

pam jones <djonesp@hotmail.com>

Good evening,

I've been reading up on HB 2656. I am not crazy about herbicides or pesticides, however I purchase 56 acres of recently logged "forest land" in various stages of "re-forestation". I'm a city girl, never really lived in the country. I thought, well, trees go wild in the woods, why do I need to do this. So the first year I didn't spray...seemed okay to me-I mean what do I know? Looked like trees growing.

The 2nd year, wow, not good. The Himalayan blackberries, scotch broom and tansy were taking over big time. I tried to control it without the sprays..Just about impossible. The trees were really having a hard time, they were not getting enough nutrients and water from the soil due to the invasive species taking over.

By the 3rd year I had to use herbicides in addition to manually cutting, cutting and more cutting. Hopefully I have it under control at this point. We shall see. I'm starting another section of re-forestation tomorrow.

I can't imagine what it would look like if I couldn't use an herbicide. I really feel that without that and the last few extremely dry years we've had, I wouldn't have many trees left.

I hope you will consider this when deciding on this HB 2656. It will take much longer to get to a "healthy" forest stage, without them. The wood products industry is still a big part of Oregon and as a lifelong Oregonian I would really like to keep it that way.

Thank you for your consideration..

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