



the Way Sprayer

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

Biological Opinion Makes History

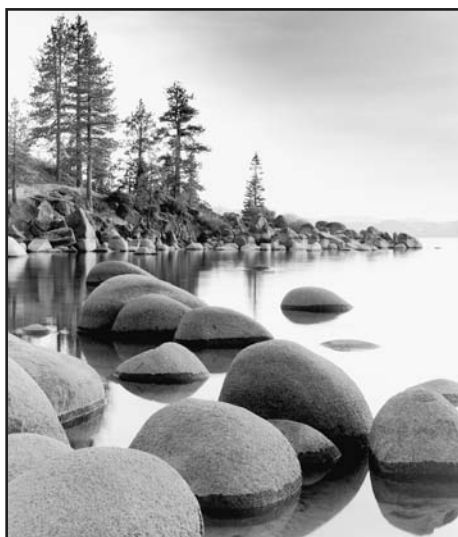
The finest victories rarely happen overnight. The truth in that statement was clearly demonstrated by one of NCAP's most recent successes. After eight years of dedicated work by NCAP and our allies, the federal government completed the first-ever comprehensive review of the real world risks pesticides pose to threatened and endangered Pacific salmon and steelhead.

In November 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a "biological opinion" that sets forth a plan to keep harmful levels of chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion out of salmon-supporting waters. It established strong new protections for salmon that will clean up thousands of miles of rivers, streams and estuaries from southern California to northern Washington and into Idaho.

NMFS will also write biological opinions for 34 additional pesticides over the next three years. NCAP is focused on ensuring that these opinions maintain the high standard for quality science set by the first opinion and outline necessary protective measures for endangered salmon.

"We've been clamoring for the federal government to look at actual on-the-ground concerns for years," says NCAP Water Quality Coordinator Aimee Code. "I was thrilled to read such a thorough government review of pesticides."

The biological opinion goes far beyond the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standard pesticide review. The EPA had been



allowing pesticides on the market without ensuring they wouldn't harm endangered species. "The government had to take actions to fulfill their responsibility," says Code.

NCAP's legal work and the resulting biological opinion has created many new and exciting opportunities. Since NMFS generated the biological opinion, NCAP has received calls from state agencies, environmental organizations and individuals looking to use this ground-breaking science to leverage efforts to reduce pesticide use.

Seven copy-cat cases have been filed seeking to keep pesticides away from numerous endangered fish and wildlife, including the San Joaquin kit fox, loggerhead sea turtles and the Bay checkerspot butterfly.

While the process to get Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance was slow, Code points out there were many successes along the way. In

2004, a judge imposed short-term protections along salmon-supporting rivers, reducing the use of 28 harmful pesticides. In 2005, NCAP's work kept the voice of scientists in pesticide-related ESA evaluations.

Now, it's up to NCAP and others to watchdog the government to make sure that agencies are truly protecting wildlife and complying with the law.

Next Steps

That task may not be easy because the pesticide industry is already working to put the burden of compliance on pesticide applicators. But with thousands of people applying pesticides around their homes, in parks, and on farms, it's "hard to imagine everyone is reading the label and complying," says Code.

The Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) states that the label is the law. The problem, however, lies in enforcing it.

NCAP will be communicating with state pesticide enforcement agencies to make sure pesticide applicators know the law. NCAP will also be watching EPA to see if the agency is monitoring compliance, reviewing complaints, and enforcing the law.

Code thinks the most exciting part of this victory is the precedent it sets. "The government proved that it can do a comprehensive review of real world pesticide risks. If we can do it for salmon, we can do it for kids, farmworkers and all vulnerable populations," says Code.



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ISSN: 1937-6545

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper
Printed at Clancey Printing Company

NCAP membership dues:

Basic	\$25
Limited Income	\$15
Associate	\$50
Sustainer	\$100



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Northwest Visions



Photo: Kathryn Schuessler

NCAP Executive Director Kim Leval

During my recent trip to Idaho to visit with our supporters and partners, I found myself standing next to the largest worm composting bin I'd ever seen. The red worms wriggled and did their breaking down business in the top inches of the soil. The worm food consisted of banana peels and other left over meals from the Doubletree hotel in Boise.

The worm composting bin belongs to Ray Gore and Lindsay Schramm, owners of Sustainable Growth, an organic lawn care business. They work with Doubletree to manage the hotels' landscapes nonchemically. The food wastes from Doubletree – once the worms turn it into compost – will be returned as fertilizer to the Doubletree lawns.

Ray and Lindsay have created a truly sustainable business. Their trucks run on

biodiesel they produce themselves. And they are developing soap products from one of biodiesel's by-products, glycerin.

Ray and Lindsay offer a living example of how everything we do as we interact with the environment – working on farms, driving our cars, tilling our gardens, or maintaining hotel grounds – is interconnected.

In Idaho, I also met homeowners who use NCAP's factsheets to find alternative ways to control weeds or carpenter ants and how to take preventive measures for controlling mosquitoes that may carry West Nile virus.

I talked with conventional farmers who are about to test a microbial control for early blight in potatoes as an alternative to using soil fumigants. I met farmers and researchers who are working together to find ways to build soil health to help organic farmers to be more successful.

On my trip, I heard from our partners and supporters from Boise to Ketchum to Buhl. I listened to their ideas about how NCAP can help further the work of supporting alternatives to pesticides in Idaho. And I couldn't help but be impressed by the interconnection of the 31 years of work that NCAP has produced, from research to creating factsheets to building bridges between researchers and farmers.

And now I'd like to hear from you. As we move forward, what questions, concerns, suggestions do you have? Please let me know at kleval@pesticide.org

I look forward to hearing from you!



Membership Update

Green up your giving: Go paperless!

NCAP wants to conserve resources and we want to hear from you to learn about your preferences as a member. **We are pleased to offer paperless options** for making contributions to NCAP. When you sign up to go paperless, all donation requests and reminders can come to you by email, allowing you to simply click through to the donation page



of our website and enter your payment information – it's easy!

To go paperless, please contact NCAP's Membership Coordinator, Katie Schuessler, to set up your account. Katie can be reached Monday through Thursday at kschuessler@pesticide.org, 541-344-5044, ext. 22.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Meet our New Board Members!



Neva Hassanein

Neva Hassanein is new to the NCAP board, but certainly not new to NCAP. In previous years, Neva worked as an NCAP intern, student researcher, and contractor. Her master's thesis through the University of Oregon reviewed how the Oregon Department of Agriculture handled pesticide-related complaints. Eventually, she became NCAP's first Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) coordinator, establishing the campaign that led to Oregon tracking data on the type and quantity of pesticides used in the state.

Currently, Neva is an associate professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Neva's doctoral work, through the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin Madison, focused on agricultural sociology and the contemporary food system. She is author of *Changing the Way America Farms: Knowledge and Community in the Sustainable Agriculture Movement* (University of Nebraska Press, 1999).

Neva's current work focuses on the concept of food democracy.

At the UM, Neva has helped create an emphasis on sustainable food and farming systems within the Environmental Studies department. The emphasis mixes classroom learning with hands-on education on a campus-community farm and through community-based action research projects. Her work has led to the creation of Missoula's food policy council, the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition.

ACTIVATORS

In 2006, 10 graduate students and Neva completed a study of the economic, social, and transportation-related impacts of a farm-to-college program. The work was done in partnership with a statewide coalition, Grow Montana. With Grow Montana, Neva helped launch the nation's first "FoodCorps," a partnership with AmeriCorps/VISTA that places volunteers at five schools and colleges in Montana to advance their farm-to-cafeteria programs.



Karl Arne

New board member Karl Arne brings a wealth of experience and knowledge about pesticides to NCAP.

Karl earned a PhD in organic chemistry from Washington State University and from there went to a postdoctoral position at Duke University, where he synthesized novel pyrethroid insecticides. In 1980, he started working for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Office of Pesticide Programs in Washington, DC. While there, Karl reviewed residue chemistry studies submitted by pesticide manufacturers in support of allowable levels for pesticides on food.

After several years, Karl became a senior scientist, where he was charged with ensuring consistency in the reviews conducted by EPA scientists and risk assessment for pesticides in food. In 1988, Karl moved to EPA's Region 10 office in Seattle, where he served as the regional pesticide expert until his retirement in 2008.

Early on, Karl became involved in pesticide drift issues, primarily relating to herbicides drifting from treated crops and causing damage to non-treated, sensitive crops.

In the early 1990s, he helped start the Urban Pesticide Initiative, a Washington State effort to address pest management in urban areas. This is a multi-agency effort that includes WSU, Washington's Department of Health, Department of Ecology, Department of Agriculture, and the EPA. UPI has continued over the years and has made progress toward sensible pest management, especially in schools and in parks.

During Karl's tenure at EPA's Seattle office, his focus gradually evolved from pesticides to broader issues regarding the environmental concerns associated with agriculture. Karl led the Region 10 Ag Sector Team, a group of EPA staff whose jobs had some connection to agriculture, an attempt to become more holistic in dealing with agriculture. Karl was on the advisory committee of WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, and he continues to serve on the Stewardship Council of the Food Alliance, a Portland-based non-profit that promotes sustainably grown food. ✂

What's New on the Web

See www.pesticide.org for what's new on the web, including the latest articles and information on pesticides and your health.

- Tree Wells
- Asthma and Farmwomen
- More pesticide-free parks
- New Farmer Exchange

Coming soon: Your photos of pesticide-free parks.

Take a Picture of Spring!
Take a picture of your favorite pesticide-free park and email to Shelly Connor, sconnor@pesticide.org





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TAKE ACTION TO LIST SECRET INGREDIENTS!

Please take a moment to help secure everyone's right to know about "secret" hazardous ingredients found in commonly used farm and household pesticide products. Currently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows the pesticide industry to withhold information from the public. Pesticide manufacturers can put harmful chemicals into pesticide products without telling the public – chemicals linked with cancer, genetic damage, and reduced fertility. EPA must be told that these ingredients can no longer be kept secret. That is why in 2006 the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides and allies filed a legal petition challenging the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's policy of secrecy on these ingredients. Fifteen Attorneys General submitted a companion petition to EPA.

Please e-mail Lisa Jackson, EPA administrator, at Hazardous_Inerts_Ingredients@epamail.epa.gov no later than May 1, 2009. Urge EPA to respond to NCAP's petition and mandate that pesticide manufacturers list hazardous ingredients on pesticide labels. To learn more about NCAP's work to ensure our right to know about hidden toxins in pesticides, go to: <http://www.pesticide.org/inertspetition06nr.html>

A Sense of Wonder in Your Home

Have a fundraiser houseparty and receive a free gift from NCAP!

A Sense of Wonder, a play that tells the legendary story of Rachel Carson as portrayed by Kaiulani Lee, is now available on DVD. Host a fundraiser for NCAP by having a houseparty and we will send you a copy of the 55-minute movie to show at your event. The play features many of Carson's own words and is a true account of this remarkable woman's life.

Carson, the founder of the contemporary environmental movement, is being featured as the iconic model of the 2009 National Women's History Project's theme: Women taking

the lead to save our planet. The project's 2009 honorees are women who have shown exceptional leadership and vision in the environmental movement. (See: <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>)

Please consider honoring Rachel Carson by hosting a houseparty for NCAP. We hope that you will take pictures and share them with us so we can post them on our website.

To receive a copy of *A Sense of Wonder* to show at your houseparty, please contact Stacey Janssen, Development Director, at sjanssen@pesticide.org, or call (541) 344-5044, ext. 23.

Allergic Asthma in Farm Women Linked to Pesticides

Allergic asthma may be linked to using pesticides, according to a study of farm women who were diagnosed with asthma as adults.

This study found that growing up on a farm had a strong protective effect against developing allergic asthma and a smaller protective effect against developing non-allergic asthma.

Despite this protective effect, using pesticides, particularly insecticides, increased the risk of allergic asthma.

In all, 10 specific pesticides were associated with allergic asthma — two herbicides, one fungicide, and seven insecticides.

For complete article, see:

www.pesticide.org/hhg/asthmaFarmwomen.html

