The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

Annual Report | 2009-2010

NCAP STAFF

KIM LEVAL
Executive Director

AIMEE CODE
Environmental Health Associate

SHELLY CONNOR
Development Director

REBECCA MATSUMOTO
Membership Assistant

JENNIFER MILLER
Sustainable Agriculture Associate

JOSH VINCENT
Campaigns Associate

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Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
PO Box 1393
Eugene, OR 97440

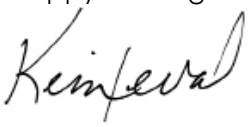
541.344.5044
www.pesticide.org
info@pesticide.org

From the Director

NCAP's work is about a lot of things. At the foundation, it's about protecting our environment and health from chemicals that are designed to interfere with life; this is the concern that drives us. When it comes to the day-to-day, our work is about people and the many ways we can work together to change practices for the better. Whether it's protecting our waterways and endangered pacific salmon from pesticides, working with farmers to enhance organic techniques, or helping park managers care for public places in ecologically-minded ways, our brand of advocacy hinges upon people, trust, cooperation and innovation.

In this combined look at 2009-2010, you'll learn about some of the people and programs that are redefining how pesticides are used, and more importantly, how they aren't used. As you read, we hope you'll keep in mind the impact you've had as a supporter of these people and this work. Thank you sincerely, we could not do it without you.

Happy reading!



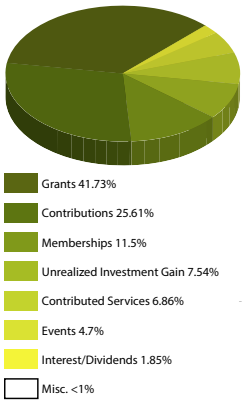
Kim Leval, Executive Director

NCAP's mission is to protect community and environmental health and inspire the use of ecologically sound solutions to reduce the use of pesticides.

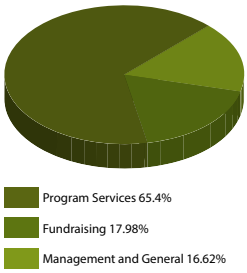
2009 Revenues	
Contributions:	$120,828
Memberships:	$54,286
Contributed Services:	$32,378
Grants:	$196,892
Events:	$22,210
Interest/Dividends:	$8,732
Unrealized Investment Gain:	$35,554
Miscellaneous:	$914
Total:	$471,794

2009 Expenses	
Program Services:	$428,375
Management and General:	$108,896
Fundraising:	$117,744
Total:	$655,015
Change in Net Assets:	($183,221)
Net Assest Beginnning:	$609,774
Net Assets Ending:	$426,553
Total Assets	$426,553

2009 Revenues



2009 Expenses



Imagine this:

You're on your way home from a complicated cross-country trip, one that involves multiple airports, transfers and taxi rides. Now imagine, you can't remember exactly where home is. Nothing looks familiar; you have no way of knowing how to proceed.

Unlikely? Of course. Unless you're a salmon swimming in pesticide-contaminated water.

A salmon's return to the stream where it was born seems, to us, miraculous and even mystical. But salmon use their senses and follow cues just as surely as you do, whether you're driving home from work or returning from the other side of the globe.

Salmon rely, in part, on their sense of smell to negotiate waters—and some pesticides affect this sense, making it difficult or impossible to find their way home. They're not sure which direction to go. They can't avoid predators. They're not a fish out of water—but they might as well be.

That pesticides affect wildlife is hardly a secret; after all, Rachel Carson's Silent Spring brought attention to pesticide dangers largely by demonstrating what these chemicals do to birds.

And yet, when it comes to endangered species, the effect of pesticides has largely been ignored in regulations. Until now.

With your support, NCAP has worked for the past decade to ensure endangered Northwest salmon were protected from harmful pesticides—by participating in lawsuits, working with government agencies and legislators and countering industry efforts to thwart protections.

This year, the hard work paid off, benefiting salmon, clean water and people: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prescribed salmon be protected from 15 pesticides of potential concern for the fish. It's a big step for salmon. Now the Environmental Protection Agency needs to make sure NMFS' prescriptions are enforced on the ground.

"When these protections are in place, it's going to mean a significant reduction of pesticide use next to salmon waters," says Aimee Code, NCAP's Environmental Health Associate.

Hidden and Invisible

Think salmon conservation, and most people will name a familiar list of issues: Dams. Water supply. Fishing. Sea lions and other predators. Climate change.

With this list of obstacles, can pesticide regulation really make a difference for salmon?

"Pesticides are a hidden and invisible risk to salmon, but they're just as real a threat," says Code. "Even with dams and other factors, there is habitat for a huge number of salmon to thrive. Salmon still need clean water."

NMFS, in fact, considers pesticides one of the main reasons for the decline of Pacific Northwest salmon stocks.

Scientists are learning more about the risks posed by pesticides to salmon. Eighteen have been recognized as potentially causing negative effects. Affecting the salmon's ability to find natal streams is the most dramatic consequence, but some pesticides pose more subtle—but no less deadly—risks. Pesticides can kill off salmon's freshwater food sources, reduce streamside vegetation which in turn raises water temperature or even kills juvenile fish.

Combined, the risks of these pesticides are greater than individually—a fact that regulations previously never took into account. NCAP's work means protection that better protects fish—and people.

Aimee with daughter, Halee Ann, and Cricket, enjoying the river.

What's Good For Salmon…

As long as people have lived in the Northwest, the salmon has been considered one of the region's most important creatures. It swims through our culture, our economy, our identity.

Aimee Code knows this, indeed lives it.

Her husband, Matt, a recreational fishing guide, grew up playing in streams where juvenile salmon darted under rocks. "His life amongst these fish has given him such a respect for them and the places they live," Code says. "He can look at a fish and know where it's heading." That love has now been passed on to their young daughter.

"One of the traditions of our family is to go to local spots each year where we can watch the salmon return home," Code says. "To see a three-year-old stare into the water and suddenly come to the realization that there are 100 fish hiding there is pretty cool. And I have to say, it's pretty cool for a grown-up, too."

Your support means that NCAP's endangered species work will benefit other families in the Northwest—many of whom will never go looking for salmon.

"The places that will be protected are not just salmon streams, they're also drinking water sources," says Code. "Because of these protections, 400,000 Oregonians will have cleaner water. This work is not only benefiting salmon, it's benefiting you and your kids."

Resources

For access to detailed information on water, pesticides and salmon, please visit us at **www.pesticide.org.**

From the home page, click on ***Our Work*** → ***Clean Water for Salmon.***

Research. Demonstrate. Advocate.

That's NCAP's three-pronged approach to reducing the use of pesticides in agriculture. With your support, we're helping researchers test alternative agricultural solutions, sharing results with farmers and serving as a voice for farmers with federal and state agencies.

The following are recent examples of NCAP's work to reduce pesticides on farms—work that benefits clean water, farm workers, the agricultural economy and the food you eat.

In 2009 and 2010, we served over 350 farmers and agricultural professionals with educational workshops and field days. Because of this work, more farmers have the knowledge to adopt alternatives to pesticides, meaning healthier farms and healthier foods.

Research

Consider it a vaccine for potatoes: *Bacillus mycoides* isolate J (BmJ) is a microscopic spore that mimics early blight, a common potato disease.

Applied to potatoes, it has much the same effect as a flu shot. It triggers the plant's defenses, making it more resistant to the actual disease. When applied, BmJ protects plants against fungal, bacterial and viral diseases for up to 14 days.

NCAP worked with Montana Microbial Products and the University of Idaho to conduct field testing in Idaho this year. It's the latest alternative practice to emerge from NCAP's twelve years of work with Idaho potato farmers. A new project focusing on dry beans will build upon this research.

Demonstrate

Say someone suggested a completely new way of doing your job. You have no experience with the new method, and you're not sure it would work. Would you bet your entire income on it? Probably not.

It's the same for most farmers. They're understandably unwilling to "bet the farm" on practices they have not tested through trial and error. Alternative practices can reduce costs, but they also require a different approach. That's why NCAP is committed to demonstrating the effectiveness of organic practices, such as the BmJ treatment described above. Through field days, farmers learn from fellow farmers who have implemented practices as well as researchers.

In the past two years, NCAP has worked with ten farms to conduct trials and hosted seven field days, all helping farmers put alternative practices on the ground.

Advocate

Through research and field days, NCAP staff has seen the great interest in alternative practices and organic agriculture. But as this community of farmers grows, is there a network to share production practices? Are there voices for these farmers in federal agencies? Are farmers finding funding for alternative practices?

NCAP is working to ensure that the answer for Idaho farmers is a resounding "Yes." From farmer-to-farmer conferences—where farmers share and learn from each other—to advocating for organic farmers with federal agencies, NCAP is committed to being a voice for organic agriculture.

This recently culminated in a meeting Idaho's organic farmers had with U.S. Representative Walt Minnick (D-ID) and Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Harris Sherman. It was the first such meeting ever held for organic farmers in Idaho—but with your support, it won't be the last.

Resources

For more on sustainable agriculture, please visit us at **www.pesticide.org.**

From the home page, click on ***Our Work → Sustainable Agriculture.***

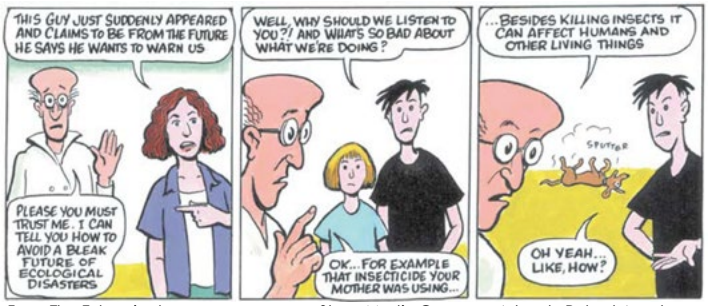
Let's face it:

Sometimes pest problems around the home can drive you crazy. Weeds in the garden, aphids in the roses, ants in the pantry. It feels like you need something extraordinary. You need…a hero.

In this case, that breed of hero who leaps over tall buildings or hangs out in a bat cave just won't do. No. It's time to call: The Exterminator.

"It took us about a year to write. We would meet every couple of weeks. I would narrate the story. Robert would rough sketch the drawings in pencil...I never thought my career would lead me to comic books. It's kind of a childhood dream."

The Exterminator is the star of a new comic book by NCAP board member Martin Guerena and his employer, the city of Davis, California. Through comic book panels, the Exterminator presents alternatives to pesticides for various pest problems, from weeds to roaches to rodents.



From *The Exterminator* Story: Martin Guerena Artwork: Robert Armstrong

It's not a gimmick: The comic book, in many ways, reflects Guerena's approach to his work. Working for the City of Davis' Departments of Public Works and Community Services, which houses the Parks division, Guerena manages parks in a manner that dramatically reduces the use of pesticides, and aims to share the lessons he's learned with the public.

When Guerena began investigating ways to educate homeowners about the risks of pesticides, he noticed a trend in educational materials: They tended to be text heavy, full of jargon and bureaucratic language. These publications contained all the right information. Problem was, no one read them.

But comic books? Everyone loves comic books. A reader could quickly skim a comic and still glean relevant tips. The immigrants in his community who spoke limited English could pick up The Exterminator and learn alternatives to pesticides. The comic provided information in an amusing way.
In short, the comic book serves the public. And Guerena is nothing if not a public servant who remembers who he's employed to serve. Hint: It's not chemical companies.

Guerena has played an important role in establishing NCAP's Sustainable Parks Information Network (SPIN). This network offers a way for parks managers around the Northwest to share alternative methods to pest control.

What Guerena has found, as have many other parks managers, is this: Parks can be managed by significantly reducing or even eliminating pesticides. However, there has not, until recently, been a way to share successful methods.

"Park managers are trained to care about little details in park appearance," says Guerena. "But the truth is, citizens usually aren't aware of a few extra weeds. Citizens aren't demanding perfect little circles around trees. It is park managers who care about these things. We have to remember that parks are there for citizens, not park managers."

SPIN has enabled the widespread sharing of information on alternative practices that benefit citizens, from common-sense solutions like weed whackers and flaming, to innovative controls like grazing on larger park spaces.

"I find convincing people to use these methods is pretty easy," says Guerena, who previously worked as an organic pest control advisor for ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service. "Unlike in agriculture, you don't have to produce food or make

a profit. Many parks managers would prefer to not use harmful pesticides. The Sustainable Parks Information Network is helping to get the word out that they don't have to."

Guerena is now working on using Davis' parks as a way to demonstrate how homeowners can reduce their use of pesticides. And he's not done with comics: He's currently completing one on water quality, that educates people on different points of water pollution. "I never thought my career would lead me to comic books," he says with a chuckle. "It's kind of a childhood dream."

Resources

Want to meet The Exterminator? Visit **www.sustainableparks.ning.com.**

From the home page, click on ***Multimedia → PDFs and Presentations***

For alternative techniques to use in your own home, garden, or workplace, visit us at **www.pestcide.org.**

From the home page, click on ***Solutions.***

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