

Raszka Shelley

From: Gallagher Chuck
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 6:48 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: FW: HB 3428, HB 3429, HB 3434 do nothing to protect Oregonians from pesticide spray.

From: Mary Camp [mailto:maryc@rogueriver.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:55 PM
To: Gallagher Chuck
Subject: HB 3428, HB 3429, HB 3434 do nothing to protect Oregonians from pesticide spray.

When my husband was exposed to forest pesticides

By Mary Camp

Introduction

My husband was unknowingly exposed to herbicides sprayed on an adjoining sixty-acre clear-cut on the afternoon of 10/30/10. The following morning at 3 AM, on 10/1/10, he became ill in many unusual ways and went to see a doctor later that day. He had elevated liver enzymes (he had normal liver enzyme levels in 2009). The years following, his doctors couldn't figure out the cause; he was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis and prescribed heavy doses of steroids, which he was told he may have to be on maintenance levels for life. This we found too dangerous with a bad outcome likely. Finally we located a doctor (MD) that treats people with toxic exposure. He believed the only explanation for my husband's condition was the toxic exposure the afternoon on 10/1/10. Under his treatment, my husband slowly improved. This doctor said he must not have another exposure as it is cumulative.

Here is my husband Orville's story in his words:

A peculiar odor and event

"On Sept 30, 2010, it was warm day and there was no breeze. Our house is located about 500 feet downwind from the sixty-acre clear-cut herbicide area where some of our domestic spring water comes from. I took my golf cart service vehicle with my chainsaw in it, as I often do, so that if I find a tree across the road that needs cutting out I can do it. I was meandering around on roads leading up to the sixty-acre clear-cut area where one of our domestic spring water supplies comes from when I detected a peculiar rather strong odor that I didn't recognize. I thought at the time that it was probably some kind of herb and proceeded to try and figure out where it was coming from. I noticed that the odor was concentrated in the lowest parts of the canyon, which is normally downwind from the sixty-acre clear-cut area, but didn't connect it to the sixty-acre clear-cut area because we hadn't been informed then that they had sprayed it.

I searched the area looking for the source of the odor. Then I began to notice that some of the shrubs in the sixty-acre clear-cut area appeared to be wilting and decided to see if I could determine why. I walked our boundary line to see if I could figure out why. I was especially concerned because one of our domestic spring water sources comes from the canyon at the bottom center of this clear-cut area. The clear-cut is the watershed for this domestic spring water source. Water runoff from their clear-cut feeds directly into our domestic spring water source.

It was early afternoon, a warm day (in the 90's) and there was no breeze when I started walking our property line. The odor became increasingly noticeable. Typically there is an afternoon breeze that comes up sometime in the afternoon and this day was no exception. As I was about to leave, an afternoon breeze suddenly happened in a major way, carrying air from the clear-cut directly to where I was. I immediately became concerned about being poisoned by herbicide chemicals and quickly headed back home, but there was no way I could escape it.

The night of September 30, 2010, is a night I'll never forget. I had many things happen on this night that had never happened to me before. At 3 AM the following morning I woke up with a wide range reactions. I had a hot flash, got out of bed with a severe headache, was dizzy, and had difficulty balancing myself. I had never experienced anything like this before and I can't recall ever having a headache before in my life.

The next day I went up to the shop to do some work, but when I got there I couldn't remember why. I kept trying to do things but would forget what I was going to do before I got to doing it. It was a very frustrating day.

I had always been grounded and confident. After the incident, I recall being afraid of everything and had a gross distortion of reality that persisted for about a week following the exposure. My value system shifted in a way I cannot fully describe now. I had always been focused on the things I needed to do, very in touch with my surroundings, and productive. Suddenly I lost that connection and drive. Some of the ingredients that normally formed my personality were missing. My brain did not function in the way it always had. It was like having a puzzle in front of me with pieces missing so that I couldn't get the whole picture. It was periodic for a week or so. I returned to normal, mentally, fairly soon.

After my exposure to herbicides I woke up every morning at 3 AM and that went on for months. I still often wake up at 3 AM. I have never had trouble sleeping prior to this incident. The dizziness, balance and hot flash problems continued, for a time and gradually got better.

I have always been an exceptionally healthy person, especially at my age. I've always been able to out work, out hike, and out do most people. From that day on my energy level was very low and many of these symptoms persisted for weeks, some for months, and took several years for me to return to the same energy level or productivity."

What happened to our pristine environment?

We live in what might be considered one of the healthiest environments one could logically expect to live in. We don't use chemicals to manage our forest. We don't use forest management practices because they destroy natural community ecosystems needed for sustaining the species that sustain them and us.

Our forest practices retain natural healthy wildlife community ecosystems. Numerous species, including the spotted owl and coho salmon returned to Camp Ecostery over the past 5 decades because of our forest practices. The adjoining sixty-acre clear-cut adjoining one quarter mile of Camp Ecostery, has hugely adversely affected our environment.

We don't manage with chemicals

We use natural selection relationship perspectives in determining which forest resources can be extracted to serve human needs in sustainable ways. We call it ecostry. Ecostry philosophy is rooted in the same basic natural selection based relationships that sustained life on Earth for since life began. We don't use chemicals to manage our forest, and our nearest neighbor is three quarters of a mile away.

Poisoned sixty-acre clear-cut feeds into natural spring water which we rely on.

The sixty-acre clear-cut area is located in the headwaters of two of our domestic spring water collection systems, each serving one of our two family houses. One of these two springs provides water for the house where my husband was born; the other provides water for the place his great grandparents homesteaded in 1918, which is where our family has lived since 1967.

Our water rights are also for the purpose of supplying water for fish, which includes natural coho salmon and reproduction habitats. Before the sixty-acre clear-cut, we watched fish jumping on a daily basis, after the clear-cut and spray they all disappeared for several years.

When the sixty-acre clear-cut was logged, there was a constant flow of dust down across our lands which covered our home inside and out with dust. This is documented with pictures. This demonstrates how extremely vulnerable our home is to whatever occurs on this sixty-acre clear-cut landscape.

After the sixty-acres was clear-cut, its owners decided to kill virtually everything that might compete with their planted conifer trees. We don't know what poisons they used or when they were applied, because they refused to provide us with that information.

Species are disappearing

Before the sixty-acre clear-cut we had lots of species of water fowl that would feed on the ponds, this year we've seen one pair of geese, the same ones that have been nesting on a small island for the last several years. In 2008 there was a large variety of water fowl that frequently visited or lived on our ponds, the first years after the clear-cut and pesticide spray they almost completely disappeared. There are a few more now, yet very few.

Each and every year from 1967 to 2008 the abundance of wildlife at Camp Ecostery increased. The sixty-acre clear-cut adjoining one quarter mile of the Camp Ecostery boundary line changed this. Thereafter, there has been a rapid decline in most species populations and several have disappeared. The decline in species and populations at Camp Ecostery is catastrophic.

We use to have an abundance of insects, now most have disappeared. We had many native species of bees, and now we rarely see any. The native honey bee that was here in large numbers has now disappeared. The native mud daubers, wasps, hornets, bumble bees, and even the yellow jackets have disappeared. We had about 10 varieties of dragonflies, now there's only a few. It looks like a lot of plants aren't getting pollinated because we're now having years where things aren't producing nuts, berries, and other life-sustaining essentials.

Virtually all of our many woodpecker species disappeared. The spotted owl population has been on a continual downward trend. The year after the herbicide, several fish were found dead in the water for no apparent reason. Coho salmon and cutthroat trout disappeared.

Cause unknown

We still do not know exactly what pesticide my husband and our environment was exposed to. The Oregon Department of Forestry sent notification for application of Triclopyr (Element 4) on the sixty-acre clear-cut adjoining our property; however, the forester working for the owner said that they used Polaris SP (Imazapyr). We contacted the property owner, Jennifer Phillipi (ODF Board member), by email (3/30/2011), and told her that my husband was seeing a doctor and we needed to know exactly what chemicals had been used and asked them to send the specimen labels and MSDS's. She never replied. One of the doctors at the clinic where my husband had been going for years made a request to PARC to get this information. PARC contacted us and said they will try and get it for us. They never did, they did not follow-up with us.

How many people do not know why they become ill? My husband's doctor had ordered immediate lab work including liver enzyme tests; and after years of searching we found a doctor that could help with toxic exposure. What about those who do not have these opportunities? What about our years of anguish, health issues, economic and environmental costs. Why is a single industry allowed to externalize collateral damages onto everyone else?

Poisoning people and their environment is a violation of human rights.

HB 3428, HB 3429, HB 3434 do nothing to protect Oregonians from pesticide spray. We and our communities want real protections from the ultra-hazardous practice of spraying pesticides, not this window dressing that does nothing to solve a re-occurring problem. Why do you want Oregon to continue to be the worst state in the NW when it comes to protecting drinking water, private property and fish streams?

We support the bills introduced by Representative Paul Holvey: HB 2589, HB 3123 and HB 3482.

Sincerely,

Mary Camp

Selma, Oregon