

The members of the Citizen Group: the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), Skykomish Valley Environmental and Economic Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife are petitioning the Forest Practices Board for a new rule regarding the application of forest chemicals. Please support this work by signing on to a letter of support (below) or by writing your own support letter.

Please reply to

**Megan Dunn, with NCAP at mdunn@pesticide.org and
Washington State Forest Practices Board forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov**

**Name, Title
Organization
Email address**

Background:

The State of Washington has an oversight board, the Washington State Forest Practices Board, which reviews rules governing commercial logging practices and allows for petitions and public comment. NCAP, SVENA, and Defenders of Wildlife submitted a petition to be considered on May 11, 2016. The petition asks for common sense improvements to the notice required prior to aerial application of forest chemicals, such as herbicides and fungicides, and mandatory reporting post-spray. The Washington Forest Law Center worked with an environmental law clinic at University of Washington Law School to help draft this petition.

We are hopeful that the new rule would improve transparency and allow residents to take precautions to protect themselves from exposure to forest chemicals. The new rule would also provide a helpful starting point to analyze environmental impacts of chemicals. A near complete lack of monitoring, enforcement, and reporting leaves the State and public poorly positioned to understand whether current prescriptions are effectively protecting public health and public resources. Many forest chemicals are toxic and it is fundamentally important to at least understand where, and when, and in what quantities the chemicals are used.

Thank you for your support!

Below is the text of the letter, you may use these as talking points for your own letter if you choose to write your own.

Forest Practices Board
1111 Washington St. SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

To Members of the Forest Practices Board,

Washington residents have a right to a healthy environment where they live, learn and work. Synthetic chemical pesticides are known to have adverse effects on community and environmental health and are linked to developmental delays in children, certain types of cancer, endocrine disruptions and other concerning health issues.

We support efforts to improve notification and reporting of forest chemical spraying in order to increase transparency and facilitate better communication between landowners and the public through improved public notice and reporting. There is limited oversight, monitoring, and reporting of forest chemical use in the current regulatory regime.

The need to protect human and community health from drift is well documented and there are multiple cases in Washington where drift caused acute health impacts for workers and residents. According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture incidence reports, adjacent properties that are at risk for pesticide exposure and pesticide drift from forestry applications can include neighboring residences, businesses, organic farms, bee foraging areas and even schools. Information about scheduled pesticide application is critical to preventing harmful exposure.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We represent community organizations, environmental health organizations and other stakeholders that are impacted by forestry chemical use in Washington and other states.

Signed,

Name, Title
Organization
Email address