Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides works to protect community and environmental health and inspire the use of ecologically sound solutions to reduce the use of pesticides.
I recently reviewed NCAP’s latest year of accomplishments and it has truly been an amazing year full of victories. In this report we want to share our values, solutions and successes in addressing the problems of over-reliance on pesticides. We will showcase highlights and numbers from our program work and ways that you can help us move our mission forward by engaging in our campaigns. Significant legwork goes into achieving the lasting higher-level change we seek. We celebrated major wins in our 2013-2014 fiscal year and they represent years of effort in collaboration with partners and individual supporters like you.

NCAP’s wins are collective wins, through advocacy, education, outreach, and applying pressure in the right places. When we all do a little, collective efforts result in major shifts and more successes. Changing how you deal with pests at home or in your garden can lead to your neighborhood drawing together to go pesticide-free. A phone call to a member of Congress can lead to one more co-sponsor of the Saving America’s Pollinators Act. Asking your child’s school to stop using routine pesticide spraying can lead to the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy. Farmers sharing successes in managing pests can lead to more local farms adopting organic practices. Many of you have taken steps just like these. Your actions and financial support help make it possible for NCAP to achieve more collective wins and impact community, regional and national change. Thank you!

Read on to learn about NCAP’s amazing work this fiscal year and the collective actions that made it possible. Thank you for your support as we go forward and continue to impact community and environmental health and advance alternatives to pesticides.

Kim Leval
Executive Director

Our Region
IDAHO
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
OREGON
WASHINGTON
WESTERN MONTANA

From the Executive Director
HEALTHY FOOD & FARMS

NCAP works to expand organic and sustainable food production in the Northwest by advancing alternatives to pesticides on the ground and by promoting strong food policies locally and federally. Approximately two-thirds of all pesticide use occurs in agriculture, so it is a priority area for NCAP. We are aiming for big reductions in pesticide use by helping growers devise alternative strategies for pest management in food production. Part of what we do involves targeted workshops, conferences and field days designed to help farmers access real, practical techniques and learn directly from one another about what works. NCAP also goes beyond the field. We strive to ensure that food policies are actually supportive of sustainable agriculture. This means connecting farmers with decision makers in their communities so that their voices are heard. It also means watchdogging federal packages like the Farm Bill to make sure that our nation invests in sustainable and organic agriculture, research and programs.

HEALTHY PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES

The more we learn about pesticides, the more we understand that they are linked to serious health problems. Our program aims to safeguard community health by eliminating pesticide uses, and consequently, pesticide exposures. In addition to providing technical information on pesticide risks and alternative methods for pest control, NCAP projects are specifically aimed at eliminating pesticide use in areas where people are most vulnerable. Primarily, these are areas where children are at risk for exposure: first environments, K-12 schools, public parks and subsidized housing. NCAP works to protect people from exposure to pesticides by stopping harmful pesticide approaches and advancing ecologically sound alternatives.

HEALTHY WILDLIFE & WATER

All living things need clean water and healthy habitat. That's why we work to protect Northwest environments from harm caused by pesticides. NCAP’s efforts to protect waterways and wildlife from pesticides are currently focused on projects that will help restore endangered fish populations, protect pollinators like bees, and achieve stronger federal regulation and monitoring of pesticides that could potentially cause harm. Such projects include on-the-ground training to help farmers reduce and eliminate pesticide uses that could harm wildlife. They also include litigation to address loopholes and inconsistencies in how pesticides are reviewed and registered.

The Values that Shape Our Work

- Reaching long-term ecological balance and harmony between people, planet, and profit takes ingenuity and persistence. As sure as nature changes, so too must our approach.
- Lasting change is possible when those who are directly impacted speak their own truth and organize their power.
- Government has a responsibility to develop and enforce policies that protect the health and safety of people and the environment. It is our responsibility to help hold government accountable.
- Sensitive populations set the bar for pesticide regulation. Protect those most sensitive and we are all better protected.
- Considering who stands to lose and who benefits in all environmental decisions and actions is crucial to achieving social justice and equity.
- Effective pest management requires an ecological approach that looks at the whole system and root causes, not only the symptoms.
- People deserve to be treated with respect and patience, especially when asked to change their views and behaviors.

Our Programs
BY THE NUMBERS

$1,200,000,000 over 5 years won in the Farm Bill through our partnership and membership in the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition to support local food, beginning farmers, organic agriculture, and specialty crops.

249 Farmers attended 5 workshops and field days in Idaho and Oregon to learn about organic approaches, pollinators, beneficial insects, and ways to manage mummy berry disease without pesticides.

14 Action Alerts sent to urge Senators and Representatives to stop detrimental bills and riders and to support organic, conservation, and other key Farm Bill programs.

6 farms partnered with us for on-farm research and demonstration of alternatives to pesticides for Mummy Berry Disease, and for establishing pollinator and beneficial habitat.

2 Farm Bill Conference Committee House members from our region were urged by staff and supporters to vote for our priorities — Representatives DelBene (WA) and Schrader (OR).

JENNIFER MILLER, Healthy Food and Farms Program Director, leads NCAP’s farmer peer-to-peer training and workshops, alternatives research and demonstration projects, field days, and farm policy advocacy. She previously taught plant biology at Southwestern College in Kansas. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Northern Iowa in 1994 and her doctoral degree in plant physiology from Pennsylvania State University in 2000. She joined the NCAP staff in 2002. Jennifer lives in Boise, Idaho with her husband and son.

SUCCESSES

We are making progress in on-farm demonstrations working with growers and researchers on mulching techniques that successfully manage mummy berry disease in blueberries. We are beginning work with researchers, soft fruit growers and others to learn more about organic management of spotted wing drosophila and how we might replace the use of insecticides harmful to Salmon (such as malathion) with safer methods.

NCAP and the Xerces Society are working together to increase pollinator habitat on Idaho farms and provide training and education for farmers on pollinator habitat. By attracting beneficial insects, farmers reduce the need for pesticide inputs.

Working with farm researchers found that Bacillus mycoides isolate Bac J (BmJ), a biological control, can be an effective part of a disease management program for white mold and early blight. In addition, there is now some evidence that BmJ-induced resistance can also help manage Rhizoctonia stem canker, black scurf and pink rot.
MEGAN DUNN joined NCAP in March 2014. She brings a work history in environmental advocacy and social justice and volunteer experience as a community leader. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology-Geology and Master of Arts in Policy Studies. She is also a certified postpartum doula (DONA). Her education and policy experience offers a unique understanding for her role as the People and Communities Program Director. Megan works and lives in the Seattle area with her husband and two children, expanding NCAP field work to Washington.

SUCCESSES

NCAP works to protect children where they live, learn and play. In order to perform their best, students need a healthy school and outside environment. If a school relies on harmful chemical pesticides to control pests, indoor air quality is compromised and negatively impacts the learning environment. We work to promote long term policy solutions across the region to reduce pesticide exposure in schools and public places, including parks.

In the past year, this program has seen success as we continue our work with schools in Oregon and in expanding and adapting the model for Washington. We successfully leveraged our work on bed bugs to further protect vulnerable populations. NCAP also succeeded in reducing pesticide exposure in public places by reaching out to new city park systems and National Forests.

BY THE NUMBERS

2,000 pounds of pesticides are no longer used on an annual basis in Everett, WA through an IPM agreement. After a five-year campaign working with local activists and NCAP staff, Everett Parks and Recreation adopted a city-wide IPM policy for all parks. The Park Board voted unanimously to approve the policy in June of 2014. This important step forward sends a message that we don’t need to use chemicals to have healthy usable parks and open spaces.

More than 600 people watched NCAP’s Environmental Health Specialist Video on YouTube and hundreds of specialists have utilized it for training purposes. The video provided information on IPM and skills for environmental health specialists to incorporate into their work with the goal of reducing the use of pesticides in Oregon schools. A large majority (83%) of surveyed health specialists were supportive to very supportive of efforts to reduce pesticide exposure in schools.

375 bed bug posters in 9 languages were distributed to property managers to help inform residents what to do if they discover bed bugs. NCAP produced the poster and outreach materials, including an online video, covering IPM strategies for bed bug management. NCAP delivered the poster, handouts and video to its network of over 14,000 stakeholders in all 5 Northwestern states.

329 Washington Green Schools have the needed resources to include reducing pesticides indoors and outdoors with specific best practices for using Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

300 Oregon Green Schools added pesticide reduction clauses in the “green school” criteria for certification after working with NCAP. Additionally, there are now requirements for the over 300 member certified schools to annually report their pesticide use.
SHARON SELVAGGIO, Healthy Wildlife and Water Program Director, comes to NCAP after 27 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service. Her experience as a refuge manager, conservation planner, and wildlife biologist included work in pesticide use and evaluation, oversight of farming programs, water quality monitoring, wetland, prairie, and forest habitat management and restoration, endangered species management, environmental education, and biological surveys. She holds an M.S. in Energy and Resources and a B.A. in Biology, both from the University of California at Berkeley. She loves to run along the Willamette River near her home, observing great blue herons and California sea lions, and contemplating the health of the river and its Pacific Salmon.

**SUCCESSES**

Salmon gained cleaner water this last year. NCAP negotiated a settlement agreement with EPA that restores reasonable no-spray buffer zones to protect salmon and steelhead from five broad-spectrum, commonly used neurotoxic insecticides (diazinon, chlorpyrifos, malathion, carbaryl, and methomyl). The buffers will remain in place until EPA implements permanent protection measures. NCAP also mobilized supporters to comment favorably on the settlement during an open public comment period.

Pollinators are becoming a household word and more people are educated about the risks of neonicotinoids. NCAP mobilized supporters to create Valentine’s Day cards for Home Depot, urging this retailer to cease sales of neonicotinoid products. Home Depot has since agreed to label its treated plants. We staged a phone campaign in key Congressional districts to encourage support on the federal Saving America’s Pollinators Act (SAPA), introduced in July 2013. The phone campaign, steady social media posts, and visits to Representatives helped increase the number of co-sponsors for this Act from 31 to 73 over the year. NCAP provided support and testimony for municipality bans of neonicotinoids and also co-hosted a workshop on gardening with native pollinators.

NCAP continued working administratively with the EPA on pesticide regulation, through participation in the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

500 phone calls went to Congressional offices asking for support of Saving America’s Pollinators Act (SAPA).

170 students volunteered their time in a phone campaign to raise awareness about SAPA.

42 additional members of the House of Representatives joined as co-signers of SAPA. Nearly 25% of the existing co-sponsors represent NCAP’s Northwest states. (This includes 2 out of 5 Oregon representatives; 3 out of 10 Washington representatives; and 15 out of 53 California representatives).

28 runs of salmon and steelhead in 3 states gained further protection from 5 highly toxic insecticides, until EPA institutes permanent protections.

28 separate media outlets and organizations based in 11 states covered the story of our salmon settlement with the EPA.

5 community member “Salmon Heroes” shared their stories in a video series designed to inspire action to support endangered salmon.

4 Northwest municipalities banned the use of neonicotinoids on city or county property.
Our health and communities are worth protecting from harm. A healthy climate, clean air, water, and soil are incalculable in their value to all of us. Without them our very survival is at risk. According to the Environmental Protection Agency more than one billion pounds of pesticides are used annually in the United States. This includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides, and more.

The phrase “Break the Billion” is a new thread that will run through all of NCAP’s work. It reminds us that everything we do, small or large, to choose healthier alternatives over pesticides leads to fewer pesticides used and less risk and harm caused.

Out of the 27 most common pesticides on the market:
15 are known to cause cancer
15 are known to cause genetic mutations
8 are known to cause difficulties during pregnancy

According to the US Geological Survey, 90% of the nation’s urban streams are contaminated with pesticides, while in rural areas more than 60% of streams are contaminated with pesticides. This contamination is not in trace amounts, but rather at levels that exceed one or more benchmarks set to protect fish and wildlife. It’s a big problem, and it needs a big solution.

Since 1977, NCAP has been helping identify and implement such solutions. By educating the public about pesticides and their impacts on the environment and public health, and by involving people at all levels in actions that will produce real change, we are implementing healthier solutions that don’t involve toxic chemicals. We need your continued help and support!

**OUR BREAK THE BILLION CAMPAIGNS**

Major campaigns for NCAP over the next year include:

- **Healthy Farms, Healthy Food:** We all value a good meal. An increasing number of us connect how we grow our food to the impact agriculture has on the environment, human health, and the health of our communities. More than 70 percent of pesticides are used in agriculture and that leads to problems for those working in the industry, and for our health and that of the wildlife, water and soil. Through farmer-to-farmer learning, research and demonstration, training, and policy change, NCAP is changing the way we look at diseases and pests in agriculture.

- **Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools:** Children deserve a safe and healthy learning environment. Pesticides used inside and on the playground at school threaten children’s health. NCAP is helping states and communities in our region to adopt healthier policies and practices that move away from pesticides. We help schools adopt tools like Integrated Pest Management that focus on preventing pests and better understanding their biology. This way we can more effectively protect children from pests and from harms caused by pesticides.

- **Save the Bees:** Pollinators are crucial to a healthy food and ecosystem. They are increasingly being threatened by pesticide use. NCAP is working to pass federal and state laws that better protect pollinators, educate consumers about buying plants that are safe for bees, and helping plant growers and nurseries to find safer alternatives to neonicotinoids and other pesticides through research and development.

- **Clean Water for Salmon:** Salmon are an important cultural and ecological part of our regional ecosystems. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires special protections for many species of salmon and steelhead. Pesticides threaten the health of Pacific salmon and steelhead and that of our waterways. NCAP, in concert with many partners, is winning changes in courts and in laws and regulation to ensure better protections for these fish and their habitat.

**A More Powerful Network to Break the Billion**

May 2015 we will launch a new, more interactive website. This website will link to social media and give you, our supporters, more opportunity to engage in our campaigns. Spreading the word is key to building momentum and wins! Watch for the website launch and become familiar with the resources and tools to join actions and invite friends. Keep checking back! Go to: www.pesticide.org

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3. (US EPA. Toxicity data by category for chemicals listed under EPCRA Section 313. http://www.epa.gov/tri/chemical/hazard_categories.pdf)
**Take Action**

**JOIN THE CAMPAIGNS**

**Healthy Farms, Healthy Food**
Contact Jennifer Miller, jmiller@pesticide.org
- Sign up for NCAP’s farmer email alerts to learn about workshops, funding and other opportunities.
- Write a letter to the editor and talk with your lawmakers about how they can advance alternatives in the farming system.
- Donate to NCAP’s “Farmer Fly-In” fund and help ensure that Northwest voices are heard in federal agricultural policy debates in Washington, D.C. by sending a farmer who can speak to NCAP’s mission.

**Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools**
Contact Megan Dunn, mdunn@pesticide.org
- Help promote IPM in your school. Ask the school principal if they follow a policy to reduce or eliminate pesticide use.
- Watch our videos about reducing pesticide use in schools.
- Write letters to the editor and talk with your lawmakers about how they can help advance alternatives in schools.
- Help support the Oregon IPM in Schools law or advocate for a similar proposed law in your state.

**Save the Bees!**
Contact Sharon Selvaggio, sselvaggio@pesticide.org
- Plant pollinator friendly plants that are not treated with neonics. Ask your nursery if their starts and seeds are neonic-free. Tell them you care about pollinators. Let us know the response.
- Advocate for new laws, write letters to the editor or visit your members of Congress or legislators in your district.
- Use NCAP's materials to explain the value of protecting pollinators, why there is a problem, and how to help with solutions.

**Clean Water for Salmon**
Contact Sharon Selvaggio, sselvaggio@pesticide.org
- Engage with NCAP in opportunities for public comment on proposed regulatory or legislative changes.
- Spread the news about the buffers to friends and neighbors and why the no-spray buffers are critical for fish and water health.
- Talk to all the farmers you know about protecting salmon and share our salmon buffer posts on facebook and twitter.

**And Always…**
- Seek alternatives to pesticides in your home, yard and workplace.
- Talk to your neighbors and local city council and ask them to reduce pesticide use. NCAP can help with tools and resources.
- Support your city and county parks and participate in activities like weed pulling parties to reduce pesticides.

**How You Can Support NCAP**

**Giving**

You can support NCAP’s critical alternatives-to-pesticides work in many simple ways that help our communities while also offering you benefits.

Annual membership and individual donations are the lifeblood of NCAP’s success. You can mail donations using our enclosed envelope, use our secure website, or call us at 541.344.5044. Here are a few additional ways you can support us.

**Automatic Contribution Options:** NCAP offers the ladybug lovelies program that allows you to provide automatic-contributions using your credit card or an electronic funds transfer, which allows you to make contributions directly from your bank account. With a monthly gift you’ll know you are among our most critical supporters by providing NCAP with consistent resources.

**Workplace Giving:** Many workplaces provide opportunities for matching gifts or automatic deductions. 1 in 10 U.S. companies provide matching gift opportunities and organizations such as EarthShare Oregon partner with NCAP for direct payments through payroll. Contact your HR department or NCAP for more information.

**Bequests and Other Planned Giving:** There are a variety of ways you can plan support for NCAP, including gifts of diverse assets ranging from real estate to art or from securities to retirement accounts. NCAP can accept Deferred Gifts, Charitable Annuities and more. Additionally, some asset transfers may allow for earnings returned to you during your lifetime. For more information, consult your estate-planning specialist or call Jeremy Olsen at 541.344.5044 ext. 17.

**NCAP Business League:** Partnering for change is a priority for NCAP. We want to work with organizations and businesses that value our mission and are interested in creative ways to mutually support alternatives to pesticides. The NCAP Business League has five levels of support with matching benefits.

**More Ways to Give:** NCAP welcomes a variety of in-kind donations for it’s offices, events, communications and outreach. We often utilize volunteers for mailings, table and educational outreach, event committees, print and design services and more. New items for our offices and auctions are also welcome. Learn more at [www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)
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