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FROM

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
FEB 18 2014
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Name CHRISTINE BARKHURST
Company Phone ( )
Street 151 N. NEMAH RD W.
City SO. BEND. Return FAX # ( ) (if any)
State WA. Zip 98586
Special instructions RE: PROPOSAL TO CONTROL NON-NATIVE EELGRASS AND NATIVE BURROWING SHRIMP.

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TO: Department of Ecology, State of Washington
P.O. Box 47696
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RE: PROPOSAL TO CONTROL NON-NATIVE EELGRASS AND NATIVE BURROWING SHRIMP

FROM: CHRISTINE BARKHURST
151 N. NEMAH RD. W.
SOUTH BEND. WA 98586

My name is Christine Barkhurst and I live in Nemah, WA., overlooking Willapa Bay. We raise timber, oysters, clams, fruit trees and cultivate flowers. We can fruit, vegetables, fish and elk. We watch heron fly off their perch in the morning, otters lounging on the sand spit, and the racoon family foraging for food on the mud flats. After a big storm you can see and taste the bays salt crystals on the windows. Our three year old golden retriever brought back a fresh duck wing today. We suspect the rest of that green winged teal was some eagle's breakfast. We planted Nootka roses on either side of the front door in hopes they will attract more pollinators as we have a shortage. In looking for bumble bees in "INSECTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST" page 120, I DISCOVERED "many native plants have special pollination needs that can be met only by bumble bees, which are native. The loss or diminution of native

bee populations can have a dramatic negative effect on native plant populations".

The Pacific oyster, the Manilla clam and the eelgrass Zosteria Japonica are all products of Asia. These two shellfish are now the mainstay for the shellfish industry here but they evolved under a different set of checks and balances. Back in their home waters they got along in harmony. The fly in this ointment is the native brown burrowing shrimp, but he's right where he's supposed to be, feeding the green sturgeon and the white sturgeon whose numbers are so low now they can no longer be fished commercially or recreationally. Is this the fate of the salmon smolt? What's left for it in terms of cover as it leaves the streams to pass through the bay in its quest to the ocean. Remove the eel grass cover, poison the invertebrates so they have nothing to eat and you have the salmon population crashing also.

I understand imidacloprid has a half life of many days in water and mud. How much of it will concentrate on my windows? How much of it will coat my flowers and sicken my pollinators? How much of it will be taken up by my berry bushes, fruit trees and vegetables?

CB

Each year I watch waterfowl by the thousands feeding on duck grass which you call Zosteria Japonica. I watch these waterfowl eating duck grass eight months out of the year including Brant spring staging in April. The Brant seem to prefer Zosteria Marina. It is mixed with the duck grass and in close proximity. Your draft permits will allow all of it to be removed where ever clams are intended to grow. There are clams all over these mud flats. When the birds finish eating the tops they then go deep making holes all over eating the roots. How could you possibly believe otherwise? Our neighbor has said we used to have burrowing shrimp on these mud flats and he would see sturgeon tailing all over out there rooting out the shrimp. Some of these were green sturgeon — not so many now. Your draft permits are written as if none of what I see is a reality. This lack of recognition of what is what has resulted in no provisions in your drafts to maintain it. These drafts must not be approved.

CB

I understand you are supposed to look at cumulative effects of your actions. If that means how the Columbia River sturgeon are effected, how ducks and brant would shift to other places like Puget Sound where eelgrass is already in short supply. I do not see how you have done this. If it means how the coming effects of your imidacloprid will reflect on reduced invertebrates that would have fed the food web large and small. I cannot see that you've met that threshold. Another reason to stop both efforts now.

Christine Barkhurst

January 31, 2014

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nuts that fill roughly 45 percent of the shell.

McDonald was instrumental in funding the breeder position

Mehlenbacher said

variaties.

31 JAN 2014

Bumblebee deaths put Oregon in spotlight

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

PORTLAND — The bumblebee deaths in spraying incidents last summer have put Oregon in an uncomfortable spotlight and caused federal and state labeling changes while researchers continue probing the effect of neonicotinoid insecticides, an Oregon State University professor said.

Neonicotinoids were introduced in the 1990s and gained favor because they can be applied at lower rates than other pesticides and are less toxic to mammals — a big issue for farmworker safety, said Dave Stone, an environmental and molecular toxicology professor at OSU. "Neo-nics" as they are often called, kill insects by binding to and closing neuro-receptors.

Activists and some researchers question whether pesticides may be responsible for Colony Collapse Disorder, which has wiped out honeybee hives and threaten crops that rely on pollenization by bees. The issue came to the fore in Oregon when thousands of bumblebees died when landscapers sprayed trees at a Target parking lot in Wilsonville.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture fined the applicators and implemented an Oregon-specific label regarding neonicotinoid ingredients dinotefuran and imidacloprid. The label prohibits application on linden, basswood or Tilia species of trees.

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