

People & Pollinator Action Network Legislator Briefing

Thursday, January 18th, 2023

Colorado State Capitol, HCR 107

8-9am

Attendees: Rep Lieder's Aide Jenny, Rep Cathy Kipp, Rep Karen McCormick, Rep, Marc Snyder, Amy Lewis from Wild.org

Welcome - Becky Long, Melissa Ordelleide, Joyce Kennedy

Why Vail Supports Local Control of Pesticides - Pete Wadden

- Gore Creek is an impaired waterway
- Vail has environmental Stewardship in founding values
- CDPHE says stream not meeting state standards, but DOA says nothing else they can do
- Insect levels drop precipitously in impaired areas. Where bugs are dying, insecticides have been detected in the water
- Landscaping chemicals are the only thing they can't control
- Vail stopped using these chemicals on their public land and this helped
- Where they were able to convince an HOA to do the same that helped also
- Tried educating the entire town
- Many rated for use near water, not in water, the label is the law

- Pine beetle spraying caused lots of issues, now using much more targeted methods on public lands. Rates of spraying went from about 30% to 50% during the pine beetle issue, but these rates haven't declined. Many foliar pesticides are directed to be "applied to saturation".
- Everything we've proposed has a blanket exception for agriculture.
- Have found landscaping chemicals in water, like "Weed n Feed".

Questions

- Would like information showing what's actually in the water?
- How is law currently enforced? Call DOA, but they generally don't come. Enforcement is difficult on Western Slope. Evidence often gone by the time they do get there, if they do.
- Has there been an effort to educate people? Yes, free annual seminar for landscapers on Integrated Pest Management. Difficult to reach all landscapers. Also, have a weekly speaker series.
- How would a pollinator district work? Dream to have 100 foot buffer zone along creek.