

## **Adopted LWVOR 2019-2021 Study**

### **Pesticides and other biocides in Oregon and their impact on workers, communities, and the environment** (proposed by Washington County state unit)

We propose a study to:

1. Identify relevant federal, state, regional (Metro), county, and city regulations in Oregon on biocide application.
2. Determine what biocides are currently used in Oregon by government agencies.
3. Determine what biocides are available for use by individuals and businesses in Oregon, and to the extent possible, which are used, in what quantities, and for what purposes.
4. Consult with experts and potentially impacted communities to better understand off-target negative impacts of these biocides in Oregon, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Workers handling pesticides
  - b. Workers at sites where pesticides are applied
  - c. Workers at sites neighboring those where pesticides are applied
  - d. Communities neighboring sites where pesticides are applied, including humans, pets, and recreational spaces
  - e. Endangered species, particularly those of cultural importance to Oregon communities (including tribes)
  - f. Environment and ecosystems
  - g. Pollinators
5. Consult with experts and businesses using biocides to better understand positive impacts of these biocides in Oregon, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Economic benefits (e.g. tourism, agriculture, forestry)
  - b. Food security (e.g. improving agriculture, ensuring higher crop yield)

- c. Management of invasive species
  - d. Preservation of environment and ecosystems, particularly with regards to ecosystems critical for endangered species
  - e. Flood management (e.g. control of plants clogging ditches)
6. Review best management practices in place in Oregon to mitigate negative impacts and their effectiveness
7. Explore policy options to address negative impacts while preserving positive impacts

### **Outlook for Work:**

The Study Committee will reference and build on the Washington County League of Women Voter's Interest Group on Pesticides and other biocides in Hillsboro. Interviews with government officials at the state and county level will be an important first step for framing the discussion and understanding the regulatory framework.

Numerous stakeholders will need to be interviewed, and it is likely that additional organizations or individuals will be identified during the course of the study. Businesses and government agencies using biocides and/or manufacturers/retailers of biocides will need to be interviewed to fully understand potential benefits of biocide use. The Department of Agriculture Pesticide Analytical and Response Center will be interviewed to understand reported pesticide incidences in Oregon; this will further inform what organizations and communities should be interviewed for this study.

Organizations representing the environment, such as the Oregon Bee Project and Waterkeeper associations, as well as government agencies, such as Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, will be interviewed to understand potential negative impacts of biocide use to the environment. Farmworkers Unions, such as PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste), community organizations in regions thought to be negatively impacted by biocides, and government agencies, such as the Oregon Health Authority, will be interviewed to understand impacts to workers applying pesticides, their families, and neighboring communities. Environmental justice organizations, such as OPAL PDX and Beyond Toxics, will also be interviewed to understand the environmental justice implications of biocide use in Oregon.

In order to understand best practices around pesticide use and potential alternatives, organizations like the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, the Oregon State University Extension Integrated Pest Management Program, and Master Gardener's Program will be interviewed. In order to understand other policy options, organizations and governments that have adopted biocide management, such as Lincoln County and its aerial spray ordinance, will be interviewed.