

August 12, 2006

FEA 2

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To: USFS Fire Retardant EA
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Ref: Aerial Application of Fire Retardant

According to various studies including conclusions by the Forest Service (ref: Science News article July 8th 2006 vol. 170) that upswing in major fires have been blamed on policies of suppressing fires. The article also states that we need to control today's fires because trees absorb atmosphere-warming carbon dioxide and that we need to keep the trees on the stump. To me this means we need to continue some kind of applications with fire retardants. A need of this capability is a must. However I'm also aware of environmental damage present retardants can cause.

After review Forest Service web site on retardants I also found other classes of suppression materials. Water enhancers, however reading the materials safety data sheets I find most of them are also toxic. One from Firefreeze Worldwide seems to be non-toxic and has been approved by the Forest Service for ground and aerial applications. From the information provided there are other benefits by using their product. Maybe during your analysis other suppression products can be tested or considered to replace present retardants. All avenues need to be explored, as we need to better manage wildfires and protect our environment from continued warmer effects.

I'm for aerial application of fire retardant, but we need to find a better material that will do the job while protecting our critical habitats and our water sources.

Legends

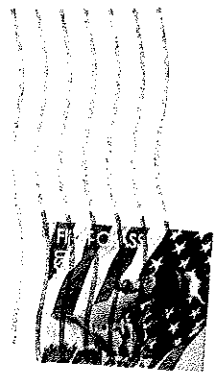


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