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Press Kit: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



Press Release

Rally in rural communities to protest toxic chemicals

Oregon rural residents come together to say, “Enough is enough!”

Selma, Ore and Blachly, Ore., On Saturday, February 11, Beyond Toxics and seven other environmental health organizations and scores of rural residents from Josephine, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln and Benton counties will rally to demand help from State government to protect families from chemical trespass. Two associated events will take place at the shores of iconic lakes that have been the site for community actions against aerial pesticide sprays. Events will begin with opening remarks from elders of Oregon Native American tribes.

In Southern Oregon, a coalition of groups will rally at 11:00 am on the shores of Lake Selmac at the Trout Shelter, just off Highway 199 in Selma.

In Lane County, the rally will start at 12Noon on the western shores of Triangle Lake along Highway 36.

The joint message is to end toxic trespass, a threat to the health and future of Oregonians living near private forest land. People will be asked to step up to the microphone to share their personal experiences about chemical trespass.

All over Oregon, coalitions of groups are working to raise the alarm about the extent of damage to human health, private property and private drinking water from massive pesticide sprays in rural areas. In at least once case, government agencies have undertaken an official pesticide exposure study in Lane County. Recent testing indicates that an unusual number of rural Oregonians have troubling levels of pesticides in their body, the same pesticides sprayed by helicopter over many thousands of acres of forests.

One grandmother in Selma said that one of her grandchildren had to start using a respirator after being poisoned by an aerial pesticide spray “a baseball throw” away from their home. Another mother, owner of property alongside a salmon spawning stream, is furious about the test results showing that her two children have 2,4D in their young bodies. Eron King started the group Mothers of Triangle Lake, a group of women who have tried to speak with the Governor, to no avail. Residents of Eugene are alarmed that low levels of pesticides are turning up in their municipal drinking water.

Events organized by: Oregon Pesticide Action Workgroup in conjunction with and with the support of: Beyond Toxics, Illinois Valley Pesticide Awareness Coalition, Williams Waterway Project, Precious Dirt, Forestland Dwellers, Mothers of Triangle Lake, Triangle Lake Pesticide Victims United and members of local Native tribes.

For directions and more information: www.BeyondToxics.org or www.PreciousDirt.org | 541-465-8860 | info@beyondtoxics.org