

LOGGING HYGIENE - CLEANING OF VEHICLES

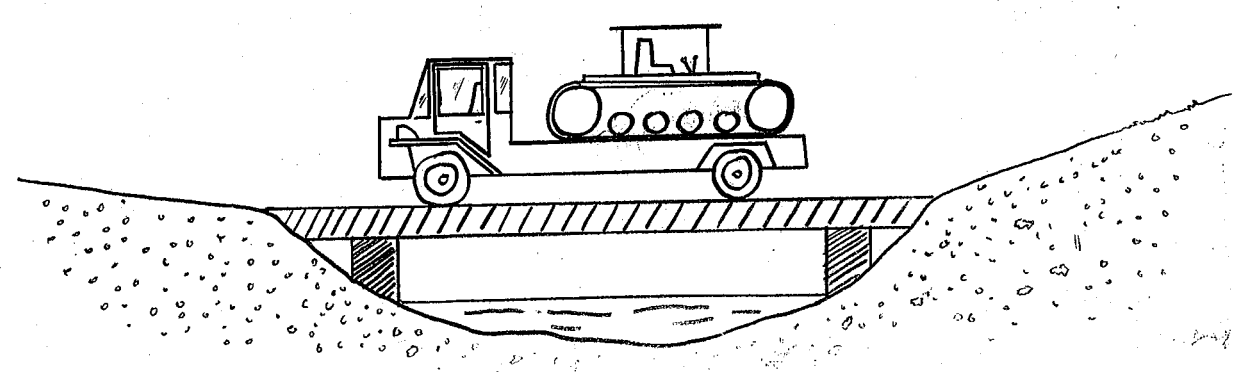
by F. Batini

Soil samples from logging equipment which has worked in dieback areas have yielded positive recoveries of *P. cinnamomi* (Shea, pers. comm.). It is therefore obvious that the cleaning of infected machinery is an important aspect of the sanitation programme. Washing down of units is especially important when:

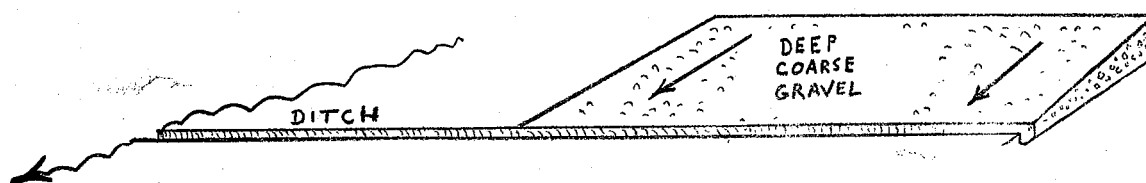
- (1) Equipment enters a Division e. g. Contractor's equipment.
- (2) Equipment commences work in healthy forest areas after working in dieback areas.

The aim is to remove as much earth and mud from the machine as possible. The more earth that is removed, the smaller is the chance of contaminating an area of healthy forest. The site where washing is carried out should be freely drained or amenable to cleaning so that the possibility of cross contamination is reduced. The operator should not be inconvenienced by having to stand in puddles of water and mud. Lastly, the diseased soil and roots must be treated in such a way that the possibility of creating new infections is minimised.

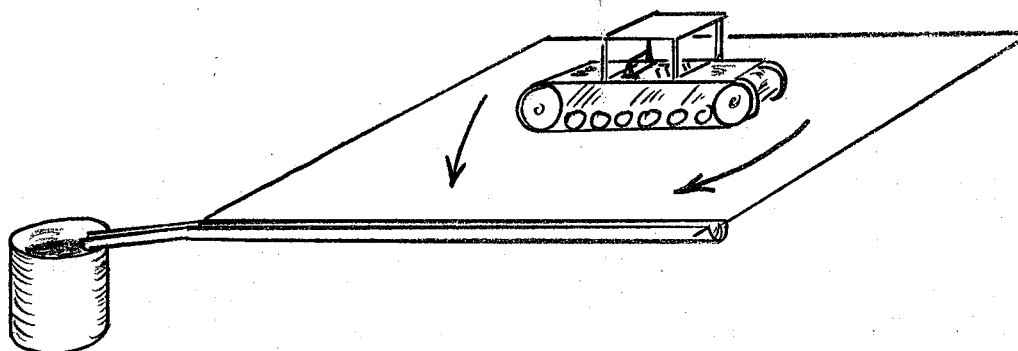
Three alternatives are suggested.



The above method is suited to streams in the northern jarrah forest when most gullies are infected. Access and approaches may need to be upgraded before these could be used as washing down sites.



Where Method 1 is not possible, the washing down area and its approaches could be built up with coarse gravel and the wash channelled into an already infected stream.



The third method could be used around D. H. Q., or in Divisions which are generally healthy and where the disposal of infected material is therefore more difficult. The area should be bitumenised, the wash collected into an underground tank and sterilised at regular intervals with Formalin or Copper Sulphate. Alternatively, the wash could be collected into surface tanks, sterilised with Formalin and then disposed of into a rubbish dump or a disused gravel pit.

The cost of these units will not be excessive, especially if one considers the value of the forest which is currently free from dieback. They could also create a good deal of goodwill particularly if they are made available to members of the saw-milling industry, S. E. C. or local contractors. After all, it will be difficult to convince the industry of the need of a sound approach in these matters unless we are prepared to give the lead ourselves.