



Fish get better poison protections than workers by Lisa Arkin, Exec. Director

By state law, salmon and steelhead swimming upstream are protected by a 300 foot no-spray buffer from exposure to agricultural pesticides; yet farm workers have few, *if any*, protections from these same pesticides.

Yes, you read that right. Under a new law proposed by Oregon’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), crop dusters, helicopters and pressurized air blast equipment do not observe a no-spray buffer zone within housing and living areas – the places where workers are carrying out the daily activities of life – cooking and eating, showering, hanging out laundry, and relaxing with their spouses and children. Instead, OSHA is telling workers and their families to hide inside their shacks to avoid getting sprayed. This is inhumane and only perpetuates worker exploitation.

OSHA registers over 300 worker housing complexes in Oregon. Hundreds more fall below the radar. Hidden from view, tucked away in the pear and apple orchards of Hood River and Jackson County, are the one-room shacks of cinder block or worn-out wood siding where workers and their families are housed. The interior is nothing more than bunk beds and a couple of shelves. There is no running water, no bathroom. Windows are sometimes cardboard, instead of glass. The summer heat bakes workers under the sheet metal roofs. Oregon has over 9,000 workers staying in this type of housing.

Our team is taking action. We’ve put two strong environmental justice campaign leaders into communities to work on the problem. Ana Molina and Mysti Frost are doing the grassroots organizing to protect people from toxic poisons. Here are a few examples of successful ways we’ve shifted the landscape of how OSHA acknowledges environmental justice.

Science. The Beyond Toxics team analyzed the most commonly used agrichemicals that might impact farm workers in their housing. We found that nearly 40% of the pesticides are labeled, ‘DANGER! POISON!’ Quite a

few require buffer zones for fish protection! These pesticides are known to cause cancer, brain damage, irreversible eye damage, Parkinson’s Disease and devastating birth defects.



Medford community forum on farmworker rights, hosted by UNETE and Beyond Toxics

Community Voices. Omitting the voices of the impacted community is unfair and biased. Beyond Toxics held OSHA accountable for their original plan to omit worker advocates from being at the table during rule making and prevent workers from attending public hearings. We successfully demanded that farm workers play a key role giving input into OSHA’s process. We also convinced OSHA to hold hearings in the evenings and in locations where most farm workers live. Beyond Toxics is partnering with our ally, UNETE Farmworker Advocacy Center, to give presentations in Spanish so that farm workers can understand the rulemaking process and testify about their family’s experience.

Dealing with Fear. In a time of I.C.E. raids and bias, many farm workers are understandably reluctant to attend public events. We insisted, and OSHA agreed, to allow farm workers to pre-record their testimony for public comment. Their identities will be shielded, but their voices will still matter.

We are building an unstoppable coalition of allies to advocate for the rights of farm workers to be treated with dignity, kindness and justice. Please help us support the right of workers not to be sprayed with poisons.

Building Relationships, Building Community

by Mysti Frost, EJ staff

Beyond Toxics is investing heavily in the community it calls home. With my position dedicated to issues specific to Lane County, Beyond Toxics is successfully building stronger coalitions by cultivating relationships with other local organizations. Here are a few examples....

- **MEChA** – Our local community organizer gave presentations to MEChA students at their regional conferences related to farm worker rights and West Eugene as an EJ community. We also sponsored four local youth to attend the Just Transition Assembly in Portland. By participating in these programs we hope Latino youth will be inspired to take action.

- **Declaration of Human Rights and Climate Change** – Oregon is playing an important role in regional climate change policies. Beyond Toxics is advocating to establish

Oregon as the nation's first state to adopt the International Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change. Endorsements from Lane County NAACP and 350.org, and Springfield-Eugene Showing Up for Racial Justice kicked off our campaign.

- **Dolores Huerta** – Beyond Toxics hosted screenings of "Dolores," the award-winning documentary about Dolores Huerta, a passionate woman activist who fought for farm-worker rights in America. After two sold-out screenings at the Broadway Metro, community members joined together to hear a dynamic panel featuring leaders from across the state. Ramon Ramirez, president of PCUN (Farmworker Union of Oregon) and local labor rights activist Phil Carrasco, called for solidarity to protect farm workers. Sandra Hernandez and Luis Acosta from Latino Unidos Siempre talked about the lack of decent living conditions and how it affects the children of farmworkers. Human rights activist and educator Jim Garcia delighted the room with music celebrating worker solidarity and his wisdom.

- **NASU** – The UO Native American Student Association

and Beyond Toxics staff joined to host an apple cider press in October. Students collected unwanted apples from around the community and pressed them into delicious apple cider. UO students came from all over campus to participate. Beyond Toxics used this opportunity to speak with students about food preservation and food security in our community. Beyond Toxics joined with NASU to oppose the LNG Pipeline proposed for Southern Oregon. Beyond Toxics is an "Intervenor" of this pipeline, meaning we filed to have legal standing when this is fought in court.

- **Huerto de la Familia** – Our staff have begun building a pollinator garden at the Huerto de la Familia garden in West Eugene near the Kennedy Middle School. Students will learn about pollination, food sovereignty and urban food.



We are working with Huerto de la Familia to create a pollinator-friendly demonstration garden



Jim Garcia performed for the Oct. 8th farmworker rights panel



Beyond Toxics organized an apple cider pressing with the UO Native American Student Union

- **Centro Latino and LatinX Alliance** – Beyond

Toxics supported the DACA renewal clinic by conducting interviews with the DACA recipients to collect their stories. In solidarity and support during these difficult, politically-charged times, we organized a staff luncheon to break bread with Centro Latino Americano at a Mexican bakery in West Eugene. Beyond Toxics reaffirmed our alliance with this important organization.

- **UO Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER)** – Nick Machuca, CAER co-director, serves on the Beyond Toxics Board and helps our organizations engage in joint partnerships on many projects, including supporting the Clean Energy and Jobs bill, benefits for our Latino community and farm workers, and student educational activities.

- **Lane County NAACP** – Our two organizations are collaborating to promote the NAACP report on Climate Justice by giving joint presentations to legislators and state commissions. Beyond Toxics helped co-sponsor their Climate Justice report and their annual Freedom Fund dinner.

Beyond Toxics welcomes two new staff members!



Ana Molina Trejo

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN LIASON

Ana Molina, our new statewide environmental justice organizer, brings a fresh perspective and passion to her work empowering disadvantaged communities to advocate for environmental protection for their families and the places they live.

Ana was born in Mexico and grew up in South Lake Tahoe when her family migrated to the US. She is first in her family to attend college and graduated from Humboldt State University. Growing up in such a beautiful area gave her an appreciation for the environment. She earned a degree in Environmental Science and became involved in social justice issues while in school. Learning about environmental racism and environmental justice she realized that you can't leave out communities when it comes to conversations about climate change and the environment because they will be the ones who are affected. Ana has a love for working in community; she believes we are resilient, strong and imaginative and we can come up with solutions when we work collectively. On her downtime Ana likes to hike, backpack, read and shop thrift stores.

Ephraim Payne

DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS MANAGER

A former environmental reporter and editor of the Veneta, Oregon-based West Lane News, Ephraim brings valuable fundraising and event organizing experience to Beyond Toxics. Most recently the Development and

Communications Director for BRING Recycling, Ephraim has worked with and volunteered for several local nonprofits. A graduate of the University of Oregon's School of Journalism and Communications, he earned a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the UO in 2014. When not building the personal relationships and community partnerships vital to ensuring environmental protection for all Oregon communities, you might find him exploring the Cascades or in his home woodshop.



Very special thank yous go out to...

...our wonderful interns and volunteers, including: Lisa Lombardo, Jennifer Respass, Kali Lamont, Tim Burns, Elta Damron Sperry and Augustine Beard.

...Free Geek for their computer equipment donation to Beyond Toxics this Fall. Free Geek is a Portland-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donate your used electronics. | MORE: <http://www.freegeek.org>

...all the wonderful organizations we have worked with in 2017 (and will continue to work with in 2018), including: UNETE Center for Farmworker Advocacy, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Huerto de la Familia, PCUN Farmworker Union, Lane County NAACP, Centro Latino Americano, 350.org-Eugene, Integration Network, LatinX Alliance, UO Native American Student Union (NASU), Latinos Unidos Siempre (LUS), Latino Business Network, UO Coalition Against Environmental Racism (CAER), Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA), Rogue Climate, Oregon Wild, Xerces Society and Pollinator Project Rogue Valley.

The concept of clean air should be clear

by Lisa Arkin, Exec. Director

All over Oregon, communities breathe dirty air. Oregon air quality laws are embarrassingly weak compared to other states because we've failed to put health above agency politics and corporate influence. I've heard teenagers beg for relief from their asthma so they can breathe on their walk to school.

I can vouch for the fact that we're being harmed by vast gaps in Oregon's environmental regulations. Sitting in community meetings and attending clean air rallies throughout the state, I've seen mothers crying out for the sake of their children. These families could be exposed every day to over 650 hazardous air pollutants.

Parents, teachers and entire communities are not conjuring this toxic scenario. After it was revealed that Southeast Portland residents had been exposed to high levels of multiple carcinogens like cadmium and hexavalent chromium, Oregonians are asking how is such extreme pollution possible under Oregon's air quality laws.

This October, the prestigious Lancet Journal published an analysis of pollution's severe role in disease. Air and water pollution are the largest environmental causes of premature death in the world today. Pollution-triggered diseases cause 16% of all deaths worldwide— 15 times more than from all wars and other forms of violence.



L to R: Rep. Rob Nosse, Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics and Jessica Applegate, Eastside Portland Air Coalition

The economy

...isn't hurt by protecting health! In fact, innovation that prioritizes health strengthens the economy, creates jobs and supports healthy families.

There is little doubt that Oregon's weak air quality laws certainly contribute to cancer, asthma and learning disorders. People around our state are desperate not to lose the things we value most, our health and the health of our loved ones. We have joined with frontline communities in North Portland, Corvallis, Salem, Grants Pass and other locations to demand that law-breaking polluters be ordered to cease and desist until they've installed modern pollution control equipment.

Extensive media investigations into Oregon's air quality program revealed a startling lack of interest in protecting the public's health on the part of our state's environmental protection agency. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) failed to require industrial polluters to update their pollution permits, report what they were polluting and how much, and whether their pollution control equipment was installed and up-to-date.

We need health-based air quality laws, something Oregon has never had. With environmental justice as the goal, positive change is possible.

After serving nearly 18 months on Oregon's Cleaner Air Oregon Policy Advisory Committee, I know what it's like to work at the core of the fight for air that is safe to breathe. I can attest to the fact that the heavy burden of these risks is unequally experienced. However, much as we may wistfully believe in a "green Oregon," the reality is harsh: Oregon's laws are rife with inequalities that force some to endure greater risks.

Beyond Toxics is at the center of our state's policy overhaul for cleaner air. You can count on us to be your advocate!

Cultivating Food Resilience

by Krystal Abrams, Social Media & Pollinator Projects Manager

A resilient food system is one where all people, regardless of race, income, or culture, have access to local, culturally appropriate, and ecologically sound food systems.

Beyond Toxics uses food justice as our framework for thinking about the way humans interact with their environment. For example, a resilient food justice movement is inseparable from the work to protect pollinators. Pollinators are necessary to safeguard food sovereignty, which is built upon crop diversity, saving heritage seeds and ensuring fair and safe livelihoods for the people growing food.

Healthy pollinator populations are an integral piece in the larger picture of worldwide health and nutrition. Bees and other

pollinating insects are crucial to the food produced by more than 2.5 billion small farmers worldwide. Research shows that if pollination is managed well on small, diverse farms, crop yields increase by a significant 24 percent. Foods richest in nutrients, such as kale, blueberries, apples and almonds depend on insect pollination. If a crop has been well pollinated, then larger and more nutritious leaves, fruits and seeds will develop, thus increasing their quality, taste and nutritional value. The result is more nutrition per ounce of food, an important aspect of sustainable food production.

Amid rapid climate changes, we are witnessing continuous declines in pollinator health across the planet. If this trend continues, nutrient-dense crops such as fruits, nuts and many vegetables will be replaced largely by self-pollinating and wind-pollinated crops like rice, corn and wheat. These crops alone cannot sustain us.

Corporations vying for control of food production are unable to resolve the challenges posed by a food system that increasingly degrades soils, ground and surface water and crop diversity.

Large-scale monoculture farming is often referred to as “bug-buffets” because vast acres of one crop attracts voracious plant-eating insect populations. The result is farmers often feel forced to increase pesticide use to combat the spread of pests and

diseases. These chemicals, in turn, contribute to further soil degradation by killing the natural beneficial insects and soil-based micro-organisms that keep the soil alive and rich in nutrients.

Saving culturally specific and diverse seeds is critical to creating food sovereignty. Seed saving increases

resilience by enabling people to define their own food and agriculture systems that best support cultural and environmental health. Pollination is the link supporting the symbiotic relationship between people and the plants they grow.

There is incredible beauty in the natural processes of nutrient-rich soils, fresh water and delicate pollinators to shepherd a seed on its journey to becoming the fruits and vegetables that nourish us all. These processes will help us to adapt to the fluctuating forces of nature we are likely to see as part of climate change. Our Save Oregon's Bees campaign and Pollinator Garden project are central to our food justice and climate resiliency work.



Photo by Elise Fog
“Digger bee female collecting pollen from lupins”

Beyond Toxics welcomes 3 new board members!



Sierra Deutsch

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Sierra first reached out to Beyond Toxics through her work with the University of Oregon GTFF Environmental Justice Caucus. In 2017, Sierra received a PhD in Environmental Sciences, Studies, and Policy from UO. She came to Eugene with a BS in Marine Biology/Zoology from Humboldt State University and MS in Wildlife Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. She has a long-standing interest in environmental issues and the structural causes of environmental problems, and how and why they disproportionately affect communities. For her dissertation, she investigated how Western ideas of conservation and the human/nature relationship are exported to the underdeveloped world.

Sandra Hernández-Lomeli

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Sandra grew up in Salem, Oregon and graduated from Willamette University with a degree in Politics in 2015. She now works to empower youth of color and immigrant youth through civic engagement, community organizing and political education. Sandra's passion is around immigrant rights and environmental justice. Sandra hopes to engage more young people of color in environmental justice and farm workers in the fight against pesticides.



Nicholas Machuca

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nick is working toward an English Ph.D at the University of Oregon after earning two Bachelor's degrees from the University of South Florida. His research focuses on multiethnic literature and environmental justice ecocriticism, specifically how people of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues. Nick is a co-director of the Coalition Against Environmental Racism at UO, and he represents CAER on the board of Beyond Toxics. He remains active with environmental justice projects happening in his home of Tampa and hopes to influence policy and development there as well. In his free time, Nick loves to exercise, hike, travel, read (for fun), stay informed, and spend time with his partner.

Farewell to four hardworking board members...

...and welcome to a new board President!

Beyond Toxics thanks and sends a fond farewell to four longtime board members, David Monk, Gwyneth Iredale, Tom Kerns and Dave Bahr. With selfless and enthusiastic dedication, these people have helped strengthened Beyond Toxics and represent us throughout the state. Cameron Hubbe, an experienced grassroots activist and experienced mediator, will take on our board leadership. As the Board President, Cameron's goal is to mentor and support our younger board members and guide Beyond Toxics toward greater capacity in building a statewide environmental justice movement.



2017 Year In Review

INNOVATIVE ORGANIZING & PUBLIC EDUCATION

With the vigor and fresh perspectives of three new staff joining us in 2017, Beyond Toxics provided an even greater variety of relevant and exciting events across Oregon.

SCIENCE

Our events included a Summer Bee Count that provided key data to assess the health of native bees in restored habitat near the Willamette River managed by the Wallauma Restoration Project. This kind of innovative event serves to bring hands-on experience to those interested in the science of pollinator protection. (Sign up to volunteer: volunteers@beyondtoxics.org.) We also hosted a Science Pub to explain the science behind the need to save pollinators. Last winter, Beyond Toxics, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley and OSU Extension worked together to provide a weekend forum on how bee-killing neonicotinoids impact ecosystems and food diversity in the Pacific Northwest.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Beyond Toxics continued to exert remarkable influence on the way Oregon acknowledges and respects environmental justice principles in air, agriculture and forestry policies. Community input will be critical to moving Oregon to increase protections for farm workers and end the monopoly of Big Ag and Timber's voice, as in years past. We also opened a new satellite office in Phoenix, Oregon to build out our work on environmental health and justice. We are providing a consistent presence for pesticide pollution work for impacted communities, as well as supporting the work of allies to stop the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and its pipeline.



L to R: Ana Molina, Beyond Toxics; Celina Ramirez; Ramon Ramirez, President, PCUN. Photo by Lisa Arkin

AIR POLLUTION

On the air pollution battle front, Beyond Toxics continued to work with other groups around the state to bring a scientific and public interest approach to changing how state agencies regulate industrial air pollution. Beyond Toxics' advocacy for Toxics Right-To-Know activated the DEQ to require polluters to report their air toxics emissions, a landmark win!

OREGON LEGISLATURE

In the 2017 legislature, Beyond Toxics brought forth four new Oregon bills that addressed harm from air pollution and pesticides. Several key state champions, and many members, stepped forward to provide support in the state capitol. Sadly, corporate interests and the usual pressures of a severely limited budget held back successful passage of all four. However, new bonds with key leaders were forged and Beyond Toxics found that in several instances, government held a seat at the table for our input in state-level decision-making. It appears the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act (OPPA) has inspired an unbeatable alliance of businesses, non-profits and individual Oregonians to bring our agenda to the next legislative assembly in 2019.

RESILIENT FORESTS

For the second year in a row, we held several tours of resilient forests, thereby bringing to the state's dialog invaluable practical examples of what the future of forestry looks like. Our forest tours challenge legislators to think out of the box to help find ways our society can better adapt to rapidly changing climate conditions and water quality and quantity problems. In 2018, Beyond Toxics will continue our unique approaches and groundbreaking research—unafraid of speaking truth to power in the interest of environmental justice.



Leadership for a Clean and Just Oregon

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Beyond Toxics weaves social justice and human rights advocacy into environmental protection policies.



Creating a pollinator garden is good
for growing healthy, nutritious
and culturally-sustaining foods.

This is a joint project of



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