

Second Annual Nozzlehead Award
by Ad Hoc Coalition for Willapa Bay

This is the second year in which the Nozzlehead Award of the Year Award is bestowed on the people who appear to do the most to further pollute our environment by pushing toxic chemical agendas.

The Second Annual Nozzlehead Award goes specifically to the entrenched bureaucracies of Washington State. These range from the state senate leadership to government employees, including state departments of Agriculture, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the commercial oystermen on their pesticide fix. They get the award for fostering an escalation of the use of agricultural chemicals in the Willapa Estuary while brandishing phony ecological sentiments. These are the lead agencies and industries promoting the use of agrichemicals in the estuary. This is chemical warfare against Mother Nature. They know who they are and they should be ashamed and embarrassed. They provide a prospective, Willapa Bay's 'plight' is itself a picture of larger phenomenon affecting the US in which the public is increasingly the target of the chemical-industrial complex to sell aquatic pesticides.

In 1995, the herbicide, Rodeo by Monsanto, was limited by agreement between the State and Ad Hoc Coalition, the Shoalwater Indian Tribe, and Friends of the Earth. In a broad-reaching settlement chemicals could only be used in extremely limited circumstances for scientific inquiry. Chemicals were deemed to be the least desirable way of managing the Spartina cordgrass.

As the State Legislature was herded like sheep to vote for total eradication of Spartina, undercutting any further research on Rodeo, the chemical proponents went full blast for Rodeo and new surfactants and completely circumvented the Settlement. Pacific County viewed the Settlement seriously, but itself is coopted by the institutional interests much stronger and more powerful than itself. So Pacific County has been dragged into "waging total war on Spartina" by every means.

Spartina was introduced into this Bay before any of the award winners were ever near this estuary. For over a hundred years, she has naturalized in response to natural and manmade activities, including rapacious practices of the timber industries that spewed mud and debris into the streams and rivers feeding the Willapa Bay; the dredging of oysters, which sets off plumes of mud and silt into the tidal currents, and other developments. Spartina is merely a facet of everything else that's going on around us.

The likelihood of eradicating the grass is remote. To kill Spartina with chemicals--the still-favored approach--can ultimately only bring more harm to Willapa Bay. Chemicals cannot solve perceived ecological problems.

It must be mentioned that the winners of this award are paid for their work; their office expense, telephones, conferencing, travel, printing and publishing; computer soft and hardware; laboratory space, and utilities. The hard-earned money of taxpayers is routinely mixed with corporate marketing money and tax exempt money, making the nexus that allows chemical agriculture to flourish, assaulting the environment in new, deadly ways. Scientists and bureaucrats are unleashed who then purchase the aquatic sprays and douse the Willapa estuary by every means they can imagine, including spraying Rodeo from helicopters. The public deserves better than this system that repeats and builds the inventories of propaganda and fear tactics and invents ever new future strategies that diminish nature.

The First Annual Nozzlehead Award in 1995 went to The Nature Conservancy for actively promoting the use of chemicals in Willapa Bay; and was shared with Governor Lowery, who knew better.

Hopefully, our next governor will not be a candidate for the Third Annual Nozzlehead Award.

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