

city is protecting salmon habitat from pollutants, "particularly pesticides." PLEASE!

Yes, the "concepts" that Eugene adopted over 15 years ago regarding integrated pest management (IPM) ideals meant to reduce the use of pesticides were progressive at the time. However, the city has failed to take the steps necessary to turn these "concepts" into a written policy to guide pest management techniques or pesticide use on city properties. Thus, there is currently zero public accountability and zero guarantee that the "concepts" of IPM adopted years ago are being implemented, not to mention at a level that ensures salmon protection. As a result, I have seen archaic aesthetic practices being implemented in some of Eugene's parks, such as three-plus applications of pesticides (herbicides) a year for green-free rings around trees, drinking fountains, picnic tables and other park structures — along the edge of the Willamette River (River Park between EWEB and the Rose Garden). This is an absolute NO-NO in modern salmon safe IPM policies. And, it is an example of why Eugene's City Council, its Salmon Protection Planning team, and the public want the city to create a written policy.

The city of Salem recently developed and adopted an IPM policy for salmon and human health protection that includes 150-foot no-spray buffers along the Willamette, no-spray on all playgrounds and picnic areas, public education programs for pesticide use reduction, and clear posting for the public when a pesticide is applied. Eugene's current IPM "concepts" require none of the above.

Get on it, Eugene. We park users are

ready for it. We don't want brown tree rings anymore; we want parks that protect salmon from pesticide pollution and protect the public from unnecessary pesticide exposure.

Pollyanna Lind
Eugene

ANNUAL PROMOTION

Despite the appearance, post-Oregon Country Fair each year, of letters to the editor from unhappy fairgoers, the annual *EW* article about the OCF continues to be promotional in nature. Why doesn't *EW* explore both sides of the OCF and do a fair and balanced article? Please don't tell me that advertising money spent by the fair precludes such scrutiny.

Personally, I believe that the fair suffers from entitlement. Old members feel entitled to misuse their power in various ways; attendees who haven't earned a pass feel entitled to sneak in. Homely old men feel entitled to slime on young women; jugglers feel entitled to go through women like toilet paper. Some folks live the ideals. Some don't. Let's have the whole picture from the alternative paper whose ideals are supposedly more trustworthy than those of the *R-G*.

Ruby Colette
Eugene

EDITOR'S NOTE: Every year for 23 years we talk about how to cover the Country Fair, and do something we haven't done before. So we look for what's new each year. We tend to run a lot of photos, which capture the experience better than words. But many of us are involved in the fair, which makes it hard to be objective. Fortunately we get great letters to help fill in the gaps. Keep writing.

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