



Newport, March 9, 2014

Joelle Gore, Acting Chief
Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3)
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Ocean Service, NOAA
1305 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Gore,

I am writing to you to URGE you to disapprove Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program. I live in Newport and have had ample opportunity to see the many and extended areas of clear-cut forest land that replace what used to be a thriving mixed forest twenty-five years ago. Clear-cuts mean intensive spraying of each area at least twice before the next forest generation is allowed to grow, reduced by chemical spray to conifers only, given their fast rate of growth and commercial value. Very narrow buffer zones are visible on the shores of main rivers, such as the Siletz. Even there, you can find places where the forest buffer has been eliminated completely by clear-cutting. Streams that flow into the Siletz are in many instances not allowed a buffer zone at all. What will happen to our drinking water? To the fish that live in those streams and rivers? Contamination of our soil through chemical spraying is bad enough. Contamination of our water, including our drinking water (the Siletz river provides drinking water to Newport) is irresponsible, criminal action that the State of Oregon should not allow to happen.

Logging, which means clear-cutting of forests, has increased enormously all over Oregon with the advent of log exports to the Far East. The landscape is changing fast. At the rate forests are being cut, their capacity to regenerate will dwindle fast. Our water sources are at risk of dwindling with the forest. How will the fish we use for food survive this chemical onslaught?

No pesticide management measures are in use in agriculture. How are consumers being protected against chemical contamination of their food? How is Oregon protecting the public from chemical contamination of water and food, not to mention air, since spray is delivered from helicopters without even a warning to people who live in the vicinity of the area being sprayed? Oregon relies almost entirely on voluntary action for much of its coastal nonpoint pollution control program, and is not using any backup authorities in the absence of such voluntary action.

Oregon failed to meet the CZARA Law date for full approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, was given additional time in which to demonstrate its implementation of a program to control all sources of nonpoint pollution in coastal watersheds. Oregon's coastal watersheds remain as contaminated as they were before it was granted that additional time. Implementation of the Port of Newport's log export project in the near future will only make the situation more serious, because of the

enormous increase in logging required to fill the Handysize ships that will carry the logs to China. Oregon's coastal watersheds require protection of all designated uses. The current log export project requires expanded dredging of Yaquina Bay, with further damage the bay's wildlife, ecosystems and aesthetic quality, celebrated by tourists coming from afar, not to mention the damage it will do to ecosystems all over the County. Oregon has not done anything to combat or mitigate contamination of its coastal watersheds, and should not be granted the federal funds allocated to do so until it complies with stated requirements.

