



Protecting Water, Forests and Wildlife

Battle Creek Alliance **Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue**

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Nov. 19th, 2025

To:
Tehama County RCD, Board of Directors
Sent by email: tcrcd@tehamacountyrcd.org

Toxic Herbicide Spraying in Manton

I'm the director of a non-profit in Manton which has been working on environmental issues since 2007. This work has included experience and study of thousands of pages regarding herbicides and their toxicity.

I walked out to my mailbox on Rock Creek Road in Manton on October 21st, 2025. There was a man in a white hazmat suit with a sprayer spraying liquid on the side of the road by my driveway, as well as 2 more people down the road also spraying. When i asked what he was spraying, the man directed me to his supervisor, Ryan Freemyers, who was by a truck down the road a 1/4 mile. While walking, there was a strong smell of chemicals all the way. I spoke to Mr. Freemyers who started to recite the standard script of chemical industry talking points about the supposed "safety" of the toxic chemicals which research has shown to cause many issues in many life forms. (See links and attachments.) Mr. Freemyers told me Tehama County RCD was conducting the spraying, although Rock Creek Road is in Shasta County. I told Mr. Freemyers i wanted to file a complaint. He directed me to Stephanie Dickerson of Tehama RCD.

I spoke to Ms. Dickerson that day, who placed me on a "no spray" list. I told her there was no notification to me of any spraying. She said that legally they don't have to notify any residents when spraying road edges. I could still smell the chemicals in the following week. I emailed and called on Nov. 3rd and 4th, asking for the names of the chemicals which were sprayed. On Nov. 17th, Ms. Dickerson said they were Vastlan and Aquamaster.

Vastlan/Dow Chemical According to EPA registration records, Vastlan is a Dow Chemical product with the main ingredient of Triclopyr choline. It was approved "conditionally" in 2016. (1)

In 2013, a NRDC report had this to say: "The public may think pesticides are only allowed onto store shelves and for use in agriculture and into consumer products if they have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a transparent and scientifically rigorous process. Recent investigations by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), however, reveal a deeply flawed system, indicating that the public's trust is misplaced. NRDC spent several years examining federal government data and interviewing key officials, and has determined that the government has allowed the majority of pesticides onto the market without a public and transparent process and in some cases, without a full set of toxicity tests, using a loophole called a conditional registration." (2)

A 2022 ProPublica article wrote: "The Toxic Substances Control Act authorizes the EPA to ban or restrict the use of chemicals that pose serious health risks. But industry magnates were so intimately involved in the drafting of the original 1976 bill that the EPA's first assistant administrator for its chemical division [joked the law was "written by industry"](#) and should have been named after the DuPont executive who went over the text line by line.

The resulting statute allowed more than 60,000 chemicals to stay on the market without a review of their health risks. It even required the EPA, a public health agency, to always choose regulations that were the "least burdensome" to companies. These two words would doom American chemical regulation for decades." (3)

There are many sources regarding investigation into Dow Chemical Company. The most extensive known to me is the 2004 book "Trespass Against Us. Dow Chemical & The Toxic Century". A summary of the book writes "*Trespass Against Us* is a story of 'invent-first-and-ask-questions-later' chemistry; of toxic and hazardous materials pushed into commerce before being fully tested; and of future generations burdened with toxic chemicals that will persist in the environment for decades. Dow's story is also about corporate power...The Dow Chemical Company has been trespassing on private property for decades. The trespass in this case is harmful and it is toxic. For the transgressors at issue are man-made synthetic chemicals, more than 100,000 of which have been "invented" and let loose in the world since the 1930s." (4)

This is a toxicological summary of Triclopyr: "Triclopyr and commercially available products containing this herbicide are of particular concern to human health and the environment, due to: 1) potential toxicity from acute and chronic exposures, including eye, skin, respiratory and gastrointestinal injury; 2) potential adverse effects to non-target plants and animals, due to over-spray, drift, leaching, and translocation to aquatic habitats from weather and erosion factors; and, 3) the potentially extreme hazard to both humans and animals from exposure to "inert" ingredients in triclopyr products, such as EDTA, triethylamine, and kerosene." (5)

A report regarding substitutions for glyphosate (Roundup) includes triclopyr: "All four of the new chemical ingredients have been associated with [kidney or liver damage](#) in animal studies, for example. [Diquat](#), fluzifop, and [triclopyr](#) are all associated with reproductive effects in animals. But much more research would be needed to isolate their individual impacts on humans over time. The report also includes data showing the four chemicals are associated with negative impacts on birds, bees, aquatic organisms, and earthworms." (6)

Aquamaster/Monsanto The second herbicide name given to me was Aquamaster. It is a Monsanto produced product which is 54% Glyphosate. (7) Monsanto was purchased by the Bayer Co. in 2018, after losing many court cases brought by people who had been harmed

by glyphosate (usually called Roundup). ("As of May 2025, Monsanto has reached settlement agreements in nearly 100,000 Roundup lawsuits, paying approximately \$11 billion.") (8)

A 2022 research paper states: "A wide variety of studies show the correlation between pesticide exposure and the development of various types of diseases. Organophosphate exposure has been reported to be associated with various human conditions, such as mood disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, cancer, kidney damage, and autism, among others [166–169]. Furthermore, it has been postulated that pesticides may be the main environmental factor associated with the etiology of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease...The information summarized in the present review indicates that exposure to glyphosate, AMPA, or GBH could induce several toxic effects on the nervous system of all species studied. Exposure to glyphosate during the early stages of life can severely affect normal cell development by deregulating some of the signaling pathways involved in this process, leading to alterations in differentiation, neuronal growth, migration, and myelination. Glyphosate also seems to exert a significant toxic effect on neurotransmission, with the glutamatergic system being one of the most affected systems... Although there are important discrepancies between the findings analyzed in this review, it is unequivocal that exposure to glyphosate, alone or in commercial formulations, can produce important alterations in the structure and function of the nervous system of humans, rodents, fish, and invertebrate animals." (9)

Fire Tehama County RCD says they are spraying toxic chemicals on the roadsides to prevent fire.

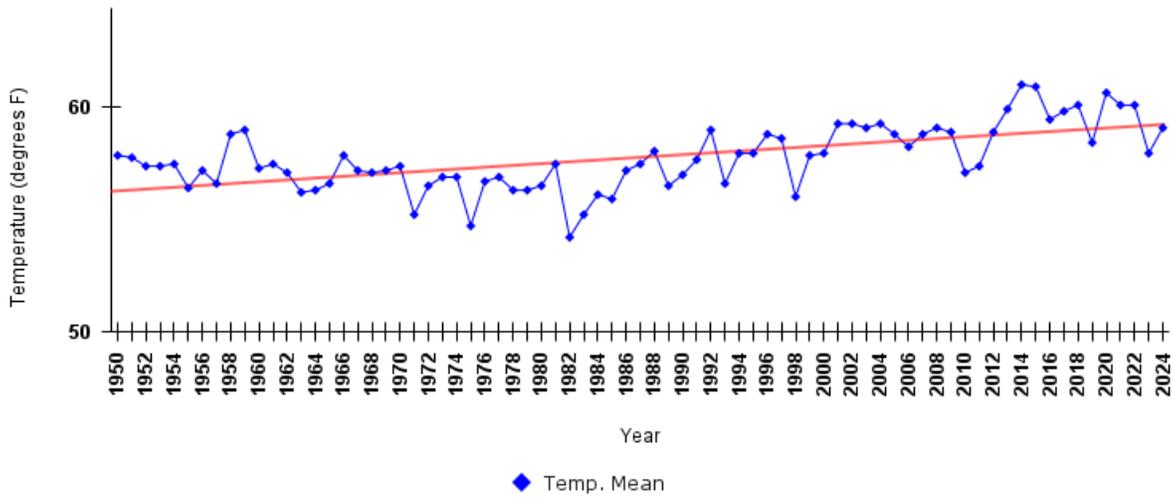
I've lived in Manton for nearly 4 decades and have experienced many nearby fires as well as the 2005 fire which burned most of my 20 acres and outbuildings, burned my next door neighbor's house, and other houses in the area. I've also studied fire ecology extensively, and spent the years since the 2005 fire observing and documenting the after effects of that, and other, fires.

I can assure you that herbiciding narrow strips along the roadways will do absolutely nothing to stop a fire. Dead, dried out vegetation burns even more easily than live vegetation does. Most of the fires have occurred in the extremely logged industrial timberland within a few miles of where RCD is spraying poison.

There are significant climate changes occurring here which are contributing to higher fire danger. These are trend line graphs of Manton, illustrating the rise in temperature, and the decrease in rainfall:

Temperature Trend in Battle Creek watershed

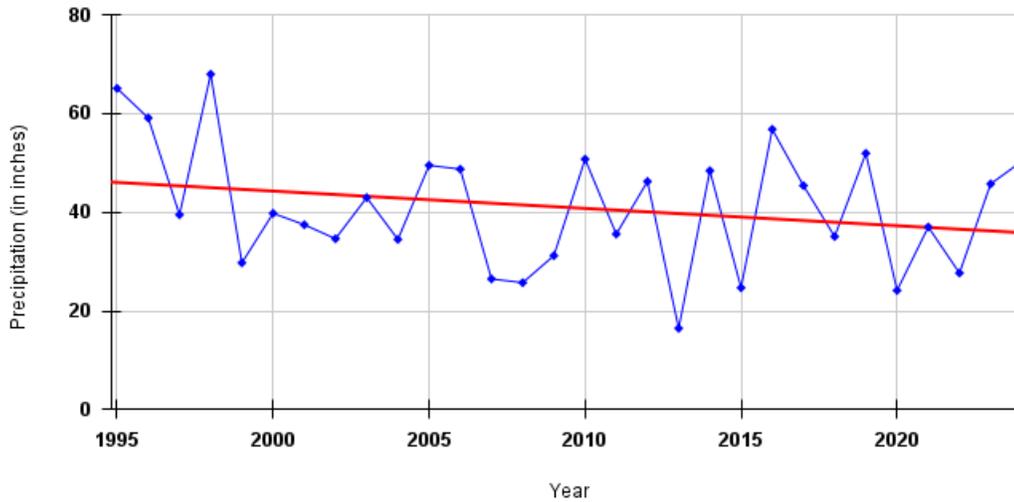
Shasta County, 1950-2024



Temperature trending upward. Data: PRISM Group, Oregon State University, <https://prism.oregonstate.edu> Data accessed Sept. 2025

Rainfall Trend in Battle Creek watershed

Shasta County, 1995-2024



Rainfall trending downward. Data: PRISM Group, Oregon State University, <https://prism.oregonstate.edu> Data accessed Sept. 2025

Stop the Poison There is an abundance of documentation regarding the issues written about here. The truth and reality is less well known than the industrial deceit though. That is why i'm writing to you, so you can know the reality of what you are doing.

Counties don't have much power to change the overall system. But, you can make the choice locally not to use poisonous chemicals and pass along lies about their toxicity. For public safety and well being, for the love of all life, please stop using poisons.



Marilyn Woodhouse

(1) US EPA, Pesticide Product Label, VASTLAN, 02/25/2016

(2) NRDC, March 2013. Superficial Safeguards: Most Pesticides Are Approved by Flawed EPA Process.

(3) [Neil Bedi](#), [Sharon Lerner](#) and [Kathleen McGrory](#)
December 14, 2022. Why the U.S. Is Losing the Fight to Ban Toxic Chemicals.
<https://www.propublica.org/article/toxic-chemicals-epa-regulation-failures>

(4) Jack Doyle. 2004. Trespass Against Us. Dow Chemical & The Toxic Century. Common Courage Press, 486 pages.\

(5) Triclopyr profile. Includes many references. https://www.alt2tox.org/tox_profile-triclopyr.htm

(6) <https://civileats.com/2024/10/22/report-casts-doubt-on-safety-of-new-roundup-products/>

(7) US EPA, Pesticide Product Label, ROUNDUP CUSTOM HERBICIDE (AQUAMASTER) 10/18/2016.

(8) 2025 Monsanto Roundup Lawsuit Update <https://www.lawsuit-information-center.com/roundup-lawsuit.html>

(9) Costas-Ferreira, C.; Durán, R.; Faro, L.R.F. Toxic Effects of Glyphosate on the Nervous System: A Systematic Review. Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2022, 23, 4605. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms23094605> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35562999/>