

Spraying ban lawsuit filed

Groups want herbicide halt in forests

By Brooks Dareff
Of the Emerald

A federal lawsuit aimed at ending all U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management herbicide spraying in Oregon and Washington was filed Tuesday in Eugene by three environmental organizations.

Fred Miller, speaking for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, the Oregon Environmental Council, and the Audubon Society of Portland, accused agencies of both concealing information and possessing inadequate information on the possible health effects of spraying herbicides.

He also said they violate federal regulations on pesticide use and ignore the jobs-creating alternative of manual brush control.

According to an NCAP press release, the lawsuit asks for a temporary restraining order halting spraying, a permanent injunction on spraying until the agencies have complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and "the inclusion of 'missing' information

essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives in Environmental Assessments."

Don Swurthwaite of the BLM denied the charge that his agency has violated requirements of NEPA. The Forest Service said they would not comment on any pending litigation or on any lawsuit they had not yet seen.

Neither Miller nor Ralph Bradley, attorney for NCAP, know of any previous restraining order filed against herbicide spraying for an entire region. Swurthwaite said he knew of no previous region-wide litigation, "as far as the BLM goes."

Six Northwest court decisions about pesticides have been handed down in the last nine months. Miller says the lawsuit seeks to extend the impact of three successful lawsuits filed in Oregon against herbicide spraying.

On April 19, Paul Merrell won a case in the U.S. District Court against the Forest Service and the BLM. Merrell vs. Block has shut down herbicide spraying in the Five Rivers area of the Siuslaw National Forest and adjoining BLM

lands. The court held that federal agencies could not rely on Environmental Protection Agency registration to indicate the safety of pesticides, but should independently evaluate their health effects.

On September 9, 1982, Southern Oregon Citizens Against Toxic Sprays won a case against the BLM on the grounds that they had not prepared a "worst-case" analysis on the human health effects of herbicide spraying.

As a consequence of the SOCATS vs. Watt decision, the BLM compiled a worst-case analysis, but did not circulate it for public comment. According to the SOS vs. Watt decision, ruled in April, the BLM did not present possible consequences as required. The court also ruled that a 45-day review period was required for public comment on the worst-case analysis.

Attorney Bradley feels optimistic about the suit's chances if the judge hands down a ruling based on the precedents set in the three previous cases. Bradley expects "to have a fairly firm decision within four weeks."

Business professors honored

The College of Business Administration has recently honored administrators and professors.

Management professor Richard Steers will be the new associate dean for academic affairs beginning July 1. A University faculty member since 1975, Steers headed the management department from 1978 to 1981.

Management professor Kenneth Ramsing was named graduate program director, effective Sept. 1. The 48-year-old Ramsey has been a business faculty member since 1962.

Business/economics professor Donald Watson was awarded the 1983 Harry Jacobs Jr.

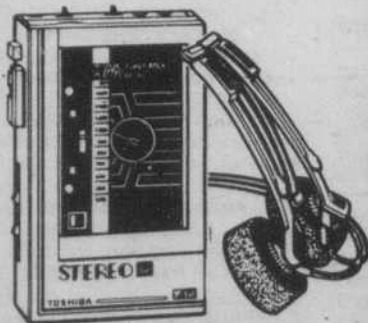
Distinguished Teaching Award for excellence in teaching and commitment to students, says James Reinmuth, dean of the college of business administration.

Marketing professor Roger Best received the Harry Jacobs Jr. Professional Service Award for his "outstanding work in building strong and enduring ties with the practicing marketing profession," Reinmuth says.

Marketing professor Del Hawkins received the Harold K. Strom College Service Award for his "loyal and understanding service to the college's students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends," Reinmuth says.

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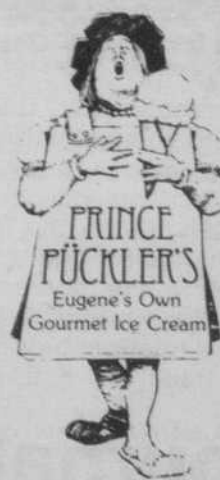
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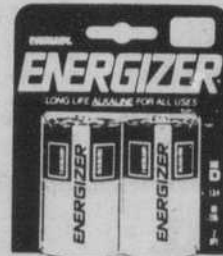
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