



Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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WINTER 2023

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President's Report – by Joel Felix

The 76th meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science will be February 27 to March 2, 2023. The annual WSWS meeting will jointly be held with the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS). The Boise Centre West in downtown Boise, Idaho is an excellent venue for this 2nd in-person meeting post-pandemic! It is modern, spacious and within walking distance of various restaurants, recreation, and other entertainment activities in downtown Boise. The weather forecast during the meeting time is lower to mid-50°F's during daytime with clear skies and occasional showers!

The WSWS President-Elect and Program Chair, Curtis Rainbolt, and the Program Committee have been hard at work to develop an exciting meeting program. The joint WSWS/WAPMS meeting will have a packed schedule with breakout sessions as usual. I want to highlight some events in the program, which will include; the WSWS Board of Directors meeting on Monday, February 27 from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. The meeting will kick off with a Member Welcome and Retiree Reception on Monday, February 27 from 6:00-9:00PM in Room 100A. The General Session on Tuesday, February 28 from 9:00AM-12 Noon in Room 100B. On Tuesday afternoon, there will be a Special Symposium centered around "*Water in the West: Implications for Weed Management.*" The joint WSWS/WAPMS Awards Luncheon will be on Wednesday, March 1 at 11:30AM-1:30PM in Room 100B. The WSWS Business Meeting including Committee Reports and Students/Member Awards will take place on Thursday, March 2 from 6:30AM-9:15AM. More information can be found in the President-Elect, Program Chair article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Important Meeting Session. The WSWS New Officer Orientation presented by the WSWS Business Manager, Eric Gustafson, will be on Wednesday, March 1, from 9:00AM - 9:30AM in the Room 120B. New officers including Committee Chairs will learn more about their duties and responsibilities and are encouraged to attend without missing. Even if you are not a new officer, I encourage you to attend to learn more about how WSWS actually works.

The WSWS Board of Directors wrap-up meeting will begin at 12:00 PM on Thursday, March 2, 2023. Both out-going and incoming WSWS Officers and Committee Chairs are requested to attend. The Board of Directors meeting is open to all WSWS members.

Sidebar highlights:

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Officers & Executive Committees](#)
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- [Calendar of Events](#)

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WSWS Annual Meeting February 27- March 2, 2023, Boise, Idaho

President's Report – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The 2023 joint WSWs/WAPMS meeting promises to be an educational event covering research result presentations on many subjects of interest to the western region and the nation.

Silent Auction Donations. Please consider participating in the silent auction by donating items and/or purchasing donated items. Funds generated from the silent auction help to fund the Elena Sanchez Memorial Student scholarships. The Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWs Outstanding Student Scholarship Program is a unique opportunity offered through the Western Society of Weed Science. Students selected through a competitive application to receive scholarships are provided with funding to participate at the annual meeting to present their research findings.

Please remember the Meeting Registration will remain open online or onsite through the meeting duration. Meeting registration information can be found on the [WSWS website: Annual Meeting Registration](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact [Curtis Rainbolt](#), [George Newberry](#), [Eric Gustafson](#), or [Joel Felix](#) regarding issues or questions related to WSWs. Members of the WSWs Board of Directors or WSWs Committee Chairs can also respond to any questions that you might have. See you soon!

Joel Felix, WSWs President

RECENTLY RETIRED? PLANNING to RETIRE?

The Western Society of Weed Science honors our members as they retire. If you, or someone you know, has recently retired or is planning to retire, please let me know so we can recognize them at the WSWs meeting in Boise. It will be my honor as Immediate Past President to recognize their contributions to WSWs.

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Student Liaison Report – Grace Flusche Ogden

Hello WSWs students,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful holiday break. At the time of this report, we are 45 days away from the annual meeting. The annual meeting is set to commence with a 6pm reception on February 27th and end around noon on March 2nd. I'd like to remind you of a few deadlines and encourage you to consider enriching your student experience by volunteering within our society. Get your calendar ready!

The hotel reservation deadline is February 3rd. Abstracts are due February 6th, with presentation slides due on February 13th. As for events during the meeting- the student luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 28th from 12-1pm with the student reception following that evening from 5-6:30pm. Student Night Out is slated for March 1st starting at 6:30pm. Please sign up for Student Night Out when you register so you can be grouped with other students and weed science professionals for a night of conversation and fun!

Additionally, when you register you may notice you have the option to indicate if you are interested in serving on WSWs committees or WSSA committees on behalf of WSWs. These are both great opportunities to grow as a weed science professional, make connections within our community, and gain insight on the interworking's of the society. If that sounds enticing to you, I'd also suggest considering running for WSWs Student Liaison- it does require more work than a committee, but it's an excellent way to get involved as a young professional and it's pretty rewarding. Elections for student liaison will be held during the student luncheon. We are fortunate to have a community that makes a concerted effort to allow students to partake in society leadership roles and I hope you all take advantage of these opportunities if your obligations allow for it.

Lastly, please bring a prize for the WSWs Student Silent Auction to the annual meeting! Prizes in the past have included mugs, weed science related textbooks, drones, briefcases, weed science apparel, framed photography, chocolate covered potato chips (my FAVORITE- thanks Greg Dahl!) and much more. We appreciate any contribution. This silent auction is essential to continuation of our Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship. This year the Elena Sanchez Scholarship is funding travel for three excellent students to attend the annual meeting. Cost of attendance is a barrier for many students with interest in attending society meetings. This scholarship is just one way we can provide an opportunity for students from all backgrounds to attend a society meeting, share their research, and build their professional skillset.

It has been a pleasure serving as your student liaison, WSWs. I look forward to Aaron Becarra-Alvarez taking over the role of student liaison in March and seeing our student community thrive in the years to come.

Grace Flusche Ogden, Student Chair
gflusche@okstate.edu

Aaron Becerra-Alvarez, Student Chair (elect)
abecerraalvarez@ucdavis.edu

Program Highlights for the 2023 Joint Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science and Western Aquatic Plant Management Society

Curtis Rainbolt – WSWs Program Chair

The committee has been busy preparing the program for the upcoming joint WSWs-WAPMS meeting in Boise, Idaho. I want to thank all the WAPMS and WSWs members that have helped with the symposium and the General Session speakers.

If you have not yet registered, please do so that we can more accurately plan for meals and breaks. The deadline for the preferred rate at The Grove Hotel and Hotel 43 is February 3, 2023.

We have a total of 140 title submissions (92 oral presentations and 48 posters) with more pending from WAPMS. Program highlights include a Tuesday afternoon symposium on “Water in the West: Implications for Weed Management” and the joint WSWs-WAPMS Awards Luncheon.

The meetings will be held in the Boise Centre West (located just around the corner from the Grove Hotel), and we will begin the week with a joint WSWs-WAPMS Member and Retirees Welcome Reception on Monday, Feb 27 at 6:00 pm in room 100A. The WSWs Board of Directors will also meet on Monday from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Tuesday, Feb 28 will kick off with the poster session at 7:15 AM with authors of odd numbered posters present. The joint WSWs-WAPMS General Session will follow on Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. After the General Session, we will break for lunch and then reconvene with a packed schedule of breakout sessions for the different Projects. The Student Reception will take place on Tuesday from 5:15 to 6:30 pm. On Wednesday, we start again with posters (authors for even numbered papers will present). Again, a full schedule of breakout sessions will fill the morning until the joint WSWs-WAPMS Awards Luncheon at 11:30 am. Additionally, Wednesday afternoon will feature What’s New from Industry at 5:00 pm. Finally, the popular Student Night Out will start at 6:30. Look for the call for student night out sponsors from the WSWs student representative in this newsletter. Thursday will start with the WSWs Business Breakfast from 6:30 to 9:30 am. Breakout sections will continue until noon. The WSWs Board of Directors wrap-up meeting will begin at 12:00 pm.

Other important dates to remember: Abstract Submission Deadline is Monday, February 6 and the Slide Presentation Upload Deadline is Monday, February 13.

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Publications

WSWS ONLINE

EDUCATION

WSSA Journals Website

Online

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting
Jan. 23 - 26, 2023
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
www.swss.ws

Weed Science Society of America and Northeastern Weed Science Society Joint Annual Meeting
Jan. 30 – Feb. 2, 2023
Arlington, Virginia
www.wssa.net
www.newss.org

Western Society of Weed Science and Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Joint Annual Meeting
Feb. 27 – Mar. 2, 2023
Boise, Idaho
www.wsweedsociety.org
www.wapms.org

Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting
Jul. 24 - 27, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana
www.apms.org

Canadian Weed Science Society Annual Meeting
Nov. 19 - 23, 2023
Winnipeg, Manitoba
www.weedscience.ca

North Central Weed Science Society Annual Meeting
Dec. 11 – 14, 2023
Minneapolis, Minnesota
www.ncwss.org

Local Arrangements Report – George Newberry

The local arrangement committee would like to remind everyone it is time to register and make hotel reservations for the 2023 joint Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) and Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) meeting to be conducted in downtown Boise, Idaho on February 27 through March 2, 2023. We have a block of rooms at the Grove Hotel at 245 S Capitol Blvd, Boise, ID 83702. The hotel can be contacted at (208) 333-8000 or www.grovehotelboise.com. The WSWS meeting registration website has links to the hotel. There is also a small block of rooms available to us at the Hotel 43 located very near the Boise Centre West and the Grove Hotel. Remember the registration deadline is Feb. 3, 2023.

The committee is excited to invite you, as Boise is a vibrant growing community with many amenities to offer. There are multiple restaurants and breweries located with walking distance of the meeting facility that can be found on [Dine | Downtown Boise, ID](#). Multiple recreations opportunities are located nearby. The Boise Greenbelt walking and biking trail system is located four blocks from the hotel and depending on snow levels, the Ridge to River trail system in the foothills has an extensive trail system with 190 miles of trails suitable for hiking and biking. Bring your skis (or board) because Bogus Basin is having a great snow year. Located 16 miles from Boise, Bogus offers both day and night Nordic or alpine skiing.

Transportation:

- Flying: Domestic travel to Boise Airport (BOI) is easy with direct connections to most major hubs flying on Alaska, American, Delta, Southwest and others. The Grove hotel has a complimentary shuttle to the airport and taxis and Ubers are available. Car rentals are available from most major rental agencies.
- Driving and Parking: If you choose to drive to Boise, the Boise Centre West and Grove Hotel are a quick trip down Vista Ave to Capitol Boulevard, which goes directly past the Grove Hotel. Take I-84 to the Airport exit and turn away from the airport and head down Vista. Vista turns into Capitol (with a great view of downtown). Head down Capitol past Boise State University until you see the Grove hotel on the right. The Grove Hotel has attached parking, but if you are driving a pickup don't park there as it is very small and hard to maneuver. Diamond parking services offers many sites downtown that can fit large trucks.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Boise! See you then!

12th Annual Western Invasive Weed Short Course



The 12th Annual Western Invasive Weed Short Course will be held April 17-20, 2023 at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, Colorado.

Registration (\$850.00 by April 4, 2023; \$950.00 on April 5, 2023) includes educational program and daily refreshment breaks. Three lunches and three dinners are also included in the registration. Visit http://www.mountainwestpest.com/Past_Courses.php to learn more.

The continued partnership with the **Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch** allows us to provide some unique training opportunities. One of the truly unique features of the Short Course is the ability to have a long-term restoration plot. Sylvan Dale has worked with us to establish a fenced site where we have been able to demonstrate weed management combined with native grass establishment. A twilight weed walk on the first night is a great way to see the ranch and start learning some weeds.



The WIWSC is an intensive study of current technologies and best management practices associated with noxious and invasive weeds in the western United States. Participants gain up-to-date knowledge specific to invasive weed management with interactive sessions.

The WIWSC will include sessions on:

- Weed Management
- Live weeds
- Herbicides
- Weed Identification
- Other topics to be identified by the participants
- Time for individual interaction with instructors

Our target participants are local, state, federal government, and other land managers throughout the western region desiring a better understanding of weed management. WIWSC is designed to benefit both those new to invasive plant management and experienced professionals seeking a comprehensive update in western invasive weeds and their management.

The WIWSC instructors are members of the **Western Society of Weed Science**.

Please contact Sandra McDonald, WIWSC Coordinator, for additional information at 970-266-9573 or Sandra@MountainWestPest.com.



WASHINGTON REPORT

January 10, 2023

Lee Van Wychen

Weed Science Congressional Visits

Weed Science Society Presidents and Science Policy Fellows conducted 15 Congressional meetings on weed science issues during the week of November 15, 2022 in Washington DC. They also met with the American Soybean Association, CropLife America and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss issues surrounding Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).



Three Presidents and Two Fellows. Weed Science Society Presidents and WSSA Science Policy Fellows stop for a picture in front of the U.S. Capitol while going between meetings in the House and Senate Office Buildings on November 15, 2022. *From left to right: Navdeep Godara, Virginia Tech, WSSA Science Policy Fellow; Stanley Culpepper, University of Georgia, WSSA President; Darrin Dodds, Mississippi State University, SWSS President; David Simpson, Corteva, NCWSS President; and Taylor Randell-Singleton, University of Georgia, WSSA Science Policy Fellow.*

The top three issues we focused on during our Congressional visits included:

- Supporting USDA NIFA IR-4 Project funding at \$15 million in FY 2023. There is a phenomenal need for specialty crop protection products to help feed the world. The IR-4 Project provides an incredible return on investment as it contributes \$9.9 billion to the annual U.S. GDP and supports more than 123,260 jobs. *(Congress did support IR-4 at \$15 million for FY 2023 in their final Omnibus appropriations bill).*

- Supporting the USDA NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program at \$22 million in FY 2023. This highly effective applied grant program tackles real world weed, insect, and disease problems with applied solutions through the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM), while supporting the Regional IPM Centers and extension IPM funding. *(Congress did provide \$21 million to CPPM in their final FY 2023 Omnibus appropriations bill, CPPM's first increase since FY 2017).*
- Amend the Plant Protection Act in the 2023 Farm Bill so that the definition of a "Plant Pest" includes "noxious weeds", not just "parasitic plants" (7 USC 104, S.7702 (14)). USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) only spends a small percentage of their nearly \$400 million plant protection budget on noxious weeds. One reason is because the definition of "plant pest" only legally includes "parasitic plants". There are 111 Federal Noxious weeds, plus hundreds more prohibited and invasive weeds on state lists. However, there are only five genera of parasitic plants on the Federal Noxious weed list.



Meeting with the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee Chairman, Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) on November 16, 2022 in Washington DC. Pictured (L to R): Taylor Randell-Singleton (UGA) and Navdeep Godara (VA Tech), WSSA Science Policy Fellows; Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA), David Simpson (Corteva), NCWSS President; Stanley Culpepper (UGA), WSSA President, Darrin Dodds (MS State), SWSS President, and Lee Van Wychen (WSSA) Executive Director of Science Policy.

FY 2023 Appropriations Final

The House and Senate passed a FY 2023 Omnibus spending bill just before they left town for the holidays. The government had been running on a continuing resolution (CR) at FY 2022 levels since October 1.

The table below includes the Omnibus Appropriations for FY 2023, as well as the final appropriations for FY 2021 and FY 2022 for various Federal programs important to weed and invasive plant research. The far-right column is the percentage increase compared to FY 2022.

	Final FY 2021	Final FY 2022	Final FY 2023	Percent Increase
	-----\$ millions-----			
USDA-ARS	\$1,492	\$1,633	\$1,744	6.8%
USDA-NIFA	\$1,570	\$1,637	\$1,701	3.9%
-AFRI Competitive Grants	\$435	\$445	\$455	2.2%
-Hatch Act (Exp. stations)	\$259	\$260	\$265	1.9%
-Smith Lever (Extension)	\$315	\$320	\$325	1.6%
-IR-4 Program	\$11.9	\$14.5	\$15	3.4%
-Crop Protection and Pest Management	\$20	\$20	\$21	5.0%
-SARE: Sustainable Ag Research & Educ.	\$40	\$45	\$50	11.1%
Army Corps- Aquatic Plant Control Research	\$7	\$8	\$8	0%
-CT River hydrilla control and research	n/a	n/a	\$6	∞%
EPA - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	\$330	\$348	\$368	5.7%

We are very excited that the House and Senate approved \$6 million for a hydrilla research and control program for the Connecticut River Basin to deal with a new strain of hydrilla that has the high potential to spread to the Great Lakes. Other noteworthy parts of the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations include:

- A \$9.9 billion, or **12 percent increase**, for the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**. This is largest dollar increase for NSF of all time and the largest percentage increase for NSF in more than two decades. NSF’s funding level will support approximately 2,300 additional research and education grants and 35,000 more scientists, technicians, teachers, and students, compared to fiscal year 2022.
- The EPA’s **Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)** was funded at **\$140 million** for FY 2023. While this is not as high as we had asked for (\$163 million), this is still the highest funding for EPA OPP since 2010 and an **8.6 percent increase** over FY 2022.
- Finally, the **5th reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA 5)** was included in the FY 2023 Omnibus bill, beginning on page 3,980. The National and Regional

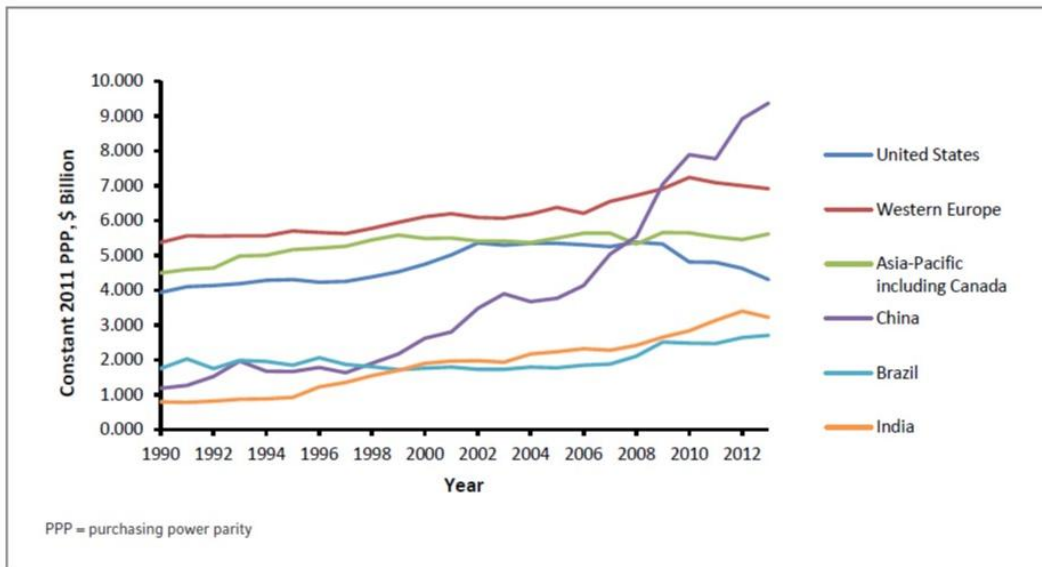
Weed Science Societies joined many other organizations in a [letter to House and Senate Ag Committee leaders urging them](#) to complete the reauthorization before it expired in 2023. First established in 2004, PRIA put in place pesticide registration service fees paid by registrants in exchange for specific time periods for EPA to make a regulatory decision on pesticide registrations and tolerance actions. The goal of PRIA is to create a more predictable and effective evaluation system that promotes shorter decision review periods for reduced-risk pesticides. Link to: [PRIA overview and history](#).

Funding for DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law No: 117-58) created the “**Invasive Plant Elimination Program (IPEP)**” in the Department of Transportation (DOT) for managing weeds along rights-of-way and transportation corridors. IPEP is authorized at \$50 million per year from FY 2022 to FY 2026, but has not been appropriated any funding in the first two years. After some discussions and meetings with DOT appropriations committee staff, we learned that WSSA was one of the first, and only groups asking Congress to support IPEP. In addition, we’ve heard that some state DOT’s have not been as supportive of IPEP because the grant program would require them to do extra work. Finally, since IPEP is a “brand new” program, a \$50 million per year start might be too big for Congress to get behind. Thus, we are considering an ask of \$5 million for FY 2024 to get a pilot program started at DOT. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts or ideas on how to get IPEP started.

Farm Bill Hearing Spotlights Shrinking Funding for Ag Research

The Senate Ag Committee held a [hearing on ag research programs in the Farm Bill](#) on December 6, 2022. The current Farm Bill expires on September 30, 2023. The hearing highlighted the issue of shrinking public funding for ag research that has declined by a third in the past 20 years, while **China** has quintupled its investment in public agricultural research since 2000 and now **invests twice as much as the US**.

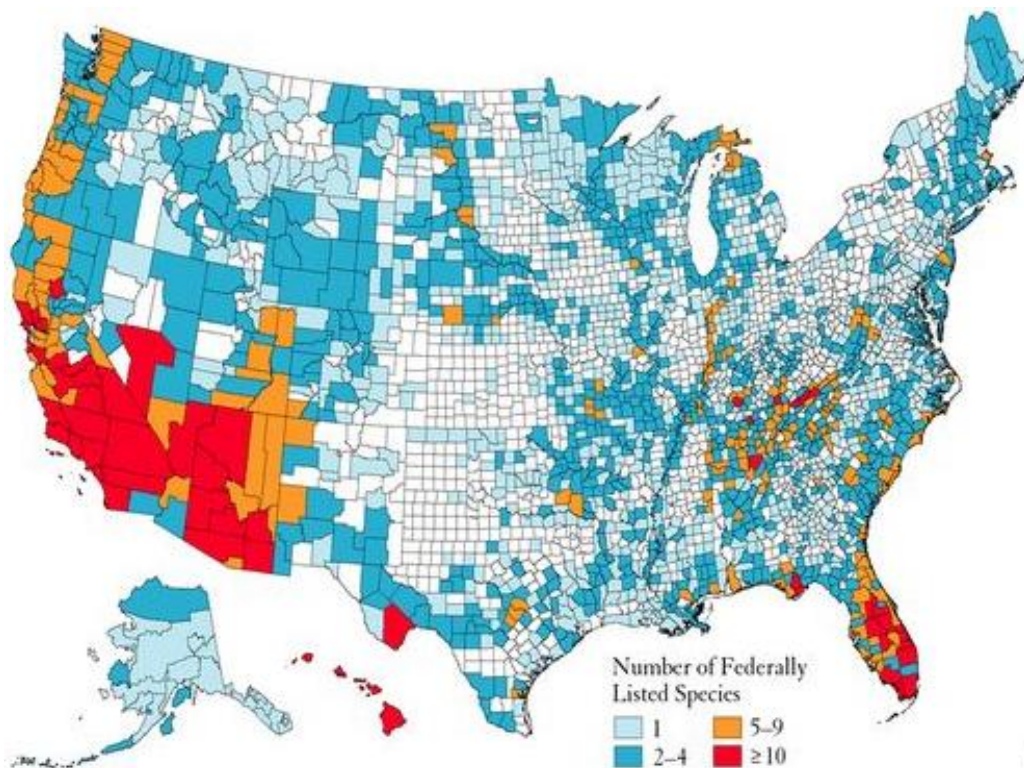


Trends in public funding for Agriculture R&D in selected countries (adapted from Clancy, Fugile & Heisey, 2016).

In addition, Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture for Research, Education and Economics, said that researchers who work in land-grant universities or in USDA agencies often work in buildings and labs in serious need of upgrades. The USDA-ARS's buildings are **47 years old** on average. Yet, according to USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS), research and development in agriculture **yields about \$20 for every dollar of public investment**. While research is generally a bipartisan issue in Congress, calls to significantly increase investments in agricultural research have largely gone unheard. Although the Inflation Reduction Act, passed earlier this year, included \$40 billion for agriculture and rural development, agricultural research did not see much of a boost from previous years.

FIFRA and Endangered Species Act Compliance

The new WSSA Endangered Species Act (ESA) Committee, chaired by Bill Chism, continues to work on a symposium and workshop at the WSSA annual meeting on January 30, 2023 to determine how weed scientists can provide useful science-based information to regulators for ESA compliance to FIFRA approved herbicides. There are approximately 1,700 endangered species of which approximately 900 are plants, plus another 700 critical habitats. It is anticipated that glyphosate and other herbicides will impact almost all of those.



Endangered Species by County. Source: Precious Heritage: The Status of Biodiversity in the United States.

On November 16, the EPA released an [Updated ESA Workplan](#) that provides more details about how EPA plans to impose various mitigation measures that will be required on pesticide labels to meet its ESA obligations when registering a pesticide. There are concerns about some of the mitigation options such as “buffers to reduce pesticide drift and water runoff” or “do not use when rain is expected in the next 48 hours” -- which raises other issues such as what or how compliance might be proven or enforced.

EPA has previously stated that by using the current ESA compliance approaches, they could only theoretically complete about 5 percent of the ESA required reviews in about 18 years. This means that it **would take EPA about 360 years** to complete its ESA compliance review for all pesticides, which is clearly not acceptable.

The Updated EPA Workplan released in November describes mitigation strategies that are “reasonable and prudent alternatives” (RPAs) for ESA compliance to help streamline the process and reduce the unacceptable timeframe of 360 years. However, these updated strategies might lead to fears among some stakeholders that in a “rush” to complete this work, EPA will make overly conservative label restrictions and reduce availability of the pesticide without adequate and legally defensible ESA protections.

The ESA Workplan Update also describes initiatives that, according to EPA, will help it and other federal agencies improve approaches to mitigation under the ESA and improve the interagency consultation process outlined in the ESA Workplan. These initiatives include EPA’s work to [identify ESA mitigation measures for pilot species](#), incorporate early ESA mitigation measures for groups of pesticides (*e.g.*, broadleaf herbicides), and develop region-specific ESA mitigations.

Comments on the proposed set of interim mitigation measures and the proposed revisions to label language are now due on **February 14, 2023 after EPA granted a 15 day extension. This will allow us to summarize the results of the ESA symposium and workshop being held on Jan. 31 at the WSSA and NEWSS joint annual meeting.** Please submit comments at [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0908](#).

WRDA 2022 Signed Into Law as Part of National Defense Bill

The Senate passed the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by a vote of 83-11 in early December, well after the House passed their version of WRDA last summer. The WRDA bill conference agreement was attached to the massive \$858 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for a ride to the President’s desk where he signed it into law on December 23, 2022, despite his opposition to a military non-vaccination clause in NDAA.

WRDA has been reauthorized by Congress every two years since 2014 to fund projects and research carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Overall, WRDA will authorize more than \$37 billion in funds for inland waterways projects. The 2022 WRDA language is included under “Division H – Water Resources” in the much larger NDAA law (P.L. No. 117-263).

Under Section 8305, Invasive Species, the following aquatic invasive species provisions were added with WRDA 2022 (highlighted in yellow):

- Amends 33 USC 2263a: Aquatic invasive species research by **adding hydrilla** to the list of priority species: *“In general- As part of the ongoing activities of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to address the spread and impacts of aquatic invasive species, ACOE shall undertake research on the prevention, management, and eradication of aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, elodea, **hydrilla**, quagga mussels, and zebra mussels.”*
- Increases from \$50 million to **\$75 million per year through FY 2028** for ACOE invasive species partnerships with states and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate invasive species that adversely impact water quantity, water quality, **or ecosystems** in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, **the Lake Erie Basin, the Ohio River Basin** and the Upper Missouri River Basin. Priority shall be given to projects that are intended to control or eradicate **Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)**, **hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)** or **saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*)**.
- The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program adds 8 new focus areas to the original 6 focus areas. The **HAB demonstration program is authorized for \$25 million** total until expended by ACOE to determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate HABs associated with water resources development projects. The HAB demonstration program focus areas now include:
 - (1) the Great Lakes;
 - (2) the tidal and inland waters of the State of New Jersey, including Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey;
 - (3) the coastal and tidal waters of the State of Louisiana;
 - (4) the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California;
 - (5) the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed, New York;
 - (6) Lake Okeechobee, Florida;
 - (7) the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers, Florida;**
 - (8) Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia;**
 - (9) Rio Grande River Basin, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas;**
 - (10) lakes and reservoirs in the State of Ohio;**
 - (11) the Upper Mississippi River and tributaries;**
 - (12) Detroit Lake, Oregon;**
 - (13) Ten Mile Lake, Oregon; and**
 - (14) the coastal waters of the United States Virgin Islands.**
- Adds the **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California** to federally authorized water resources development projects. Specifically, ACOE shall periodically update the Invasive Species Policy Guidance, developed under section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) and the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and

Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), in accordance with the most recent National Invasive Species Council Management Plan developed pursuant to Executive Order 13112 to include specific efforts at federally authorized water resources development projects located in:

- (1) high-altitude lakes;
- (2) the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins; and
- (3) **the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California.**

EPA Approves Stronger Plans for Certification of Pesticide Applicators

The EPA has approved 13 state and federal agency certification plans that comply with the improved federal standards to enhance worker safety under the **2017 Certification of Pesticide Applicators (CPA) rule**.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires authorities to have an EPA-approved plan to certify applicators of **restricted use pesticides (RUPs)**. To date, of the nation's **68 certification programs**, EPA has reviewed all proposed modified plans and has approved **8 plans from states and territories** and **5 from federal agencies**, of which all are now starting to be implemented.

In 2017, EPA updated the CPA regulations, setting stronger standards for people who apply RUPs. Some of the Improvements included:

- Enhancing applicator competency standards to ensure RUPs are used safely
- Establishing a nationwide minimum age for certified applicators and persons working under their direct supervision
- Protection for noncertified applicators by requiring training before they can use RUPs (under the direct supervision of a certified applicator).

The following approved **state and territory** certification plans meet or exceed the standards mandated in the 2017 CPA rule:

- Alaska
- California
- Nebraska
- New York
- Oregon
- Puerto Rico
- Vermont
- U.S. Virgin Islands

In addition, the following **federal agency** certification plans meet or exceed the standards mandated in the 2017 CPA rule:

- USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)
- USDA Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE); Bonneville Power Administration
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

State, territory and tribal authorities with existing plans can continue using those plans until **November 4, 2023**, consistent with EPA's recently issued extension (**87 FR 50953, August 19, 2022**). EPA is working closely with authorities to address challenges in revising their plans and will continue to approve plans on a rolling basis. After November 4, 2023, only authorities with EPA-approved modified certification plans can continue to certify applicators of RUPs.

NISAW: February 20-26, 2023

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), <https://www.nisaw.org/> will be digital again in 2023 (although a few groups may fly-in to DC to advocate on Capitol Hill). The WSSA is a Partner Sponsor of NISAW, which is its 24th year of supporting NISAW since its inception. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would just like to get involved with NISAW planning, please let me know. Lee.VanWychen@wssa.net

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY WITH UPL

Technical Service Manager

Reporting directly to the Technical Service Lead, the Technical Service Manager (TS) is responsible for the technical sales support for all Ag division products within the assigned territory. This person will work closely with the sales team and will have a dotted line report to the Regional Sales Manager (RSM) within the territory. In addition to supporting sales, the TS will work with key influencers (researchers, consultants, university contacts, growers, distribution technical staff) to set up research and demonstration trials to identify new opportunities and improve product performance. The TS should be aligned with UPL sales and marketing goals to position the product portfolio for a successful launch of new products. This person should also steward the products in their region for sustainability of the portfolio as well as customer satisfaction.

For further information: <https://careers.upl-ltd.com/job/Fargo-Technical-Service-Manager-Sout/778428710/>

Publications Available from the WSWS

The following books or DVDs can be purchased from the WSWS:

Aquatic and Riparian Weeds of the West
Weeds of California and Other Western States
Interactive Encyclopedia of North American Weeds DVD
Weed Bingo

All publications can be ordered online at

<https://wsweedscience.org/store/#!form/Store>. Contact the Business Manager (Eric Gustafson) at (303) 327-8016 for bulk order prices.

WSWS Objectives

- ❖ To foster and encourage education and research in weed science.
- ❖ To foster cooperation among state, federal and private agencies in matters of weed science.
- ❖ To aid and support commercial, private and public agencies in the solution of weed problems.
- ❖ To support legislation governing weed control programs and weed research and education programs.
- ❖ To support the Weed Science Society of America and foster state and regional organizations and agencies interested in weed control.

Western Society of Weed Science
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