

Aerial application of herbicides . . .



Jack Crump, (left) forestry technician with Rogue River National forest, and Helicopter Pilot Jim Taylor, Grants Pass, discuss area to be sprayed. (Knackstedt)

... on some 880 acres of brushland in the Medford district of the bureau of land management and Rogue River National forest was completed recently.

The spraying was done to kill brush competing with young conifers. It was done by helicopter in both cases—Aetna Helicopters, Inc., Etna, Calif., did the work for the BLM, and Reforestation, Inc., Salem, was contracted for the forest service work.

Both projects were in the Applegate area, and spraying was done just prior to bud emergency.

Experimental Spraying in 1960

The first such spraying was done in the Medford BLM district in 1960 on an experimental basis with participation of the research staffs of the forest service and Oregon State university. Ross Youngblood, manager of the Medford BLM district, said the BLM has found it practical to use herbicides on brushland containing young conifers in the understory as a result of the trial sprayings.

Through the proper use of formulations, conifers are virtually unaffected, and by controlling the brush, coniferous seedlings obtain increased soil moisture and sunlight.

In this way, forestry officials noted, the seedlings are released from suppression and attain rapid growth. Growth is most notable the second season after spraying.

Chemicals Used by BLM

Chemicals used by the BLM were low-volatility esters of herbicide suspended in a water-based emulsion of white diesel oil. The forest service used 2-4-D spray on its 180 acres in the Applegate district. The BLM sprayed 700 acres.

The forest service treated two 90-acre tracts with different applications.

On one tract, eight gallons per acre were used, and on the other, six gallons per acres were used.

On Elk Lumber Company Land

The forest service heliport was on land owned by Elk Lumber company, which had given permission for its use. The Hiller helicopter used by the forest service made 21 flights in about three hours to complete the job.

The 700-acre spraying conducted by the BLM was accomplished in four days.

Aerial spraying of herbicides to control brush is another phase of a program to expand the productivity of forest land for future generations, forestry officials noted.



This picture by Ray Johnsen, Applegate unit reforestation assistant, BLM, shows aerial application of herbicide on 63-acre project two miles south of Provolt.



Helicopter pilot prepares for take-off from heliport on Elk Lumber company land while forest services crews are filling spray tanks on the side of the aircraft. (Knackstedt)



This is the country in which the forest service sprayed two 90-acre tracts with herbicides. The helicopter in this picture is spraying in the canyon between the trees in the opening near the observer. (Knackstedt)



Forest service crews here are checking tanks of 2-4-D spray used by the forest service in the Applegate area. The spraying was done by Reforestation Services, Inc., Salem; the helicopter pilot, Jim Taylor, was from Grants Pass. (Knackstedt)



This is a general view of the area in the BLM Applegate unit showing the type country in which aerial spraying was completed on a tract near Provolt.