

Franklin Leavitt
Caribou

Good Afternoon.

Several years ago, I was conducting an aerial herbicide operation west of Ross lake. While i was supervising the operation, I was confronted by 3 women walking on the logging road. The appeared agitated at the fact I was conducting a aerial herbicide application. I moved away from the landing zone to speak with them. They had several questions about what I was doing, why, and how. I took about 20 min to explain the details of the operation, why and how it was being conducted. After i gave them the information they were quite satisfied with what was going on and why.

Those that I have run into, in my 25+ year career in forestry silviculture, that were against the operation could have their opinions changed once they were shown the what why and how. The notion we are spraying "willy nilly" in random areas, in water, on neighboring farms is simply ridiculou. These operations are conducted by professionals, foresters, hunters, fishermen, environmental stewards of the forest that care about doing a good job and will spare no expense in doing a good job and documenting that work.

The claims that aerial application is adversely effecting watercourses and organic farms in unfounded, I've not seen this in my 25 years.

When the COVID 19 hit the State of Maine, we were instructed by the state government to follow the science. "Follow the science" they all said. Please, Follow the science in this case. The answer will be clear.

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