

LIGHTEN UP

If there is anything absurd left to say about contraception, some Catholic bishop will say it.

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

MORE HUMANE ANIMAL TRAPS?

Deer, raccoons and even pet dogs have suffered and died in traps set for predators in Oregon, and conservation and animal rights groups want that to change. According to Brooks Fahy, the executive director of Eugene-based Predator Defense, "Oregon is behind other states on a lot of issues, and the current regulations on trapping show very little concern for the non-consumptive use of wildlife."

The laws governing the placement and usage of wildlife traps in Oregon lag behind other Western states and need to be changed, according to a petition to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from the Humane Society of the United States, Predator Defense, the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society of Portland and Eugene's Cascadia Wildlands.

The petition was inspired by recent incidents including traps set at OSU's sheep farm that caught a fawn, a raccoon and family pets. And the petitioners say that according to information from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the past two and a half months at least six dogs were caught in traps and snares in central Oregon. One Oregon family's dog died after being caught in a Conibear trap set by the USDA's Wildlife Services, Fahy says.

According to the petition, the goals of the proposed changes are to "help protect members of the public who

recreate on public lands," and to "reduce unnecessary animal suffering and the trapping of non-target wildlife." The traps are set to catch and kill predators.

The proposed amendments to Oregon's trapping laws require that all traps be checked at least every 24 hours — as it stands now, traps are permitted to go un-inspected for anywhere between 48 hours and 30 days, depending on the target species, leaving animals to suffer and die. Furthermore, trappers would have to attach tags to their traps with their names and telephone numbers and refrain from setting them anywhere on public land that is within 100 feet of trails and other public recreation areas. Trappers would be required to post clearly visible warning signs within a five-foot radius of their traps and snares on public lands.

Fahy says, "This petition only getting to the tip of the iceberg of inhumane hunting and trapping, but we are part of a movement that is going in the right direction."

— Caitlin McKimmy

PESTICIDE SPRAY STUDY PROBLEMS

For years the rural residents of Triangle Lake have been trying to stop poisonous pesticide sprays from contaminating their houses, farms and bodies. After a study by Dana Barr of Emory University found pesticides in the urine of 44 people in the area, it seemed like the concerns and health issues of the Pitchfork Rebellion and other Triangle Lake groups would be at last be taken seriously.

But now a new study involving the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the state of Oregon has hit a snag.

According to Pitchfork Rebel Day Owen the investigative team has canceled their attempt to do spring urine sampling because the industry is "intentionally

dodging the bullet by not spraying atrazine or 2,4-D in the Triangle Lake region."

Owen says that normally those chemicals are among the many sprayed on the private timber-producing forests owned by companies including Weyerhaeuser around Triangle Lake in the Coast Range "and they are going to spray it all over Oregon this spring, just not in the test area. He adds, "They will still spray about 14 other herbicides in our region, just not the two that are being tested for."


According to Owen, the reason that atrazine and 2,4-D were chosen by both Barr in the testing commissioned by the Triangle Lake residents and by the current state study to test for is because they are the only two that can be discovered in urine samples "by virtue of the fact that the body creates metabolites in reaction to them, and those metabolites stick around for awhile."

On March 21, Owen and other Triangle Lake area residents will bring their toxic concerns to a PARC (Oregon Pesticide Analytical and Response Center) meeting. One of the concerns, he says, is the influence the group Oregonians for Food and Shelter has on PARC and the lack of investigation into the pesticide applications that resulted in

LANE AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE


Lorane area: Fruit Growers Supply, (541) 345-0996, plans to hire Oregon Forest Management Services to ground spray using Foresters and Garlon XRT with MSO on 33 acres in Township 20S, Range 04W Section 7 in the Lorane area. Concerns include proximity to King Estate Winery, Lorane Elementary School and Hawley Creek, home to threatened turtles. See ODF notice 2012-781-00174.

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