



In a traditional ecological approach to farming, deep respect for the earth guides how food is grown and harvested. Farming is about nourishment of both body and spirit. This photograph was taken during a community blessing of the land at harvest time at Anahuac Produce, "Land of the People."

Photo by Lisa Arkin

Earth Justice Week 2019

Thanks to everyone who came out to “All Hands on Land,” Beyond Toxics’ Environmental Justice Week 2019! We had a great week and we couldn’t have done it without all hands on deck from our community.



Environmental Justice Summit

Beyond Toxics and the Lane County NAACP are proud to announce the 2020 Oregon Environmental Justice Summit, scheduled for April 16-19, 2020. Leaders and representatives from frontline communities will join with scholars, students, policymakers, institutions, and NGOs to hold critical conversations around Oregon’s leadership on policies and investments capable of addressing environmental injustices in our current political climate.

“This inaugural Environmental Justice Summit 2020 will seek pathways to full equity in the distribution of environmental benefits and immediate solutions to the disproportionate impacts of all forms of pollution,” said Ana Molina, Environmental Justice Coordinator. The goal of the gathering will be to create a collaborative network and policy guidelines dedicated to energy and environmental

by Pablo Alvarez

justice in the state of Oregon. Changing entrenched paradigms will require that we emphasize policies that uphold a Just Transition.

We are grateful to have support from more than fifteen schools, departments and programs at the University of Oregon, the UO Center for Sustainable Futures, Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics and Meyer Memorial Trust. We expect many more partners will join us in the important work to achieve an environment in Oregon that is liveable for all citizens and not just the privileged few.

Our hope is that frontline communities, youth, Oregon Tribes, government officials and scholars will be able to apply the specific ideas and practices explored during the Summit to adopt policies and investments capable of addressing deeply entrenched environmental injustices.



A Non Toxic Commitment at work in Southern Oregon

by Lisa Arkin

On the first sunny day of spring, Public Works Director Bret Marshall and City Councilor Stephanie Dolan led their community of Talent, Oregon in a day of celebration. With the blessing of the Talent City Council and Parks Commission, the city adopted Oregon's inaugural Organic Pest Management policy.

As we reported last summer, Beyond Toxics was invited to provide a Non Toxics Neighborhood study session to city officials, staff and Talent residents. Within 6 months, the City Council approved a set of new policies and practices that eliminate toxic and synthetic pesticides and fertilizers on city parks and lands. For example, instead of buying carcinogens like Roundup or hormone disrupters, such as 2,4D, the city of Talent is planning to invest in a steam machine to "cook" the root systems of blackberries and other unwanted vegetation. Marshall is documenting the Public Works Department's progress to adopt organic methods by using demonstration projects and monitoring the results to validate the program. Marshall, a survivor of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, is committed to pursuing public works policies that do not harm the families using Talent's parks, nor the workers he supervises.

We are also working with Jacksonville, Springfield and other Oregon cities to learn how to transition from a poisonous pest policy to organic land care practices.

Scientific reports confirm significant health risks when people are exposed to products marketed as "safe" by companies like Monsanto and Bayer. Over 11,000 lawsuits claiming that the use of Roundup caused their cancer have been filed against Monsanto/Bayer. Juries and judges in the first two cases awarded the plaintiffs millions of dollars in damages and

determined the corporations intentionally withheld data showing that glyphosate causes cancer.

A study published in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research concluded that glyphosate remains present in plants more than a year after being sprayed. That could mean that the blackberries your city public works department sprayed with glyphosate products last year is still poisoning the blackberries people are picking and eating this year, as they walk along public paths.



A team of smiling supporters at the Non Toxic Talent Celebration, April 13, 2019

Talent is an inspiring model we can all learn from. Their elected leaders supported citizen input and championed the transition to land care methods that support environmental health. Children and pets need safe places to play, chew on dandelions and run barefoot through the grass. Their health depends on our wisdom to end the use of pesticide poisons in parks and schools.

We're thrilled to announce that we've been chosen for a special project to eliminate pesticides in city parks in partnership with Beyond Pesticides, a national leader in environmental health. Starting as early as July, Beyond Toxics will share in-kind resources to assist cities interested in converting to organic land care methods. The assistance includes consultation, soil sampling and coaching from Osbourne Organics.

We're so proud to offer this unique opportunity to share knowledge on cutting edge organic land care research. This is part of our larger vision of transformative strategies to implement organic management practices.

*Talent, Oregon
Public Works Director
Bret Marshall*



Oregon's Department of Forestry May be Spraying Herbicides in Your Drinking Water!

by Lisa Arkin
and Laurie Bernstein

Keeping pesticides out of drinking water is one of Beyond Toxics' highest priorities. In 2013 we published a groundbreaking study detailing how the aerial spraying of herbicides, a standard practice in industrial forest management, puts drinking water and fish habitat at risk for pesticide contamination. Our newest research project is looking at aerial herbicide sprays in state forests, lands that are publicly owned by the people of Oregon and managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Streams and rivers originating within Oregon's state forests provide water for public water systems serving thousands of Oregonians.

Despite the fact that most of us think of state forests as clean, safe places to camp, fish, hike and picnic with family and friends, state forests are primarily used for industrial timber production. The public is generally unaware that ODF treats state forests like corporate tree farms, particularly when it comes to aerial herbicide sprays.

Using documents obtained as part of a public records request, we determined how pesticides are being sprayed in state forests. Here, in summary, are the results from our case study: **Tillamook State Forest and Herbicide Spray Use 2015-2018**.

- 14,805 acres of the Tillamook State Forest were sprayed with herbicides over this 4 year period.
- Approximately 70% of these acres (10,257)

were aerially sprayed; 30% were ground sprayed.

- ODF authorized tank mixes of 3-5 chemicals including Glyphosate, Metsulfuron methyl, Aminopyralid, Imazapyr, Sulfometuron methyl plus multiple chemical additives.
- Glyphosate was used in 100% of the aerial tank sprays.
- Aerial herbicide sprays occurred close to and upstream of state camping grounds.

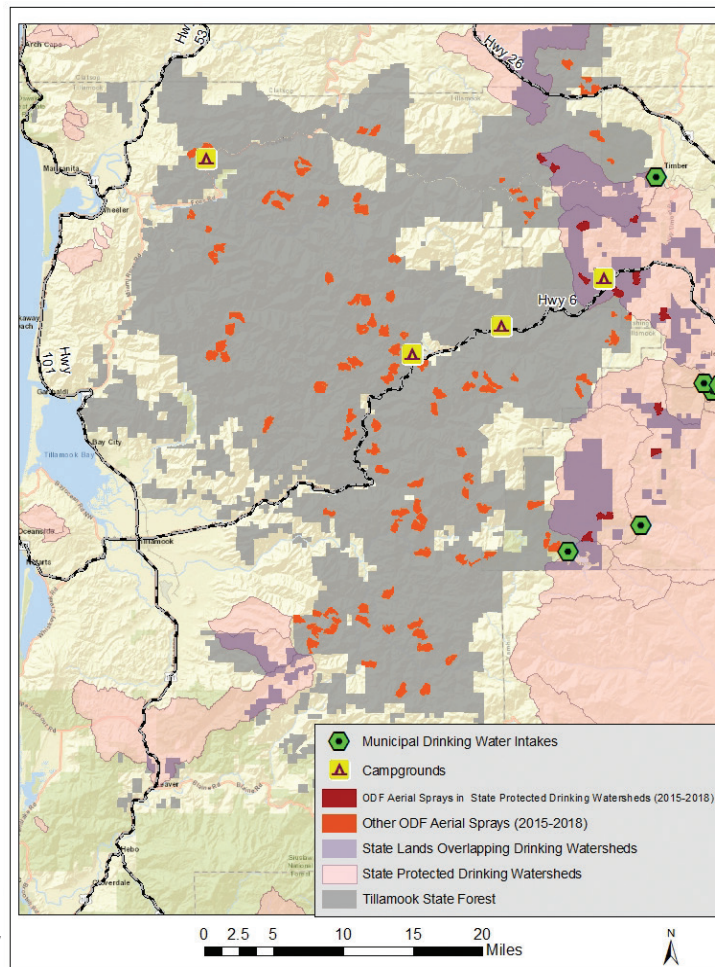
Several aerial sprays occurred in areas where State Forest lands

overlap with the State's Protected Drinking Watersheds. The streams in these protected watersheds provide water for domestic use. Absurdly, ODF is spraying herbicides on acres of land specially designated for protection by two other state agencies, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Health Authority.

It seems senseless that the DEQ and OHA invest public resources to identify drinking watersheds while ODF ignores these protected areas in their forest management practices. As a result of aerial spraying, herbicides moving through soils and streams can potentially put drinking water

at risk for towns like Hillsboro and Cherry Grove whose water intakes are downstream.

Aerial herbicide sprays can drift miles from their intended target. Herbicide residues can contaminate surface water through run-off from soil erosion and from re-volatilization long after



Tillamook State Forest aerial herbicide sprays (2014-2018)



Clear-cuts in the Tillamook State Forest.

Photo: Tillamook District 2019 Annual Operations Plan cover page

the chemicals were sprayed. Herbicides like glyphosate have the potential to harm campers, hikers, swimmers and all the people whose drinking water derives from streams originating in state forest lands.

The World Health Organization, as well as U.S. courts, conclude that Glyphosate, used in 100% of the aerial herbicide sprays in the Tillamook State Forest, is a probable human carcinogen.

Beyond Toxics worked with State Senator Michael Dembrow to introduce SB 926, a bill to ban aerial herbicide sprays in Oregon state forests. This legislation is supported by a coalition of businesses and non-profits. Nonetheless, the bill died in committee without any further discussion, despite strong evidence of the unacceptable risk of spraying tank mixes of dangerous, cancer-causing herbicides in so-called “protected” drinking watersheds. Our state forests have many beneficial uses, from recreation to drinking water to forestry. Using industrial-style aerial herbicide sprays is not a public benefit because vegetation can be controlled by alternative methods.

Governor Brown says one of her top environmental priorities is protecting water quantity and quality. Would you agree that the Tillamook State Forest case study suggests that Oregon’s state forests must be better managed for drinking water protection? We plan to make this issue a priority for state lawmakers.

Legislative Action on Notoriously Harmful Pesticides by Lisa Arkin

I had the honor of joining Javier Lara at his Willamette Valley organic farm, Anahuac Produce, to partake in his community’s harvest celebration. The respectful treatment of pollinators, workers, soil and edible crops at Anahuac starkly contrasts with conventional agriculture practices based on applications of harmful pesticides and exploitive treatment of workers. (see cover)

We are inspired by an ethical imperative to support farming practices that do not destroy the land and the health of workers and neighbors.

That’s why Beyond Toxics led a coalition of organizations to recommend legislation to ban chlorpyrifos and restrict neonicotinoids in Oregon. Both of these pesticides are neurotoxic to all living things. Decades of scientific study come to one inescapable conclusion: chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids destroy populations of bees, fish and birds. A former USDA scientist says neonicotinoids are 5,000 to 10,000 times more toxic to honeybees than DDT, a pesticide the EPA banned in the 1970s. Even more alarming, scientists concur: there is no safe level of chlorpyrifos for young children. Farmworkers are exposed to it from mixing, handling, and applying the pesticide, as well as from entering fields where chlorpyrifos was recently sprayed. Children of pregnant farmworkers who are exposed in utero have significantly higher risk for neurological harm and developmental disorders.

Despite overwhelming evidence of danger, Oregon conventional agricultural practitioners use these products on most fruits and vegetables, as well as Christmas trees and grass seed fields. As our 2018 food study undertaken in cooperation with Friends of the Earth showed, these poisons are found ubiquitously in the foods we eat and in drinking water.

Our bills on chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids received tremendous support from legislative leaders with nearly two dozen legislators signed on as sponsors. Representatives Sanchez, Hernandez and Wilde gave compelling personal testimony. The bill to ban chlorpyrifos is winding its way through the 2019 Legislature. Oregonians can’t rely on the US Environmental Protection Agency to protect children and pollinators. Special thanks to all our members and supporters who sent in testimony, wrote letters, spoke out and continue to encourage our feisty policy change work. Strong allies, good science and moral imagination bolsters our unfailing resolve to win on issues affecting children’s health and ecosystem survival.

The Legal Significance of HB 2020 for Oregon

by Pablo Alvarez

H.B. 2020, Cap and Invest, or the Oregon Carbon Action Program is so close to becoming the law of the land in Oregon. As many of you know, this law puts an overall cap on carbon from all industries in the state, then charges the largest emitters of greenhouse gases a fee to be allowed to emit a specific amount of carbon. The money collected from these fees will then be turned into various investments in the transportation infrastructure and energy transition assistance for communities and Tribes, those most affected by climate change and the financial impacts of de-carbonization.

The largest significance of passing HB 2020 is that Oregon sets a national precedent for firmly addressing CO2 emissions and investing in an equitable and just transition to a clean energy economy. Oregon will be the second state in the nation to declare that climate and our atmosphere are indeed natural resources impacted by our business practices. Furthermore, it establishes a legal principle that government officials have a moral responsibility to create and regulate environmental protections to ensure that our planet's atmosphere is habitable for future generations.

Beyond Toxics joined the tremendous efforts to win carbon pollution regulations in Oregon. Working alongside our environmental justice allies we helped win a set-aside for Just Transition funds for impacted communities, including low-income, rural and communities of color, as well as removed exemptions for trash incineration. We're proud to have contributed to Oregon's shift to de-carbonize our economy.

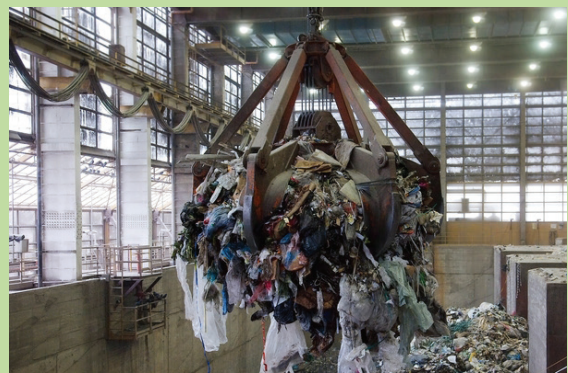
Burning Trash and Plastics is Not Renewable Energy

by Lisa Arkin

As Oregonians focus on individual actions, and the courts and the legislature tackle greenhouse gas emissions, Covanta, the company that owns and operates a trash incinerator near Salem, was quietly working in the opposite direction. Covanta is among the top 20 carbon emitters in the state and is the largest polluter in Marion County. After giving many thousands of dollars in political donations and serving up misleading information, Covanta convinced state lawmakers to exclude them from Oregon's HB 2020, the signature Carbon

Cap and Invest program! Exempting their 160,843 tons of carbon dioxide emissions from carbon regulations would have burned a big hole in Oregon's efforts to tax and reduce CO2.

Now for the good news: we stopped Covanta's attempt to undermine Oregon's climate policy. Leading the work with our allies in Salem and Portland, Beyond Toxics convinced key legislators to amend HB 2020 to include Covanta's carbon pollution under the bill's carbon cap requirements. We also successfully challenged SB 451, which Covanta proposed to give themselves Renewable Energy Tax Credits. Burning trash is neither clean nor renewable. Trash



Covanta Marion Municipal Solid Waste Incinerator is Oregon's only trash incinerator.

fires turn everyday garbage into dangerous pollutants that become airborne and pose a threat to respiratory health. The emissions contain dangerous pollutants, including dioxin, hydrogen chloride, mercury, lead and particulate matter – and lots of greenhouse gases.

Covanta imports medical waste from other states to burn in their incinerator, turning the Willamette Valley into the dumping ground for pollution out-of-state folks don't want to breathe. Other states don't want Covanta's trashy, ashy fall-out in their own backyards, so instead, toxic chemicals are hauled to Oregon to harm vulnerable communities in Woodburn and Northeast Salem. This is an example of how corporations place the burdens of pollution on frontline communities.

Trash incineration, which releases all carbon immediately without any sequestration, speeds us to a critical "tipping point" when the process of global climate change will accelerate much more rapidly. Our successful campaign to expose the facts about Covanta and prevent climate-harming actions at the state level will ensure Oregon refrains from allowing trash incinerators to exempt themselves from carbon regulations. This achievement is a significant boost for Oregon's clean energy future and environmental justice.

Beyond Toxics welcomes 2 new board members!



Pradnya Garud

Pradnya Garud, is a Ph.D. student in the School of Geography and Development at the University of Arizona. Prior to starting the Ph.D. program, she worked as a research and advocacy associate at a human rights organization in New Delhi, India. Her work involved documenting cases of gender and caste discrimination in relief and rehabilitation centers in the aftermath of disasters. She has recently charted a path as a scholar-activist by focusing on social and environmental justice movements around the world, specifically looking at South Asia and the U.S. Her orientation as a scholar-activist has also been shaped by her personal background, and she is acutely aware of the consequences of environmental issues as part of broader systems of oppression.

Edith Gomez

Edith is first generation Latinx. Her parents immigrated from Mexico 25 years ago with the hope of giving their children a good education and better opportunities. Edith developed a love for the environment by accompanying her parents to their work in the fields as farm workers. There she interacted with people from different cultures and experiences. She discovered she has a passion for protecting the environment while simultaneously not forgetting about the importance of the people in it. Edith is the student Director of the UO Coalition Against Environmental Racism. She studied sustainable development in Ecuador and currently volunteers for the McKenzie River Trust. Edith will graduate from the UO with a Bachelor of Science in Geography June 2019.



Summer 2019 Calendar



Eugene Bee City Celebration - All Ages Welcome

Sunday, June 9th from 10 am - 3 pm - FREE

Hosted by GloryBee, Beyond Toxics, Walama Restoration Project, Xerces Society, Audubon Society of Lane County, UO Bee Friendly Campus, Eugene City Parks & Open Space

3rd Annual Bee Survey from 10am - 12Noon

Whilamut Natural Area - Meet along Pre's Trail, north of the Knickerbocker bridge

Bee Campus Bike Tour from 10am - 12Noon

Meet at PeaceHealth Bike Station @ 13th and Kincaid

Native Plant Tours from 11am - 12Noon

Native Plant Nursery next to Park Host Cottage: Alton Baker Park

Celebration - 12-3pm: Alton Baker Park, Community Shelters

Details: BeeCityEugene.org / kabrams@beyondtoxics.org

6th Annual Bee Jazzy - co-hosted by

Mountain Rose Herbs and GloryBee

Thursday, June 13th from 5:30 to 9:30 pm

Location: Silvan Ridge Winery

Featuring The Halie Loren Jazz Trio

Visit BeeJazzy.org for tickets!



Resilient Forestry Tour at Willow-Witt Forest

Near the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon

Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 10am - 1:30pm

Resilient Forestry Tour at Shady Creek Forest

in Western Lane County

Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 10am - 1pm



Leadership for a Clean and Just Oregon

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Halie Loren Jazz Trio
and
Paul Biondi Trio

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Thursday
June 13th
5:30 - 9:30 PM

Co-hosted by

