



THE NORTHWEST CENTER FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES



ANNUAL REPORT | 2010-2011



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From the Director

It's been an exciting year for us here at NCAP. 2011 brought not one, but two court victories, resulting in safer waterways for endangered Pacific salmon and steelhead. We attracted new partners and funding to advance alternatives in Oregon and Idaho agriculture and to help Northwest organic farmers have a voice in shaping federal farm and food policy. And NCAP pilot projects helped to reduce pesticide use in urban areas throughout the northwest.

In this report, we share stories about the people who inspired us and worked with us along the way. There's food and farming advocate, Vandana Shiva from India, and organic farmer, Jim Broniec from Canby, Oregon - two people who informed our pursuit of alternatives to pesticides in agriculture. There's also Jon Wild, whose commitment to safer bed bug control in low-income housing communities stands as an example for property managers everywhere. Finally, there's the David-vs.-Goliath like account of the battle between environmental groups and agrochemical companies, the agencies that get caught in the middle, and the crucial protections we're working to achieve.

As you read, remember that you are a part of this work - your stories, your support for our work, and the actions you take to protect your own families and communities. We couldn't do this work without you. Thank you for your support and your continued inspiration!



Kim Leval, Executive Director

Go Paperless

No mail, no handouts, no paper whatsoever! Help conserve trees by making your NCAP membership paperless. You'll get the latest NCAP news, program updates, and special items like this annual report all via your email. Simply mark the 'Sign me up for paperless membership' option on the enclosed reply form, or contact Shelly Connor (541-344-5044 x 17 or sconnor@pesticide.org) to request your paperless membership today.

Get a Pesticide-free Area Sign

Join the Ladybug Lovely, NCAP's monthly giving program, and receive an awesome Pesticide-Free Area sign from NCAP and Mountain Rose Herbs!

It doesn't necessarily mean giving more...it just means giving more often. Spreading your gift over the entire year enables NCAP to plan our programs and conduct our campaigns with a long term focus. You already support our work, so why not join the Ladybug Lovely?

Sign up online and get your sign:
pesticide.org/the-buzz/join-the-ladybug-lovely



Northwest Meets South Asia

Protecting the environment is hard. It shouldn't be, but it is. Working to stop pesticide use and reform farming systems gets a lot of wealth and power rallied against you. Agrochemical companies go to great lengths to perpetuate the pesticide treadmill and protect their profits, which are considerable. But we are richer. The advocacy world is full of dedicated, inspiring people who have a talent for speaking truth to power. In March, NCAP visited with one of the best, internationally renowned scientist and activist, Dr. Vandana Shiva.



Vandana Shiva and Kim Leval at the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.



Shiva's work casts pesticide use and exposure as environmental justice concerns that are tied to a lack of food sovereignty. She sees this problem in her home country of India, where farmers have suffered physically and economically as the practice of input intensive, mono-crop farming has been increasingly imposed.

"The pesticide industry has pushed green revolution practices everywhere to make farmers feel they are backward. Even when there isn't a problem, they start promoting pesticide use. Once there is pesticide use, the beneficial species go. You actually start to get pests so you have to use more pesticides," Shiva explains.

This dependence leads to increased pesticide pollution, exposures, and associated health problems. It has also created insurmountable debt for many farmers.

This is exacerbated by the use of expensive, genetically engineered crops which prevents the traditional process of seed saving and reduces biological diversity in the region. Now, many Indian communities face a dearth of food and resources along with increasing pollution and pest problems.

Shiva has written books, organized communities, and fought court battles to help solve this issue. What's more, she works directly with Indian farmers to develop alternatives to pesticides through the organic farm and educational center, Navdanya.

Using the same peer-to-peer model that drives NCAP's Organic Field Days, Navdanya brings farmers together to share organic farming methods. The center also hosts a seed bank that has conserved more than 5,000 crop varieties to date...much to the chagrin of large agrochemical and biotech companies seeking to dominate seed markets with genetically engineered breeds.

Shiva's vision for the organic movement is perhaps the clearest embodiment of that 'think globally, act locally' mantra which is so popular in the advocacy world. While working in India requires a different approach than it does here in the Northwest, she is quick to acknowledge the inherent similarities that unite us:

"It would be wonderful to have some of your farmers visit us in India, to see how agricultural systems that are being promoted here are also being promoted there, and through that solidarity build this movement to a higher strength," Shiva says.

See NCAP's discussion with Vandana Shiva on our youtube channel:



www.youtube.com/ncapvids

Wild About Bed Bugs

Call him the 'Bed Bug Czar.' Jon Wild is a property manager with Home Forward, a public housing provider in Portland, Oregon.

Among the many responsibilities of managing multiple, high occupancy apartment buildings, there is the constant task of looking out for rodents, roaches, and the like. It goes beyond complying with health and safety codes, it's a matter of maintaining healthy spaces and keeping residents happy. A big job.

Jon Wild receives NCAP's 2011 Rachel Carson Award.



This job got a lot harder for Jon Wild and other property managers when bed bugs moved into major cities all across the country.

They aren't known to carry diseases, but most folks have a justified knee-jerk reaction when faced with the prospect of sharing their beds, and blood, with these pillaging creatures. This fear, coupled with the intense itching and burning that can result from bites, makes it easy to grasp why the tolerance level for bed bugs is low. So what are property managers to do?

Some of them start spraying. But the infrastructure of an apartment building allows bed bugs to move from unit to unit, escaping pesticide treatments. Pest controllers are then forced to chase them unit by unit, spraying all the while and to no avail. It's a bit like Ahab in pursuit of the whale, and about as unhealthy for everyone involved. Since apartment buildings are densely populated, pesticide exposure is virtually certain.

That's what sets Jon apart.

As the proud 'Bed Bug Czar' for Home Forward, he's exploring a range of options for bed bug control that are both safer and more effective. This includes heat and cold probes that shock bed bugs with temperature extremes, heating rooms to prevent importing bed bugs on incoming furniture and personal items, and a least toxic cedar oil product that stops bugs on contact.



Jon's approach is creative, safer, and more effective. Through work with NCAP and our partners, Jon is not only reshaping how Home Forward deals with bed bugs, he's demonstrating to property managers everywhere that urban pest management is completely possible, even preferable, with alternatives to pesticides.

Look for updates on bed bug control and other alternative solutions on NCAP's Sustainable Places Information Network:



www.sustainableplaces.org



Below: Farmers arrive at NCAP's Food and Fun in the Field event;
Right: Organic farmer Jim Bronec discusses how to talk to congress.



Sink or Swim

Question: if you were on a ship that was sinking, would you climb in a lifeboat and start rowing, or would you throw the lifeboat overboard to lighten the load? This seemingly easy-to-answer question has given Congress a hard time in the form of 'What to do with sustainable agriculture programs now that the economy is failing?'

Times of relative hardship underscore the very reason why sustainable agriculture is important. Food systems that are environmentally responsible, local, and independent are better able to endure. That's why it's sad that programs designed to help farmers and communities achieve sustainability - conservation and organic programs - have been among the most heavily targeted recipients of budget cuts. Why throw the lifeboats of our country's farming future overboard?

Thankfully, there are those out there who know how to swim.

Jim Bronec is a certified organic farmer from Canby, Oregon. His farm, named 'Praying Mantis Farm' after a friendly encounter with the namesake insect, has been in his family for three generations.

Like many organic farmers, Bronec got his organic certification with help from a USDA cost sharing program. He also does cover cropping studies with researchers from Oregon State University thanks to grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE). Since he uses some of the very programs at stake, Bronec knows firsthand how important they are.

That's why last spring, when Northwest farmers were hitting the spinach fields, Bronec was on his way to Washington, DC to sow seeds of a different kind.

Working with our partners at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, NCAP sent Bronec on a Mr. Smith mission to help save organic and conservation programs. Bronec was eager for the opportunity.

"There are cuts happening all over the place," he said. "So I wanted to make sure my legislators knew how people depended on these programs. I wanted to put a human face on it," Bronec says.

In the months since his trip, he's continued working with NCAP to reach out to other farmers and give them a voice on the issue. He spoke to one group of Oregon farmers in September at NCAP's first ever Food and Fun in the Field event, and will present in February at our annual Grower's Own conference in Twin Falls, Idaho.

"It's all about priorities. What are we going to prioritize? Sustainable agriculture and land conservation? Poor farming techniques? War? The only way to set our national priorities straight is to contact your lawmakers. You don't have to go to DC to do it, you can catch their ear any way you can, but they need our input." -- Jim Bronec

Stay current on our sustainable agriculture work by signing up for NCAP's Farm Programs Update:



www.pesticide.org/get-involved
Just click 'Sign Up!'

Swimming Upstream

Stepping back, the whole thing looks a bit like tug of war. On one side there are groups like NCAP demanding that the environment, wildlife and human health be protected. On the other there are pesticide manufacturers working constantly to undermine environmental laws and threaten the governmental authorities that attempt to enforce them. In the middle are agencies like the EPA, overworked, seemingly well intentioned, weakened by budgetary shortfalls, intimidated and swayed by political and corporate interests, and thus persistently unable to achieve real health standards or even meet those required by law.

Failure to meet one such legal requirement – checking with wildlife experts before approving pesticides that could be harmful to endangered fish and wildlife - is what led us to first engage the EPA in a lawsuit years ago. We knew that certain pesticides threatened the survival of endangered salmon and we knew that consultations on the matter had not taken place as a part of EPA's registration



process. Demanding that the consultations be carried out, as the law requires, seemed a good strategy to call attention to the impacts of these chemicals and perhaps change how they are used. That was ten years ago.

Now, after much back and forth and dragging of feet, the first of these consultations have happened. The results: wildlife experts found that many common pesticides threaten the survival of endangered salmon. It's been a long time coming, so here's our requisite, "We told you so."

The struggle became more compelling in 2011 as wildlife scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) entered the fray. In evaluating 12 pesticides, NMFS went beyond the comparatively superficial pesticide review conducted by EPA by also examining the risks of inert ingredients, synergistic effects from various pesticide combinations likely to occur in the environment, endocrine disrupting effects, and more. It was rigorous science, and promised to restore some faith in the integrity of the process.

Enter Goliath: pesticide manufacturers proved that they would stop at nothing to maintain sales of their products, no matter how harmful they proved to be. Throughout 2011, they stalled the process, flouted government attempts to limit how certain pesticides are used, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars lobbying Congress to create new loopholes in several major

environmental laws, and attempted at every turn to invalidate the scientific findings that revealed how harmful their products were. When that all failed, they sued NMFS.

Thankfully, we shut them down there as well. With help from partner groups and very dedicated lawyers at Earthjustice, we refuted their untruths, protected good science, and successfully fought to protect an important process from overt corruption. On October 31, 2011, a federal judge ruled to uphold the new scientific findings, tossing out the claims made by companies who would sacrifice anything but their profits.

On behalf of the staff at NCAP, thank you greatly for supporting our work in this critical area. We couldn't have done it without you. We urge you to continue with us as we move forward to help craft better policies that reduce the use of these toxic pesticides.

Look for more about NCAP's legal campaign at the 2012 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference:



www.pielc.org

and on our website:
www.pesticide.org/Our Work

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NCAP is proud to recognize its major supporters from 2010:

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OTHER

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Franklin Templeton Investments
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2010 Revenues

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Contributions | \$117,173 |
| Memberships | \$39,957 |
| Contributed Services | \$36,665 |
| Grants | \$203,622 |
| Events | \$22,715 |
| Interest/Dividends | \$8,216 |
| Investments | \$12,109 |
| Miscellaneous | \$2,128 |
| Total: | \$442,585 |

2010 Expenses

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Program Services | \$345,126 |
| Management and General | \$73,640 |
| Fundraising | \$51,463 |
| Total: | \$470,229 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Change in Net Assets: | (\$27,644) |
| Net Asset Beginning: | \$426,553 |
| Net Assets Ending: | \$398,909 |

