



Fwd: CZARA Comments

1 message

Joelle Gore - NOAA Federal <joelle.gore@noaa.gov>

Thu, Mar 20, 2014 at 7:46 AM

To: Allison Castellan - NOAA Federal <allison.castellan@noaa.gov>, Lisa Warr - NOAA Federal <lisa.s.warr@noaa.gov>



Date: Thu, Mar 20, 2014 at 12:44 AM

Subject: CZARA Comments

To: "joelle.gore@noaa.gov" <joelle.gore@noaa.gov>

To Whom it May Concern:

Private owners have been allowed to perform a huge clear cut / forestry operation in the vicinity of our neighborhood and within a "protected" watershed. We live in the Clear Lake Watershed "Protected" Area in Florence, Oregon. This clear cutting/herbicide spraying/burning operation is taking place in what has been designated as the North Florence Dunal Sole Source Aquifer.

The forestry operation is of a massive scale (67 acres) and with no buffer zones whatsoever (except ten feet they allowed on each side of a stream that comes down directly from the top of the hills down towards the water source). The clear cut is right to the street in front of neighborhood homes, and directly in the vicinity of the water source for thousands in Florence who get their water from Heceta Water.

The clear cutting, herbicide spraying and burning has taken place on hills surrounding a neighborhood and the water source. There are streams that run down from the top of the hills that have been cut and sprayed. The streams run down towards the water source.

Many people including children and the elderly live right in the area. Thousands drink the water. They have and are continuing to aerial spray and burn. In addition, they are planning a huge broadcast burn in addition to more herbicide spraying. This has traumatized the neighborhood. This sort of operation and herbicide spraying spraying in this delicate area that provides drinking water for so many people should not be allowed! We cannot believe that this could happen in Oregon, that Oregon would allow this to happen to citizens and allow our drinking water to be poisoned like this.

In addition to having our water poisoned, we also have had our lives, our health and our property values ruined by this project.

Our home is in the vicinity directly adjoining the forestry project. We incurred \$1,450 worth of debt (having to rent) to avoid exposure to the herbicides that have been sprayed on the property. Since renting a home out of the area for six weeks put extreme financial and emotional strain on us, we were unable to afford to leave when the burning of the slash piles on the property commenced. We had to stay in our home, and as a consequence, endured weeks of breathing difficulty, throat constriction and irritation as well as burning red eyes until the smoking of the piles dissipated, which took weeks. I've attached a photo of the burning on the second day, after most of the flames were gone.

Because of the additional stress brought on by the burning, and because we no longer can afford to rent, we have been forced into buying an older motor home as a "less expensive" way of being able to evacuate our neighborhood during spraying and burning events. This additional monthly payment has placed us in even more financial hardship. We have no way of knowing what days the sprayings and burnings will actually take place. The owners have permits that allow for burnings and sprayings for months at a time.

This sort of thing is causing all of us in the area to live daily with great fear and uncertainty. We've even had to consider selling our home so we can avoid the dangers of the pesticides and smoke, which would be unbearable to us. Even if we did want to sell, this project and the herbicide spraying has been publicized in our local paper (and other papers as well). We have been told that we would have a very hard time selling our home "now that everyone knows what is happening out there".

It is horrible that this can be allowed, and that the owners are not required to give us any of us in the neighborhood any warning at all as to the actual days the spraying and burning will take place. We live in constant fear.

Our lives have been ruined, our health has been put at risk, and our property values have been diminished. This is all bad enough, but to also allow the poisoning of the precious water that thousands of us in Florence drink is completely unbelievable, and it is all completely unacceptable!

Attached are maps of the area, and photos of the clear cutting and burning. The photo called "Charnock Aerial" shows what the area used to look like. We have more photos and documents showing the pristine nature and importance of our water source if needed.

We are shocked and saddened that Oregon is allowing this to happen to its citizens. We hope that laws will change soon and that Oregon will realize the importance of protecting the quality of life, health and

well being of its citizens as well as our precious drinking water!

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

—
Joelle Gore
Stewardship Division, Acting Chief
OCRM/CSC
1305 East-West Highway
SSMC4, Room 11110
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Direct: [301-563-1177](tel:301-563-1177)
Fax: [301-713-4370](tel:301-713-4370)
www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov

6 attachments



Clear cut above year round creek that runs into Collard Lake.jpg
291K



Clear cutting on slope above neighborhood of lake homes in Watershed.jpg

381K



Creek below cutting directly across the road down a steep hill drains towards lake.jpg

147K



Charnock Aerial 1.jpg

37K



Neighborhood burning 2.jpeg

112K



SoleSource2008NorthFlorence.pdf

1671K



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North Florence Dunal Sole Source Aquifer



Map Created 12/04/2008 EPA Region 10