

I am writing to ask you to support SB 892—the Timber Aerial Spray Right-to-Know Bill. I live in Netarts and I am the liaison between my town and the timber company that surrounds us. While the timber representative is cordial, he refers to any information we receive about aerial spraying as a “courtesy.” In short, finding out when a spray event is going to happen is frustrating at best. Please allow me to offer some specifics:

- FERNS is not user friendly. For example, the timber companies use cute little code names for the cuts. If you don’t know the code name, you have to hunt around for the right area. You therefore have to be constantly alert for news of a cut and spray.
- I went to an all-morning workshop at ODF on FERNS and was told a new user friendly version was coming soon. That was months ago.
- A friend who lives on Whiskey Creek Road told me she was standing on her deck one day and saw spray falling from a helicopter. When I called my timber rep, he said he didn’t think that was part of Netarts so didn’t notify me. To my knowledge, no Netarts resident had any warning of that particular spray event.
- I was in contact about a spray event and posted warnings for my neighbors but could not be specific because the timber company has to wait for proper conditions. For this spray event, however, I was told it would happen “probably later in the week.” As it turned out, I was in my front yard early in the week when I heard the helicopter. It was a sunny afternoon with many people and pets outside. No one was prepared for aerial spray that was just a mile from the Netarts neighborhood. The reason it happened early was that the helicopter was free sooner than expected. All the time I spent becoming informed and trying to warn my neighbors was wasted.

Everything happens for the convenience of the timber companies. We have to work for every bit of information we get. Notification is imperative so we can be prepared. Spray can drift up to four miles. Timber people tell us it’s safe. But just this week, media reports showed that glyphosate is not as benign as they would have us think. And there’s no telling what a cocktail of chemicals can do when toxic substances are mixed and sprayed together. It does not seem too much to ask for clear notification of when these very toxic sprays are going to fall out of the sky in our neighborhood.

Please help us to stay informed and healthy. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joan Cutuly, March 2017