenever there are real intrusions into the buffer strip," he said.

Spokesman says department 'unaware'

Agency to investigate 2, 4, 5-T sales charge

By STEVE DODGE
Of the Emerald

The state Department of Agriculture is unaware of any illegal sales of the herbicide 2,4,5-T in Eugene, a spokesman said Wednesday.

"I would be real interested in knowing what stores" are selling the chemical to the public, Pes-

ticide Supervisor Tom Harrison said, in response to charges such sales are taking place.

Harrison said the agriculture department's Pesticide Monitoring Division is checking a number of stores across the state which are not authorized to dispense the chemical, and has found some violations — but none in Eugene.

He said the three-person monitoring staff is hard pressed to check everywhere. He promised more checks will be made in Eugene following the charges by Eugene City Councilman Scott Lieuallen and Marla Gillham of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides.

Harrison added that as a substance on the Oregon restricted

chemicals list, 2,4,5-T may not be sold to the public at large, but is cleared for sale to licensed herbicide applicators.

However, anyone may take a 50 question multiple choice license test after reading a booklet called "Guide to Private Application Certification."

The test which is usually given to growers and farmers, can be taken as many times as necessary to pass, according to Harrison. "A number" of people have signed up for the exam in the Eugene area and 8,500 statewide are licensed in various ways to use 2,4,5-T for commercial purposes only," he said.

Lyn Frandsen of the Seattle office of the Environmental Protection Agency said statements by Lieuallen and Gillham that the EPA had imposed counter sales restrictions are "not true."

"We haven't made any restrictions like that," he said.

Frandsen said the EPA has left the herbicide question up to the

states and counties and will continue to do so until the review process is over — possibly by June 1979.

"The EPA has to take a middle stance and decide on the basis of facts rather than emotion," he said.

Frandsen said 25 other chemicals are currently being reviewed by the EPA, some which have been on the list for two years. Silvex and Penta, two similar herbicides, "are on the backburners" for review by the agency, he said.

He said the process for review is a long one and includes comment from the public, the Department of Agriculture and a scientific advisory panel. By law, the agency must accept any information submitted on the issue.

Frandsen also said the agency searches world wide for literature that may be helpful in coming to a decision.

"We just don't have the staff for more," he said.

What's a dinosaur doing out on the fraternity lawn?

A dinosaur that may have disappeared from the face of the earth two million years ago has turned up on the front lawn of a University fraternity.

The dinosaur, an 8-foot high fiberglass replica of a brontosaurus, was discovered on the lawn of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Monday after it had disappeared from the amusement center of Pietro's Gold Coast Pizza Parlor, 4006½ Franklin Blvd.

The dinosaur, valued at \$2,500, was reported missing from the restaurant early Monday morning, George Chortos of the Lane County Sheriff's department said Tuesday.

After pondering the problem of how to retrieve an errant dinosaur, Chortos and the sheriff's department — with a chuckle — called for an all-points bulletin and hoped for the best.

After the news of the dinosaur's disappearance was broadcast, a member of the fraternity called the sheriff's department and reported the discovery.

How did the dinosaur turn up on the fraternity lawn?

"All I know is that it was just there one morning."

Returning the dinosaur to its natural habitat at the amusement center might not have been easy, Chortos said. "It's up to the owner whether he just wants to go over there and pick the thing up or file charges."

The dinosaur was returned without incident late Tuesday to its resting place near the restaurant.

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