

# Weyerhaeuser Chemical Treatment Impacting the Lake Cavanaugh Community

## *Weyerhaeuser's Chemical Treatment Plan*

Ground spraying to begin **August 27—31** followed by aerial spraying for 20+ acre areas to begin the week of **September 4**, pending weather.

## *Join Us for a Community Discussion*

Saturday, September 1 at 1:00 PM during the LCIA general meeting at the Lake Cavanaugh Community Center

**On the agenda at the September 1<sup>st</sup> Lake Cavanaugh Improvement Association general meeting will be the planned chemical treatment of the acreage recently logged by Weyerhaeuser.** While a robust discussion has taken place in the Lake Cavanaugh Community Facebook group, some backstory and context for those not on Facebook seemed appropriate. It is Weyerhaeuser's practice to formally inform the residents whose property is adjacent to their acreage, but we know that was only 2 property owners and this activity impacts all of us!

As a community in a logging region, we are all aware of the benefits and challenges of logging around Lake Cavanaugh. While it provides jobs for community members and could mitigate the risk of a major fire, logging also interrupts the ecosystem that makes our area so vibrant. What has been less apparent is the chemical spraying that occurs once the trees are logged. This is a practice that has taken place for at least 25 years in our area.

After speaking with Kelly Dougherty, Forester at Weyerhaeuser and individual managing the areas surrounding the lake, we understand the purpose of chemical spraying is to give the new seedlings the greatest opportunity to thrive and grow. A "chemical prescription" is written to address the needs of each logged area to kill invasive plants that may pose a threat to the health of new trees. Wilbur-Ellis conducted an 18-year trial of two sites and after two years, the herbicide treated area had trees 27% taller and 39% greater in diameter because trees had the light and nutrients needed to grow without groundcover and invasive vegetation.



Weyerhaeuser's notice regarding chemical sprays in the logging area on South Shore Drive. This photo was posted to the Lake Cavanaugh Community Facebook group and immediately generated concern.

The chemical prescription that will be used includes glyphosate—the active chemical in RoundUp—as well as others that are a preemergent. The preemergent stays in the soil longer to prevent plants from growing. Within two years of the logging, Weyerhaeuser returns to the site to plant the tree seedlings. Kelly shared this chemical prescription is essential for their business model to be successful and ensure efficiency in their logging practices. Their primary goal is to log and replant as quickly as possible.

On or around August 15, Weyerhaeuser posted signage along South Shore Drive indicating chemical spraying would occur on the logged area between August 20 and October 20. Included in the initial chemical prescription were the following:

**Glyphosate**—The active ingredient in RoundUp. A broad-spectrum post-emergence systemic herbicide and crop desiccant. Causes serious eye damage, may cause respiratory irritation; may cause drowsiness or dizziness, is very toxic to aquatic life and with long lasting effects.

**Imazapyr**—Systemic plant growth inhibitor used to control grasses, broadleaves, vines, brambles, brush, and trees. Imazapyr disrupts an enzyme (found only in plants) necessary for protein synthesis and

interferes with cell growth and DNA synthesis in plants. Causes serious eye irritation and can be harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

**Metsulfuron Methyl**—A pre- and post-emergence herbicide that kills broadleaf weeds and some annual grasses, as well as blackberries. Very toxic to aquatic life and with long lasting effects.

**Sulfometuron Methyl**—A broad spectrum grass and broadleaf herbicide with pre- and post-emergence uses. Causes serious eye irritation, can be harmful if inhaled, is very toxic to aquatic life, and can have long lasting effects in aquatic life.

**Methylated Seed Oil**—A surfactant in the herbicide formulation or added to the spray tank to improve herbicidal activity or application characteristics.

*Chemical descriptions from pesticide fact sheets created by the Environmental Health Sciences Center at Oregon State University (<https://digital.osl.state.or.us/>) except Methylated Seed Oil (<https://extension.psu.edu/adjuvants-for-enhancing-herbicide-performance>). Safety information provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, part of the United States National Library of Medicine—a branch of the National Institutes of Health. The safety information is reflective of each chemical's Globally Harmonized System of Classification & Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) classification. The GHS is an internationally agreed-upon standard managed by the United Nations that was set up to replace the assortment of hazardous material classification and labelling schemes previously used around the world (United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration at <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/global.html>).*

Kelly confirmed on August 22 the sign posted included *all possible chemicals* for the area and that they may not all be utilized at the time of spraying. The Weyerhaeuser team assesses the land closer to spraying and determine what is needed. With that, residents will not know what chemicals are being used, the saturation of those chemicals, or what is being used on land versus by air. Aerial spraying will occur when the winds are less than 5 mph, there is no smoke (it limits helicopter visibility), and other weather conditions are satisfactory.

Because logging will continue for generations to come, many residents want to be sure Weyerhaeuser's reforestation practice is guaranteed to be safe (as well as practices of other logging companies leasing and buying land in our area). **Our primary concerns are around the possibility of chemicals in our water supply, the impact on the ecosystem, and the hazards to human and animal health.**

A petition has been created by concerned community members via change.org to remove toxic chemicals from neighboring logging areas. Please join us with your support and add your signature via the link below! If you are interested in helping mobilize this cause, please reach out to the email below.

We hope this information helps you feel more informed about the ongoing activity. Please join us at the LCIA general meeting to share your perspectives, ask questions, or add your voice to the list of those concerned.

Thank you!

Concerned Citizens of Lake Cavanaugh  
[CavanaughAgainstToxicHerbicide@gmail.com](mailto:CavanaughAgainstToxicHerbicide@gmail.com)

**Change.org Petition:** <https://www.change.org/p/weyerhaeuser-weyerhaeuser-don-t-use-glyphosate-herbicide-mixtures-around-lake-cavanaugh>

*Additional resources and contacts are on the next page.*

## Local, State, and Federal Contacts to Voice Your Concerns

If you share the same goals and want to help change the laws which allow Weyerhaeuser to operate this way, please take some time to make a few calls or send an email! Together, we can amend the Forest Practices Act which seems to be what allows the application of these chemicals.

Washington State Senator—Maria Cantwell: (202) 224 – 3441

Washington State Senator—Patty Murray: (202) 224 – 2621

Local Representative—Susan DelBene: (202) 225 – 6311

Washington State Department of Ecology: [nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov)

39th District Representative—Dan Kristiansen: (360) 786-7967, [dan.kristiansen@leg.wa.gov](mailto:dan.kristiansen@leg.wa.gov)

39th District Senator—Keith Wagoner: (360) 786-7676, [keith.wagoner@leg.wa.gov](mailto:keith.wagoner@leg.wa.gov)

*Senator Wagoner's Assistant—Sharra Finley: [Sharra.Finley@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Sharra.Finley@leg.wa.gov)*

Skagit County Commissioner—Ken Dahlstedt: (360) 416-1300, [commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us)

WA State Dept of Natural Resources Forest Practices Board: 360-902-1413, [forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov)

WA State Dept of Natural Resources Commissioner—Hilary S. Franz: 360-902-1001

Environmental Protection Agency: 800-424-4372, [epa-seattle@epa.gov](mailto:epa-seattle@epa.gov)

Washington State Department of Agriculture: (360) 902-1800

Weyerhaeuser—Kelly Dougherty: (360) 424-2014, [kelly.dougherty@weyerhauser.com](mailto:kelly.dougherty@weyerhauser.com)

Herbicide Enforcement—Chad Schultz: 206-553-0505 or 800-424-4372, ext. 0505,  
[Schulze.Chad@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Schulze.Chad@epamail.epa.gov)

Watershed Protection Manager—David Croxton: 206-553-6694; or 800-424-4372. Ext. 6694,  
[Croxton.David@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Croxton.David@epamail.epa.gov)

### Sample Email

Dear <<Name>>,

On or around August 15, a notice was posted at the logging sites west of Lake Cavanaugh in Mount Vernon. The notice indicated the entire logged area would be sprayed with glyphosate (RoundUp), imazapyr, metasulfuron methyl, sulfometuron methyl and methylated seed oil (surfactant) at some point between August 20 and October 20.

Since it's such a large area, members of our community confirmed the application method for three of the four sites is aerial chemical spraying by helicopter. This is incredibly troubling not only because of the known health risks of these chemicals and their carcinogenic nature, but also because of close proximity of the sites to Lake Cavanaugh and its watershed—a drinking water source for the majority of residents on the lake.

Even if Weyerhaeuser is found to be in compliance with the rules and regulations put forth by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (both who regulate these chemicals), as well as the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (which oversees the application process), my goal to change those laws that permit their use based on the growing body of evidence indicating their detrimental health effects.

As it says on our community website, "Not only is Lake Cavanaugh a beautiful place to live and play, but we also pride ourselves in being a small community that works together toward common goals." Right now, our common goal is to protect our beautiful lake and the people around it.

Please help us stop this poisonous event and future events, keeping the residents of Lake Cavanaugh and the greater Skagit county area safe.

Sincerely,

<<Your Name>>

<<Your Lake Cavanaugh Address>>

<<Your Phone Number>>