

Contact, Beyond Toxics: Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

Phone: 541-465-8860

info@beyondtoxics.org

www.BeyondToxics.org

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



News Release

Astoria Film Showing and Community Forum on Herbicides and Drinking Water

Recent clear cuts near drinking water raises concerns for coastal residents

ASTORIA, ORE. -- In response to growing concerns about herbicides getting in the drinking water, a panel discussion and a showing of 2 films shot in Oregon is planned for 7PM on Wednesday, August 12th. The **Community Forum on Herbicides and Drinking Water** will be held at KALA on 1017 Marine Drive in Astoria.

Featured speakers will be **Meg Thompson**, Oceanside health care practitioner ; **John Burns**, a Gold Beach resident poisoned by an aerial pesticide spray in October 2013, **Darryl Ivy**, a forestry worker injured while working in Douglas County this past Spring and **Lisa Arkin**, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics.

Beyond Toxics is collaborating with a half dozen coast community groups to co-host the gathering and show two recent documentaries on the subject of forestry pesticide exposure, also known as spray drift or chemical trespass. *"Drift: A Community Seeking Justice"* is the story of seven residents of the Southern Oregon coast who came together after more than 40 people were sickened by an aerial spray incident in October 2013. The film was produced by students of the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Leadership Program. *"This Is Our Watershed,"* produced by coastal resident, Kate Taylor, is a film about the experiences of residents of the city of Rockaway Beach. Residents there became gravely concerned when they discovered that 82% of the area around the watershed supplying their drinking water was clear cut and sprayed with herbicides.

Beyond Toxics has been working with communities across the state on issues related to aerial helicopter pesticide sprays. Residents of eleven counties have reported health impacts and risks to the quality of their drinking water. Beyond Toxics provided leadership to advocate for better regulations around aerial herbicide spraying and helped pass important new legislation with full bi-partisan support in the 2015 Oregon legislature.

Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find effective, lasting solutions.

www.BeyondToxics.org