

From: Durfeld Log & Timber <rdurfeld@durfeldlogandtimber.com>
Sent: May 13, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Steve Forseth <sforseth@cariboord.ca>
Cc: Jason.Ward@gov.bc.ca
Subject: FW: Vegetation Control - Soda Creek, BC (Cariboo RD - Director Steve Forseth)

Hello Steve,

Liz and I share the concerns which have been brought to your attention by Diane.

We have a lease agreement on our property with Puddle Produce Farm. The Lessee is operating as organic, and will be fully certified organic this year. Herbicides are always a concern, and as Diane has explained, leaving dead, dry vegetation along the rail bed adds to the fire hazard. We also recommend the 'controlled burn' approach, and more consultation.

Thank you, regards, Ric and Liz

From: Diane Dunaway
Sent: May 13, 2019 1:50 PM
To: Steve Forseth <sforseth@cariboord.ca>; Jason Ward <Jason.Ward@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Dave Dunaway ; RDurfeld@durfeldlogandtimber.com; Ron and Gloria ; Steven and Linda ; Lynda & Charlie
Subject: Re: Vegetation Control - Soda Creek, BC (Cariboo RD - Director Steve Forseth)

Dear Director Forseth,

Thank you for bringing our concerns before CN Rail. I am copying our nearby neighbours as well as Cariboo Fire Centre, Senior Wildfire Officer – Prevention, Mr. Jason Ward for continuity.

Regarding the first concern about honey bee harm, which may affect our farm alone, it has not been addressed as a true consideration. Even though recommendations about how to mitigate harm to them and other important pollinators were included in our correspondence.

Regarding our concern about herbicide use alone, this will only serve to dry out vegetation that's had an opportunity to mature by CN's proposed late application date – the height of wildfire season.

Annual application seems excessive, herbicides have long lasting residual activity. The soil persistence of a *herbicide* is often stated as "half-life," which is the amount of time it takes to decompose 50 percent of the applied chemical to a herbicidally inactive form.

Controlled burning of the vegetation beyond the ballast section is a proven management practice that was abandoned when CN leased our provincial railway tracks. BC Rail used this method of fire mitigation to great effect for decades, without adverse effects to the nearby ecosystem nor residents who might otherwise be exposed to carcinogens (e.g. glyphosate) contained in many herbicides.

It seems that there's room for more actual dialogue if in fact this is meant to be a public consultation.

Best regards,

Diane Dunaway
Soda Creek, BC

On 5/3/19 9:42 AM, "Steve Forseth" <sforseth@cariboord.ca> wrote:

Further to your email on CN – here is their answer....

I will follow with CN officials at next week's NCLGA Convention in Williams Lake.....

Thanks,

Steve Forseth

Director – Electoral Area 'D' (Commodore Heights – McLeese Lake)


Phone: 250-267-6725

*Facebook Page -- <https://www.facebook.com/sforsethcrdaread>
sforseth@cariboord.ca*



Cariboo Regional District

www.cariboord.ca <<http://www.cariboord.ca/>>

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From: CONTACT <contact@cn.ca>

Sent: May 3, 2019 8:45 AM

To: Steve Forseth <sforseth@cariboord.ca>

Cc: Joslyn Young <Joslyn.Young@cn.ca>

Subject: RE: Vegetation Control - Soda Creek, BC (Cariboo RD - Director Steve Forseth)
(CID:kvzqq5pll8mh5l4ngf)

Dear Director Forseth,

Thank you for forwarding your residents' concerns to CN. With respect to the first concern about potential impact to bee populations, it is important to note that trees, brush or other vegetation, if not managed properly, can severely compromise public and employee safety, contribute to track-side fires, reduce visibility for train crews at road crossings, of signals and other track side warning devices, to name only a few risks. CN's annual vegetation control program is designed to mitigate these risks by eliminating brush, weeds and other undesirable vegetation.

The ballast section (the 16 ft gravel area) is the most critical area as it supports the track infrastructure which supports the movement of freight and passengers; this section also provides an area for train crew to safely inspect their train. Given the critical role it plays in ensuring the safety and integrity of rail operations, this section must be devoid of all vegetation. While we note your concern respecting the use of herbicides, the only proven way to effectively remove vegetation in the ballast section is through chemical application.

CN's applicators only use pesticides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the Province within which they are applied. The application of herbicides is done using a shrouded boom which focuses the spray downward to reduce potential drift. Application also is done in accordance with all label directions, which specify appropriate weather conditions, such as low wind levels.

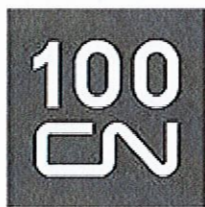
Respecting the concerns related to fire fuel, CN intends to treat our entire ballast section on an annual basis to remove all vegetation. Being able to treat annually will ensure that vegetation in the ballast remains a very small size and in decreasing quantity to reduce fuel load. A frequent program will ensure fuel loads do not build.

Woody species such as shrubs and trees are not preferred in our right of way, and good vegetation management works to remove those woody species in favour of low growing grasses, thereby reducing the fuel load on CN property. Where woody vegetation exists in the right of way portion of CN's property and where appropriate environmental setbacks are available, CN may spray the right of way portion with selective herbicides. These multi-year programs will reduce overall fuel load and reduce the potential for fires.

We hope the above has addressed the concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

You may also direct your residents to contact CN's Public Inquiry Line by telephone at 1-888-888-5909, or by email at contact@cn.ca with any questions or for more information respecting CN's annual vegetation management program.

Thank you,



Nadia

CN Public Inquiries Renseignements généraux du CN 1-888-888-5909
contact@cn.ca

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

From: Steve Forseth [<mailto:sforseth@cariboord.ca>]

Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 00:31:14

To: CONTACT

Subject: Vegetation Control - Soda Creek, BC (Cariboo RD - Director Steve Forseth)

Greetings:

On behalf of residents' that reside along Soda Creek-Macalister Road and along Soda Creek Townsite Road and in response to your message to me via email – I have been asked to bring forward the following:

As beekeepers we do have concerns about this. Some herbicides are more harmful than others to both domestic and native bees. The type of delivery (dust, granular, liquid) plays a role, spraying tends to be targeted and less harmful, as does the stage of any flowering plant (should not be applied during bloom), and the time of day of application (mornings and evenings are best when pollinators are less likely to be flying) can lessen damage.

As residents in an unprotected fire area, our concern is FIRE FUEL resulting from the application of herbicides. Especially so late in the year. The DRY, DEAD, vegetation matter is vulnerable to any sparks coming off a train. We do NOT want a repeat of the 2014 Soda Creek train-caused wildfire.

Having lived near a mile of train tracks since 1991 it is our observation that the BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) to mitigate train-caused fires is CONTROLLED BURNS. While perhaps labour intensive, former users of the track BC RAIL carried out such burns regularly each spring with great results. Proactive and lasting!

Might the deadline be sooner?

Might I respectfully request a response to the above as soon as it can be looked into and a response back provided....

Thanks,

Steve Forseth

Director-at-Large, North Central Local Government Association
Director, Electoral Area D (Commodore Heights – McLeese Lake)

Cariboo Regional District

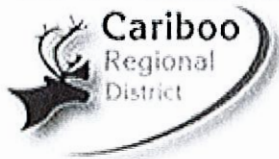
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