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Spray proposal concerns Hood area residents

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Recent rumors circulating throughout various ranger districts in the Mount National Forest have suggested that a large herbicide program is being studied by the supervisor's office of the Bonneville Power Administration.

The story says the program will call for treatment of more than 2,600 acres of vegetation along BPA right-of-ways,

as well as more than 32 miles of access roads.

After numerous attempts to contact the public information officer at the supervisor's office in Gresham, The Post learned, through other sources, that a management plan for the right-of-ways is indeed being studied.

According to a U.S. Forest Service report, "Maintenance of Bonneville Power Administration Transmission Lines and Associated Facilities on the Mt. Hood National Forest: Environmental Assessment," six counties, including Clackamas, will undergo some form of vegetation control in the near future.

Although Forest Service and BPA reports claim there will be no significant effects on the quality of human life, the proposed spray program has raised concerns.

Andrea Cabral, 30, mother of a 7-year-old daughter and expecting a child in November, questions the impact past spraying have had on pregnant women in the Mount Hood area.

"I find it extremely unusual that you hear of so many miscarriages up on this mountain," she said. "The percentage of miscarriages here is higher than elsewhere."

Cabral said she has attempted to find out how much spraying is being done in this area. She said power companies, private timber firms, the Forest Service, the state Highway Department and the county Road Department all use herbicides.

She said that just how much and what types are being applied is a mystery. The Department of Environmental Quality was "unable to come up with exact figures," she said.

There is a fear that the accumulation of chemicals in the soils and water supplies cause the miscarriages after a period of time.

Cabral cited a friend who lived on the Barlow Trail Road near Lolo Pass Road. That woman has had two miscarriages.

"Her water supply comes out of a spring on Larson Road," said Cabral. "Larson Road is an access road to the powerlines. Herbicides can affect anyone's water supply."

A June 1976 document regarding vegetation management in the Columbia Gorge Ranger District acknowledges the problem.

"The Forest Service and BPA agree," it states, "that vegetative maintenance may have a potential impact on a water supply."

In its environmental assessment for fiscal 1982, BPA addressed the concerns of 2-4-D's effect on human health. "The chance of exposure to a hazardous dose is remote, if label instructions are followed," it said.

The BPA report said that chances of inadvertent exposure to chemicals is minimized by "avoiding intentional spraying of herbicides directly into streams, rivers, lakes and other bodies of water."

BPA adds that a 100-foot buffer zone will be left in aerial applications of herbicides. In ground applications, the buffer zone would be 10 feet, "except for treatment of stumps with herbicides approved by BPA for use in such areas."

To avoid aerial drift, BPA will restrict the release height to a maximum of 160 feet above the ground. There will be no aerial application if the winds are more than six miles per hour.

Marilyn Leslie, a registered nurse and mother of two who lives on Aschoff Road in the Lolo Pass area, is still uncomfortable with the BPA precautions. She lives just a short drive from the right-of-way.

She advocates allowing property owners and those living near the powerlines to hand-clear the area to avoid herbicide use.

Leslie wants alternatives to spraying sought by users because of the questions of risk.

James McIntosh, supervisor of BPA's maintenance section serving the Mount Hood area, disagrees.

He said this sort of treatment would have a greater environmental impact than herbicide applications. He said the best method would be aerial spraying to get to the transmission lines because of the steep, mountainous terrain.

"Aerial spraying is the cheapest way to maintain our lines," he said. "It is at least two times cheaper than the hand applications, if not three times as cheap."

This past year, the Stanford Research Institute of Menlo Park, Calif., an independent research firm, studied the relationship of 2-4-D and miscarriages.

The study did say that it is "highly subjective and difficult to validate" what the impact on the home and casual environment exposures 2-4-D has. The Stanford results were confined to occupational exposures only.

When the 3,619 acres of BPA right-of-way will be sprayed is not known.



Some residents fear the tranquility of their lives on Mount Hood will be interrupted with rumored herbicide spraying along BPA right-of-ways.

Photo by Michael P. Jones

Board tables career education proposal for now

by DAN DILLON

The ranking of occupations by desirability and importance in a proposed career education curriculum prompted the Sandy Elementary School Board to table the proposal last Thursday, pending a study of concerns.

Board member Paulie Jagosh questioned the ranking of occupations and its effect on members of classrooms whose parents' occupations might be ranked as less attractive.

"Her point is, 'How is it going to make that kid feel?'" Superintendent Clark Lund said Tuesday. "That's a very good point."

"She's concerned that it could create a false sense of values about how important some jobs are. I think those

points are well-taken."

The career education curriculum, proposed last week by a group of Sandy Elementary School District administrators and teachers, is the same one recommended by the state Department of Education, Lund said. It was put together after, what he called, "a massive study" by the state involving career specialists and outside help.

However, it is up to individual school boards to adapt the recommendations to their tastes. The concept of career education is not new in the Sandy district. The idea of a coordinated curriculum was presented last year, however, because the district offered study in that area anyway.

The emphasis on career education began about 1974, Lund said, when the

state Department of Education began a move to enhance education about the "real world" of laborers, technicians and machine operators. "They decided we had too much emphasis on higher education only," he said.

In the Sandy Elementary District, the students' course of study has been primarily exploratory, as opposed to practical applications at Sandy Union High School.

Each year, Cedar Ridge teacher Jim Duff offers a nine-week study of career explorations, Lund said, and the board last week complimented his class design for its "logical, rational" approach.

However, the board was concerned about other approaches throughout the district to career education.

Lund said, "We're going to go ahead and look at the whole curriculum based on the questions and objections raised." He will go back to the board for specific direction in presenting an acceptable curriculum proposal.

In other action, the board set the March election for the district's levy and school board election. A tax base election, required by law, will be held during the May primary.

Beyond the purchase of new school buses and possible renovations to the district aquatic center, Lund said, nothing from this year's B ballot would be budgeted for without strong community support.

There will have to be a strong show of interest to re-institute something we've cut out," he said, and the decision will

finally rest with the district board of education.

"It's not just solely me who decides what proposals will be developed," he said.

Budget committee work begins in early December.

Possible renovations to the aquatic center would involve new siding that would allow the building to "breathe."

The many layers of paint applied since the center opened in 1967 have sealed the wood and hold in the humidity created by the swimming pool temperatures, Lund said, causing the paint to practically explode off the sides of the building as the moisture tries to escape.

There is no money for replacing the building's siding, with the exception of the emergency fund, according to Lund. Prospective contractors have submitted estimates of cost ranging from \$9,500 to \$14,500.

City alters non-conforming use standards

by DAN DILLON

The Sandy City Council Monday night wrestled with what the city will do with buildings whose uses don't conform with current zoning, if their ownerships or the businesses they house change.

Councilman Jim Duff questioned the purpose of a proposed ordinance which will, after council confirmation at the meeting, require new owners of buildings listed as non-conforming uses to get city permission before they turn the structure over to a new non-conforming use.

"If they do change," he said, "I, as a councilman, have no guarantee that older buildings will be brought up to code."

Under the new ordinance, if the owner of a building which doesn't comply with its zoning — light manufacturing in a residential zone, as an example — wishes to sell the structure for a dif-

ferent non-conforming use, the new owner would have to make application to the Sandy Planning Commission for permission to operate his business in the building.

Duff was concerned that the city council should have a hand in the matter. The ordinance says that a public hearing before the planning commission would suffice, except in the event of an appeal.

City Manager Roger Jordan told the council that anyone could appeal any decision. He said that if a councilman was concerned about a planning commission decision, he (Jordan) would appeal the decision to the city council himself.

"I don't see any particular harm that this ordinance is doing at this time," Jordan said.

Councilman Don Blair was concerned that the ordinance doesn't address a change of ownership in a non-

conforming use building, if the use stays the same.

Jordan pointed out, however, that a non-conforming use building can go through ownerships without approaching the city, as long as the use doesn't change.

Currently, there are less than five structures in the city of Sandy which fall into the non-conforming use category.

After the council adopted the ordinance with Duff dissenting and Councilman Vern Richards abstaining, it set up a fee schedule which will apply for people requesting changes of non-conforming uses.

The base fee for a change in use of a non-conforming building will be \$75.

In other action, the Sandy City Council:

—Continued its public hearing on comprehensive plan and zoning or-

dinance amendments until its Oct. 5 meeting because of new information received from a Land Conservation and Development Commission staff member.

The city has been in the process of amending its comprehensive plan to meet with LCDC approval and Monday's public hearing was to have been the final step before passing all the necessary amendments.

However, Monday, city officials met with a LCDC review team member who suggested some minor changes in the text of the ordinances. Rather than pass the ordinances and chance full LCDC disapproval, the council voted to implement the changes before it votes on the amending ordinances.

—Named longtime Sandy librarian Margaret Crowover to a vacant position on the Library Board. The position will extend until June 30, 1985.

At Welches School

Arbitration proceedings underway

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Plagued by construction problems since last fall, the Welches School Board Monday authorized its attorney, John Osborn of Portland, to proceed with arbitration against one construction company, according to Board Chairperson Leah Behan.

She said the school district will seek "compensation for fixing the floors, plus the cost of the engineer's report," from Havlik Construction Company of Scappoose. The exact amount of money the district will seek to recover is not yet known, "but could be a pretty big figure," Behan said.

She said Havlik Construction, which

was contracted to excavate the site for \$29,000, failed to remove the sod and did not "scarify the area."

As a result of what, she called, "improper site preparation," the new school was built over large quantities of organic materials which the district's engineers, Moffatt, Nichol and Bonney, Inc., claim will result in the building settling, making the floors uneven and causing the walls to crack.

The engineering firm has no idea when the new building's problems will occur, Behan said, but they could be as far away as 20 years.

To fix the school's foundation problems, the engineers have recommended that a mini-pile system be installed below the floors. Behan said, "Because

the school was not supposed to be built on pillars, but on grade — flat on dirt," a code variance will have to be sought from Clackamas County officials.

Behan has no idea when the case will come before an arbitrator, except that it will be sometime in mid-October.

Meanwhile, A-wing of the new school addition is being used by first, second and third grades, special education and music classes. Grades 4 through 8 have remained in the old school building where increased space has allowed the students to utilize the cafeteria and stage area for their original purposes, according to Behan.

Prior to the new addition's opening, they were used as classrooms.



Photo by Scott Newton

Sandy High School students are remodeling their metal shop for brighter, more-efficient surroundings. For a wrap-up on the metal shop program, see page 2.

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