

take up to 160 million gallons of spring water a year, according to grassroots organizer Meredith Cocks with BARK, a watchdog group that monitors natural resource use in the Mount Hood National Forest area.

"A bottling plant doesn't belong in a national scenic area," she says. The group is also concerned about impacts on water temperatures in the creek, which feeds into the Columbia River and could affect salmon in the area.

She says Nestlé has a bad track record in other places such as Michigan, where one of their bottling plants had adverse effects on ground water.

"They're not necessarily someone we want to trust automatically to do what is best for the public interest with water resources," Cocks says.

A Mother's Day protest aimed at Gov. Kitzhaber was organized by BARK, WaterWatch of Oregon and Resources for Health. H2Origami, a youth activist group from Resources for Health, sent 1,000 origami cups to Kitzhaber on Earth Day asking him to act on the plant's permit process before Mother's Day. He did not. So, on May 13 they showed up at the capitol and delivered a mix of another thousand origami cups and various wildlife with testimonials asking him to stop the plant's development.

"The objective was basically to expose the governor for his lack of willingness to stand up for water resources," says Cocks.

For more on BARK's campaign against Nestlé go to www.bark-out.org

— Ted Shorack



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