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# Oregon drops fine for pilot in herbicide overspray

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GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — The **Oregon Department of Agriculture** has waived \$20,000 in fines for a helicopter pilot and a company named in an investigation into herbicides being sprayed over timberlands in Curry County.

The department announced Wednesday a settlement agreement with **Steven Owen**, owner and pilot for Pacific Air Research Based in White City.

Under the agreement, he gives up his pesticides applicator license for a year, and does not dispute

findings that he provided investigators false and misleading information. He can apply for a new license in a year if he has no new violations.

Department director **Katy Cobra** said in a statement the economic losses from losing the license are greater than the fine.

"We realize the citizens affected by the actions of Pacific air Research were concerned about this company continuing its aerial applications," the statement said. "Our number one priority was to have an immediate surrender of the applicator and operator license."

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