

From: "Hendrickson, Nancy" <NANCYH@BES.CI.PORTLAND.OR.US>
To: 'Kevin O'Sullivan' <mandala@transport.com>, Elaine...
Date: Mon, Sep 11, 2000 1:11 PM
Subject: RE: Herbicides

Kevin,

I suggested you organize and chair the herbicide subcommittee since you were one of the people on the Management committee who seemed most concerned about using herbicides at the Lakes. The Management Committee is looking to the herbicide subcommittee for a solid recommendation to give to Metro on herbicide use (or not) at Smith & Bybee Lakes. The subcommittee should be doing the work to take all environmental factors into account to come up with this recommendation. Failing any recommendation from the Management Committee, the Lakes Manager at Metro will continue to manage the wildlife area according to Metro policies and NRMP guidelines. If you're not going to call or chair a meeting, then I'll ask if somebody else wants to do it at our meeting on September 26th.

Nancy Hendrickson
Chair, Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin O'Sullivan [mailto:mandala@transport.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2000 12:23 AM
To: Elaine Stewart; Nancyh@bes.ci.portland.or.us; pkjims@ci.portland.or.us; tenwa@jps.net; Jim Morgan; meyer@porttld.com; Holly.B.Michael@STATE.OR.US; npdarden@teleport.com; brillobrain@ureach.com; Patricia Sullivan
Cc: Georgek@bes.ci.portland.or.us; kromerd@metro.dst.or.us; dmobway@yahoo.com
Subject: Herbicides

Here is some information about herbicides that I recently came across, for your information.

On another note, regarding the Herbicide Subcommittee, I don't intend to call a subcommittee meeting in September, as I will be too busy with other commitments.

Looking further ahead, I see no compelling reason to have a meeting. I have neither seen nor heard any strong interest in this issue from among other Management Committee members, who have been very quiet on this issue. I also question what role, if any, that the subcommittee or the Management Committee really has regarding this issue. The Lakes Manager, Elaine Stewart (along with George Kral of the BES), is already forging ahead with plans for more broadcast spraying, without any Committee or public involvement in that decisionmaking (see her email below).

The manager's action undermines the credibility of the Management Committee and calls into question Metro's and the City of Portland's sensitivity to the public's concerns about public lands and public health. I cannot help but see the herbicide subcommittee (and the Management Committee) as a make-busy, look-good effort that provides false cover for Metro. As named

chair of the subcommittee, I will not be used that way, nor will I be a Metro pawn and waste the time and energy of others by calling a meeting until I am convinced this subcommittee counts for something.

The following quotes are from a Research Report entitled: "Diminishing Returns: Salmon Decline and Pesticides" at <http://www.pond.net/~fish1ifr/salpest.htm>
<<http://www.pond.net/~fish1ifr/salpest.htm>>

Pesticides Persist in the Environment and Degrade into Toxic Products
Most pesticides undergo chemical transformations after application (Day 1991). The transformations may result from either physical processes, such as oxidation or photolysis, or biological metabolism by microbes. The breakdown products may be less toxic, of equal toxicity, or more toxic than the original compound. In many cases, the breakdown products of pesticides are not completely understood and their toxicities to aquatic life have not been studied. In surveys of pesticides in streams, the parent compound is typically looked for. When it is not found, it may be concluded that the pesticide has been cleared from the system. However, the breakdown products may still be present and constitute a danger to the organisms living there.

For example, Roundup, or glyphosate, has been publicized as an environmentally friendly herbicide that breaks down shortly after application. However, experiments have shown that glyphosate may persist in the environment for as long as 3 years (Torstensson et al. 1989). Its metabolite, AMPA, may persist even longer (World Health Organization 1994). Glyphosate is typical of many pesticides in that its break-down is dependent upon the environmental conditions in which it is used and that the toxicity of its breakdown products is equal to or greater than the toxicity of glyphosate itself. The rate at which a pesticide breaks down varies widely, depending upon the conditions of application. Degradation depends largely upon temperature. Pesticides such as glyphosate may oxidize in as little as 3 days in Texas or as long as a year in Canada.

...
Pesticides may remain in the environment much longer than expected or claimed, and the breakdown products may also be toxic to organisms.

....
One aspect of pesticide degradation is quite clear. Pesticides and their metabolites do not magically disappear from the environment.

SEE ALSO:

http://www.earthjustice.org/news/pr072699_60day.htm
<http://www.earthjustice.org/news/pr072699_60day.htm>
Notice of Intent to Sue

<http://www.pesticide.org/ResPHealth.html>
<<http://www.pesticide.org/ResPHealth.html>>
researching pesticides on the internet

<http://www.pesticide.org/other.html> <<http://www.pesticide.org/other.html>>
other pesticide-related sites

<http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html>
<<http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html>>

----- Original Message -----

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To: <Nancyh@bes.ci.portland.or.us <<mailto:Nancyh@bes.ci.portland.or.us>> >; <
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brillobrain@ureach.com <<mailto:brillobrain@ureach.com>> >
Cc: <Georgek@bes.ci.portland.or.us <<mailto:Georgek@bes.ci.portland.or.us>>
>; <kromerd@metro.dst.or.us <<mailto:kromerd@metro.dst.or.us>> >; <
dmobway@yahoo.com <<mailto:dmobway@yahoo.com>> >
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2000 12:07 PM
Subject: Habitat restoration plans for fall 2000 and spring 2001

I had hoped to attend Tuesday's management committee meeting and discuss some of my short- and long-term restoration plans for the lakes. As many of you saw at our on-site meeting in July and in slides shown at the June meeting, the broadcast and spot spray treatments from last spring yielded very different results. Woody plants broke bud and grew in all locations, but the herbaceous communities look very different where the treatments differed.

In the spot spray area, reed canarygrass continued to dominate the landscape. Columbia sedge persisted among the reed canarygrass, but few other species were seen. Some native and pest plants grew in the circular spaces that had been sprayed, but the overall plant diversity was very low.

In the broadcast spray areas, considerably more species diversity was seen. This diversity had two sources: sprouts from seeds in the soil that were released when reed canarygrass was suppressed, and overseeding of native species following spraying. As a result, about 30 species of native and non-native herbaceous plants are growing in addition to the woody plants. (This is comparable to the diversity seen on recently exposed mudflats around the perimeter of the lakes.)

I learned a lot with the two treatments. I am working with George Kral (BES watershed revegetation program) to continue experimenting with combinations of cutting, spraying, planting and seeding to establish a diverse native plant community at several sites at Smith and Bybee lakes. For example, I am planning to broadcast spray (in the spring) a portion of the area that was sprayed this year but only mow the rest of it. This will allow me to see whether the plant community released from a single year of spraying is able to hold its own against reed canarygrass or whether a second treatment is necessary to help the plants get established. I am also planning for George to spray (this fall) the blackberry and reed canarygrass under trees

that were planted along the south side of Smith Lake several years ago; half of that area will be sprayed and I will use manual weed control on the other half and compare the results.

The habitat restoration work at the lakes is a work in progress; using a variety of methods and tracking results allows me to build on successes and learn what works best in the various conditions at the lakes. For example, water level manipulation will probably be the most valuable tool for controlling reed canarygrass in areas that can be flooded. More upland sites require a different approach, and I am using different tools to encourage healthy plant communities. These sites will take years to restore, and I plan to continue trying new things, evaluating successes and failures, and making adjustments accordingly. My goal is to establish high-quality habitat that sustains itself as much as possible.

I wanted to provide an update to you and also provide the opportunity for you to discuss this at the September meeting if desired. I know that herbicide use has been an important issue for the management committee, and I want you to be able to weigh in if you wish before additional applications occur. I am sorry that I could not attend the meeting earlier this week and discuss this in person; please let Nancy Hendrickson know if you wish to place this on the September agenda.

-Elaine

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