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# Spraying ban reversed by board

By Sarah Kitchen  
Of the Emerald

A four-year-old ban on herbicide spraying along county roads was reversed yesterday by the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

The original proposal, presented by the Lane County Public Works Department, requested that a herbicide formula, consisting of 13 different chemicals, be used to spray areas along the 1,500 miles of county roads. Spraying was to be forbidden in residential areas, in the presence of running water, where the wind velocity exceeded 7 m.p.h., and on school grounds when schools were in session.

The amended version states that the spraying must be done in conjunction with the recommendations of an Integrated Pest Management specialist who is to decide where and if herbicide spraying is needed, and what the alternatives are.

The public works department will not start spraying until October. If by then an IPM specialist has not been hired, the department may spray if it

follows the restrictions outlined by the Board of County Commissioners. Restrictions include not using a chemical called Garcon, not spraying into still bodies of water, and not spraying at any time outside schools.

Since the 1983 ban on herbicide spraying, vegetation has accumulated along the roadsides causing damage to the roads, said John Goodson, public works director.

By controlling the vegetation growth, the roads will suffer less damage due to poor drainage caused by overgrown ditches, and less accumulation of water on the surface of the road caused by grass growing too close to the side. The erosion under the road surface will be minimized when the excess water has a place to drain, according to a public works department presentation.

While the department has attempted to maintain the roadsides by using manual labor, the process is not cost-effective, Goodson said.

"We did not have sufficient equipment to make up for the loss of the herbicides," he said.

Norma Grier, the director of the Northwest Coalition For Alternatives to Pesticides, was one of the members of the public who spoke of the importance of an IPM specialist to work with the county.

Not only would the specialist recommend alternatives to spraying, but he could also decide whether or not the ero-

sion was actually caused by vegetation or by 'road slumping,' a condition caused by heavy vehicles driving over a road surface causing indentations that trap water.

"An IPM would avoid toxic herbicides and use them only as a last resort, and only where other techniques had been eliminated. The use of herbicides in future sprayings could also be eliminated," she said.

Other members of the audience had specific concerns about the use of herbicides, including the use of chemicals near organic farms located along road sides, as well as the problem of chemicals contaminating water that would eventually drain into ponds or spread into nearby wells. Several people warned that lawsuits may arise as a result of herbicides contaminating private property.

Due to these concerns, the commissioners decided to allow residents to petition having areas surrounding their property sprayed.


Lane County Commissioner Bill Rogers said the use of herbicides will be a "well controlled operation."

In 1983 the use of herbicides on county roads was banned largely because of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ban on chemical use in surrounding forests.

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## IFC Continued from Page 1

future.  
"We do not want to have created a monster we can't keep up with," he said.

Once the committee decided on amounts, the voting went quickly. In the end, the subsidy program received \$80,000 for its budget. Another \$850 went into the ASUO Executive's budget for advertising.

The committee, following a suggestion from Baldwin, also will request University President Paul Olum to allocate \$20,000 from the overrealized fees account to the subsidy program for subsidies only upon request of the Executive or the task force. If any of this money is left at the end of the next fiscal year, it will revert back to the overrealized account.

## Correction

In an April 3 Emerald story Ruth Briggs, a Eugene electrologist performing spider vein removals, was reported as having completed training in the fall. Briggs completed her training March 20, 1987 and began performing spider vein removals after that time. She did not do any vein removals in February as printed. The Emerald regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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