

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2026

Chief Tom Schultz
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC, 20250

Dear Chief Schultz,

We are writing to request information regarding the U.S. Forest Service's current and planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides on federal forestlands. Recent reporting has raised questions about the scale, frequency, and oversight of glyphosate application on Forest Service land, as well as the scientific basis for its continued use on forest land. Given the recent scientific disputes, retracted studies, and litigation surrounding glyphosate due to serious ecological and health harms, we are deeply concerned by the alleged use of the herbicide and lack of information available regarding current and planned use.

Please provide the following information:

1. **Current Usage:**

- How frequently are glyphosate applications conducted on Forest Service land, and what criteria determine when and where spraying occurs?
 - Is glyphosate used after seedlings are manually seeded or replanted or as a substitute for manual reforestation?
 - In post-fire applications, is glyphosate usage limited to areas where natural regeneration is likely, such as in low or moderate burn severity regions?
 - In post-fire applications of glyphosate, has the Forest Service analyzed the erosion impacts of glyphosate use and the corresponding reduction in soil stability?
- In which forests is glyphosate used, and for what purpose?
- What is the current acreage treated annually with glyphosate on Forest Service lands, and how does that compare to five and ten years ago?

2. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Public Transparency**

- Has the Forest Service conducted or commissioned assessments of glyphosate residues in soil, water, or wildlife in and surrounding treated areas?
- Has the Forest Service evaluated potential human health harms associated with the use of glyphosate?
- Does the Forest Service maintain a publicly accessible database of herbicide use, including quantities, locations, and application methods? If not, will the Forest Service establish such a database?
- What coordination occurs with state health and environmental departments, tribal governments, local governments, and water districts before glyphosate application?

3. **Public Health and Environmental Risk Evaluation and Worker Safety**

- What steps does the agency take to protect workers, campgrounds or other public facilities, nearby communities, and sensitive ecosystems during and after herbicide application?
- What protections are in place for Forest Service employees, firefighters, trail crews, and others who may need to enter treated areas?
- Have there been any reported worker illness incidents, accidental exposures, or contamination complaints associated with glyphosate applications?

4. **Consideration of Alternatives**

- Has the Forest Service explored or piloted non-chemical or lower-toxicity alternatives to herbicide applications? If so, what were the findings, and what barriers—financial, operational, or regulatory—limit broader adoption of these alternatives?

Given the public's deep interest in the stewardship of our federally forested land, clear information on these questions would help build trust and ensure that management decisions reflect the best available science.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry. We look forward to better understanding how the Forest Service is evaluating glyphosate use and considering safer or more sustainable approaches to forest management.

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress