



You should know that the FPA does not require the forest industry to take water samples. Water samples are at the sole discretion of the landowner and at times and in a manner to be set by the landowner. No notice need be given to the water user of the results of such tests or whether such tests were even taken.

You should know that the FPA allows herbicides to be sprayed into certain waterways. Under the FPA, Class I streams are streams with perennial flow. Class II streams are defined as "their principle value lies in their influence on water quality or quantity of Class I waters." The FPA provides buffer zones around Class I streams (remember generally only fifty feet) but allows for direct spray into Class II streams, that is, streams whose "principle value lies in their influence on water quality" of streams "valuable for domestic use." Remember also that runoff in the form of Class II streams is frequently found in watershed areas. Again, how can the forest industry say that the FPA protects watershed areas?

You should know that there is no known safe level of exposure to herbicides. The industry claims that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tested and certified the chemicals as safe. You should know that in 1976 EPA revealed that there had been "serious deficiencies in laboratory testing of the safety of herb-

icides. For example, EPA found twenty-two laboratories had destroyed or were missing data, fourteen laboratories had 'major' discrepancies between summaries submitted and raw data, twelve laboratories were presumed invalid and one laboratory was described as having had its officials indicted for falsifying research reports to EPA." Today the EPA is far from completing retesting of these errors. You should also know that the forest industry has filed suit to prohibit the release by the EPA of recent industry run tests to the public for review and analysis. And you should also know that tests on the safety of herbicides deal only with lethal doses. In other words, these tests, when reviewed in their best light can only say, "This stuff might harm you, but at least it won't kill you."

The conclusions to be drawn are that present regulations, the FPA, do not protect our watersheds. Indeed, the FPA fails to recognize their existence. And we do not know whether herbicides are safe or not. It is unlikely that any one of the CAC meetings or public hearings can debate the toxicology of herbicides. The only available conclusion is that they are dangerous, and most frightening yet, we do not know how dangerous.

A quote from a public relations pamphlet from Monsanto Corporation seems appropriate: "In some cases, there is not enough information available to make a definite statement about risks and benefits. And if laws and regulations must err, they must err on the side of safety. The first responsibility is to protect health and environment."

The public needs to play a role in this risk-benefit analysis. Under present regulations prohibiting public input only the benefit side of the issue, the forest industry, takes part in this responsibility. The proposed watershed protection zone would give the risk-taker, the public, a voice in decisions which affect its health and safety.

Remember, an opportunity like this to provide the public an avenue for participating in decisions affecting its health may not rise again for some time. We as members of OCEAN urge you to make whatever sacrifice is necessary to appear before the Citizen Action Committees and the Clatsop County Planning Commission in support of the watershed protection zone.



OCEAN is a group of Clatsop County citizens working towards recognition of the dangers involved with the use of herbicides. We are concerned with the long term environmental and economic effects.

What are some of OCEAN's beliefs? We believe that we have to improve the safety of our drinking water. The Forest Practices Act does not adequately protect our watersheds, proven last year when two private water sources were contaminated after herbicides were sprayed in nearby units. We feel that the Environmental Protection Agency offers us no evidence of the health risks associated with toxic chemicals. OCEAN collects scientific evidence supporting our claims about the dangers of herbicide use and informs the public. We strongly believe in public participation in these matters as it has been shown that governmental agencies have little respect for citizens and their safety.

What are some of OCEAN's goals? Of primary importance is getting information about herbicide use in front of the public and public education to help confront and solve problems dealing with chemicals. As part of this process OCEAN corresponds with local officials, government agencies and our congress people to let them know our concerns. We are working on private timber company and roadside spraying — two sources of intense but not well known chemical spraying. We are also involved in land use planning, primarily protection of watersheds.

What have been the results of our goals? In March 1981, in cooperation with the Hoedads Forestry Cooperative, OCEAN helped organize a tour of forest units scheduled to be sprayed, a real eye opener for those of us who were looking for those mysterious fifteen and twenty foot tall vinemaples when the tallest thing on the units were salmonberries. We also put on a public forum attended by about two hundred people, helping educate them to the dangers of toxic chemicals. We work primarily with the Oregon State Forestry, gaining access to important information. Our work with the state forestry has produced:

- Public access to information and data on herbicides;
- Persuaded the state forestry to have public meetings prior to finalizing spray contracts so that affected landowners and downstream water users may have a chance for their own input;
- Stricter water sampling, better methods of collection, refrigeration of samples prior to being sent to a laboratory for analysis;
- OCEAN reviews all spray plans of the state forestry and provides input on these plans;
- Encouraged the state forestry to open up bidding on spray contracts to allow manual release bids on the same units.

It is a long and arduous process dealing with the powers of government agencies and chemical giants. It is not only the direct application of herbicides onto our land that concerns us. It is also the thousands of workers who are poisoned while manufacturing these chemicals because of inadequate worker protection and the failure of chemical companies to inform their employees of the hazards. It is the thousands of pounds of deadly toxic waste (six hundred pounds a year for every American) that are a by-product of manufacture and the fact that ninety percent of these deadly wastes are disposed of improperly. It is the poisoning of major aquifers and small water sources by these toxic waste dumps. Hundreds of chemicals that are banned for use in the United States are routinely sent overseas to third world agricultural countries where they are applied to crops and sent back to the U.S. in the forms of contaminated fruit, rice, cotton, and other products.

The list goes on and on. Nothing but strong public outrage and participation will help stop the poisoning of our Earth. Will you say to yourself, "I'm mad as hell and I won't take it anymore?"

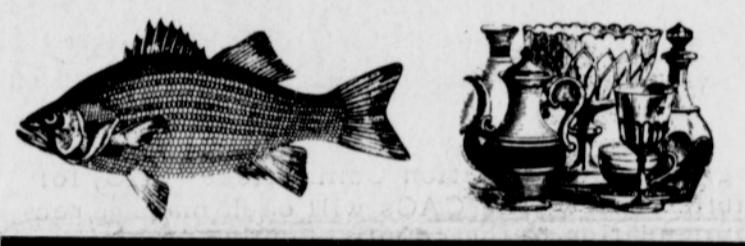
— Mary Sellin

(Mary Sellin lives in Cannon Beach and is a member of OCEAN. For further information, write to OCEAN, P.O. Box 175, Cannon Beach 97110.)

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