



# Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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## FALL 2024

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
- Student Liaison Report
- Seattle Meeting Update
- 2024 Proceedings Update
- Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund Awarded
- National Invasive Species Council Prioritizes Bio-Control
- Local Arrangements Committee Report
- Elena Sanchez Memorial Student Scholarship Awarded
- Student Paper and Poster Contest Information
- Request for Fellows and Honorary Member Nominations
- Call for Distinguished Achievement Awards
- Washington Report
- Membership Renewal Form
- Publication Available

### Sidebar highlights:

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



## President's Report

The annual Western Society of Weed Science meeting is one I have always enjoyed. We have opportunities to visit with our colleagues and make new connections. You may remember the anthropologist who spoke at our general session last year, Susan Ryan. She invited me to visit and my wife, Rose, and I went to Cortez, Colorado to see the work Susan is involved in. What a wonderful experience and a great host. We went to a current archaeological dig at a site that included three periods from AD 750 to AD 1300, Pueblo I, II and III, all within a couple of acres. Fascinating to see how these people lived and the agricultural production of their time. (See photos on next page)

Erik Lehnhoff is our member at large, public sector. He is routing a survey to people in county, state, and federal agencies who manage public lands to determine if and how our professional society can better partner and involve them within WWS. There have been significant changes to the ability of people in these agencies to participate at WWS and there have been significant changes to how we may be able to maintain partnerships and membership. Last year I introduced WWS to the Western Weed Coordinating Committee. This winter I will present on how our topic areas match with goals listed within their Action Plan. In addition, the WWCC would like our Invasive Species Task Force to provide comments on an update to their Action Plan. The ability to continue these conversations with WWCC is through leadership by Dan Tekiala, US Forest Service.

Our Awards Committee has been active, evaluating submissions to the Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship. Please see our Awards Committee chair, Drew Lyon's announcement of winners within this newsletter. Also, with respect to our Awards Committee, let's keep a one-year perfect record of awardees going and nominate our colleagues for awards in our society. Drew lists award categories and dates in this newsletter.

Another strength of the WWS is the opportunity to exchange ideas. Consider sharing your research by contributing a paper or poster. The Call for Papers and title submissions are announced and for details see Carl Coburn's announcement, the deadline for title submission is December 1, 2024.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**WWS Annual Meeting March 10 – 13, 2025, Seattle, Washington**

## President's Report – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have a slate of WSWs officers to elect (President - Elect, Research Section Chair - Elect, Education and Regulatory Chair – Elect, and Secretary), our Nomination Committee, with Caleb Dalley as chair, has excellent candidates for the positions. Please login to the Members-Only section of the WSWs website and vote.

If you want to, please do not hesitate to contact me, Tim Prather, our program chair and President-Elect Carl Coburn, Eric Gustafson, any WSWs Board of Directors members, or WSWs Committee Chairs if you have questions related to the 2025 WSWs meeting in Seattle. I hope to see you there!



Susan Ryan



Historic corn variety



Likely a Kiva, if older than a pit house



Pueblo I turkey pen

## Student Liaison Report – Kenzie Barth

Hello all! Fall is here and so are cooler temperatures for many. It's also a time to compile and analyze data for our research, and we can't wait to hear about it at the annual meeting in Seattle this spring!

We are starting to look for donations for the silent auction at the annual meeting to support student scholarships, so if you have anything to give please reach out! The silent auction benefits the students of WSWs and supports the future of the society and we greatly appreciate your help. We continue to thank members who donate items every year, and look forward to new donations!

During the annual meeting, a new Student Liaison Chair-elect will be selected. If you're interested, please reach out to me or Wes with questions. Interested students can be nominated or self-nominate during the student business meeting at the annual meeting. This is a two-year position, with the first year being a non-voting board member position, and the second year a voting member of the board. In the first year, you learn the ropes and get to know the board, and the second year involves taking on the main role of representing students on the board. Wes and I are happy to answer any questions, so please reach out.

I'm excited to see y'all soon in Seattle!

Kenzie Barth, Student Chair  
[mbarth3@uwyo.edu](mailto:mbarth3@uwyo.edu)

Weston Maughan, Student Chair (elect)  
[peter.maughan@wsu.edu](mailto:peter.maughan@wsu.edu)

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Awards, Site Selection

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Student Paper Judging, Local  
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Legislative

# Annual Meeting Update

## CAST Representative

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## Education & Regulatory Section Chair

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University of Idaho  
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Public Relations

## Education & Regulatory Section Chair-Elect

Lovreet Shergill  
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lovreet.shergill@montana.edu

The Western Society of Weed Science is welcoming title submissions for the 2025 meeting in Seattle, WA. The online title submission process opened on October 23, 2024, and closes December 1, 2024. Abstracts are due February 15, 2025. The title submission site is available through a link on the “Annual Meeting” page [Annual Meeting 2025 – Western Society of Weed Science \(wsweedscience.org\)](https://www.wsweedscience.org) or at: <https://vmx.m-anage.com/home/US/wsws2025/en-US>. **NEW FOR THIS YEAR** There is a new title submission program that will look a little different than prior years, please reference the Call for Papers announcement and read below for important details on the submission process. I encourage you to submit your titles early and NOT wait until the last minute to avoid potential challenges.

Meeting registration and hotel reservation information can be found on the “Annual Meeting 2025” page on the WSSW website. You can save money on meeting registration if you register before 12/1/2024, and the hotel reservation deadline is February 15, 2025.

Our general session is shaping up nicely. Dr. Sarah Collier, assistant professor of Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences will give a keynote address titled “Blue Carbon, Green Fields: Mobilizing Marine Algae to Benefit Sea and Soil in the Pacific Northwest”. Please consider nominating deserving colleagues for awards, I know there are several nominations already in the process and we hope to have a full set of awardees for two years in a row! New for this year, there will be a social hour hosted by the WSSW Diversity & Inclusion Committee and all are encouraged to attend. The program committee is excited to offer one symposium organized by Emma Kubinski and Dr. Fabian Menalled titled “**Innovative Approaches for Weed Science Education and Communication**”.

### Details on Title and Abstract Submission

We are using a new title submission program offered from Confex. I hope the below points will assist you in submissions:

- You will receive an email from [noreply@mail.m-anage.com](mailto:noreply@mail.m-anage.com) and signed by the Western Society of Weed Science inviting you to setup an account for title submission at <https://vmx.m-anage.com/home/US/wsws2025/en-US>. ***This is a legitimate email.*** When you setup an account and create a password, the password reset link may go your spam inbox.
- As part of the title/author submission process you are required by the platform to upload a placeholder abstract in a \*.docx format. This can be a blank document or a preliminary draft. Abstracts may be modified until February 15, 2025.

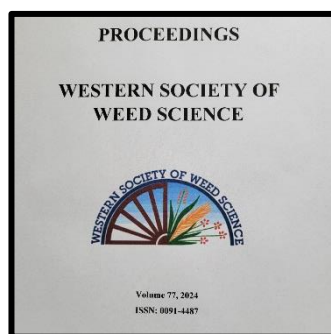
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

- When adding co-authors you will be required to have a valid email address for each of them. Each co-author will be notified when the submission is completed. For some co-authors the correct name for inclusion in the program may not be linked to the co-author's email. If this is the case, please reach out to the co-author, ask them to login to their account on the submission website using their email, and then correct their name and contact information using the "edit" function. Once they have corrected their account you can add them to the title and the correct author name should appear. If the co-author does not correct their information prior to the title submission deadline, use the correct email address even if the name is not listed correctly as a co-author. The correct co-author (email address used) will receive notification of the title submission and can then login, edit their account to show the correct name, and the name will be corrected within the system for all titles linked to that email.

For any technical questions or issues encountered you should email the Confex tech support team directly at the address that appears on the WSWS title submission webpage. [wssa@confex.com](mailto:wssa@confex.com). If you have additional questions or issues with the submission process, please reach out to me at [carl.coburn@bayer.com](mailto:carl.coburn@bayer.com)

Carl Coburn President-Elect/Program Chair

## 2024 Proceedings



The Proceedings from the 2024 Denver, Colorado 77<sup>th</sup> annual Meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science, have been posted to the WSWS website. You can view or download the Proceedings by following this link:

[WSWS 2024 Proceedings](#)

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### Publications

**WSWS ONLINE  
EDUCATION**

**WSSA Journals Website  
Online**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Canadian Weed Science  
Society Annual Meeting**  
November 2024  
Virtual Meeting  
[www.weedscience.ca](http://www.weedscience.ca)

**North Central Weed  
Science Society Annual  
Meeting**  
Dec. 9 – 12, 2024  
Kansas City, Missouri  
[www.ncwss.org](http://www.ncwss.org)

**Northeastern Weed  
Science Society Annual  
Meeting**  
Jan. 8 - 11, 2025  
Annapolis, Maryland  
[www.newss.org](http://www.newss.org)

**Southern Weed Science  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Jan. 20 - 23, 2025  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[www.swss.ws](http://www.swss.ws)

**Weed Science Society of  
America  
and  
Canadian Weed Science  
Society Joint Annual  
Meeting**  
Feb. 24 – 27, 2025  
Vancouver BC, Canada  
[www.wssa.net](http://www.wssa.net)  
[www.weedscience.ca](http://www.weedscience.ca)

**Western Society of Weed  
Science Annual Meeting**  
Mar. 10 – 13, 2025  
Seattle, Washington  
[www.wsweedscience.org](http://www.wsweedscience.org)

**Aquatic Plant Management  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Jul. 14 - 17, 2025  
Providence, Rhode Island  
[www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)

## Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Grant

Dr. Roland Schirman, weed scientist and Columbia County, Washington Extension Agent was very active in WSWS and had attended every meeting of the Society over the past 60 years. Sadly, Roland passed away on March 22, 2024, while attending the WSWS meeting in Denver. His colleagues and friends established the Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund to honor Roland's decades-long commitment and support of the WSWS. The Fund supports the Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Grant that is awarded to one county extension agent or county weed board supervisor to attend the WSWS annual meeting.

We received three strong applications for the grant in this inaugural year. The Awards Committee selected Aaron Esser for the grant this year. Aaron will receive \$1,000 to help fund his attendance at the 2025 WSWS annual meeting in Seattle.

Aaron grew up on a farm in Genesee, Idaho and attended the University of Idaho where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and his Master of Science degree in Plant Science. He has been with WSU Extension for 26 years serving as a Regional Dryland Cropping Specialist. He has spent several years as the Chair of the WSU Wilke Research and Extension Farm near Davenport, Washington. His Extension and outreach program has a strong focus on integrated weed control and herbicide resistance management.

For information about contributing to the Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund, please see the WSWS website (<https://wsweedscience.org/roland-schirman-memorial-travel-fund-2/#!form/2023SilentAuctionDonation>) or contact Drew Lyon, [drew.lyon@wsu.edu](mailto:drew.lyon@wsu.edu), Awards Committee Chair, for more information.



Second National Forum on Biological Control Conference  
April 14-17, 2025, in Annapolis, Maryland

The USDA Forest Service is organizing a National Forum for Biological Control in Natural Areas Conference in partnership with NAISMA and the National Association of State Foresters and will be held April 14-17, 2025, in Annapolis, Maryland at the Graduate Hotel.

The meeting will focus on both weed and arthropod biocontrol and will be a venue for *all* biocontrol practitioners, researchers, and policy makers to come together to address the shared challenges (i.e., communication, capacity, changing landscapes) and opportunities that exist in this area.

The meeting themes are centered around biocontrol research, management, and impacts in natural areas.

For more information, please visit the [NAISMA website](#)

# Local Arrangement Report – Rui Liu

The local arrangement committee is excited to welcome everyone to the 2025 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) meeting from March 10th to March 13th, 2025, in downtown Seattle, Washington.

The venue for the WSWS meeting will be Westin Seattle, located at 1900 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101. For inquiries, please contact them at (206) 728-1000 or visit [Westin Seattle](#). The WSWS annual meeting website also provides links to hotel reservations.

## Transportation:

**Plan to fly to Seattle- Tacoma International Airport.** Domestic arrivals are located on the main terminal's Baggage Claim level (Level 1). International arrivals are located at the South Satellite (S Concourse), connected to the rest of the terminal via an underground tunnel.

**Travel to Downtown Seattle.** Rental Car Facility (RCF, 3150 South 160<sup>th</sup> Street) is in a separate building connected to the Main Terminal by a free shuttle bus ride. The shuttle bus zone is outside the terminal doors at Level 1 of the Main Terminal. The buses run 24/7, and the ride to RCF takes about 5-10 mins. The rideshare pick-up (for Uber/Lyft) area is on Level 3 of the Parking Garage (across from the Main Terminal). Link Light Rail station (the fastest and most affordable way) is on Level 3 of the Main Terminal, near the Parking Garage. There are ticket vending machines at the station, and the light rail runs every 6-15 mins. Choose the trains that head north to Downtown Seattle. Here is a tool website to help plan your travel (<https://www.soundtransit.org/>). You can enter “SeaTac/ Airport Station” at the start and “Westin Hotel” at the end. It takes 12 stops from “SeaTac/Airport” to get to “Westlake” stop, ~40 mins train ride. You can exit onto 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and walk about 5-10 mins to the Westin Seattle hotel (1900 5th Ave). The fare cost ranges from \$2.25 to \$3.5.

## Attractions:

- ❖ Pike Place Market- about 0.5 miles (10-15 mins walk). One of Seattle’s most iconic attractions. You can see the famous fishmongers throwing fish, sample local produce, crafts, and artisanal foods, and enjoy the stunning views of Elliot Bay. The Original Starbucks, Gum Wall, and Seattle Aquarium are all there.
- ❖ Space Needle- about 0.7 miles (15 mins walk, or a 2 min monorail ride on the Seattle Center Monorail from the Westlake station). This iconic observation tower offers panoramic views of Seattle, the Puget Sound, and the surrounding mountains. It has a rotating glass floor and a glass observatory for spectacular views. The Chihuly Garden and Glass, and Museum of Pop Culture are located near Seattle Center.
- ❖ Seattle Art Museum- about 0.4 miles (10 mins walk). It houses diverse global art collections, including works from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the Pacific Northwest. The museum also hosts rotating exhibits and installations.

See you all in March!

Rui Liu

# Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program Announces Award Winners

Once again, we had a strong group of student applications for the Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program. This year's winners are:

- **Andre Lucas Simoes Araujo:** Andre is a PhD student in the Department of Agricultural Biology at Colorado State University, working under the guidance of Dr. Todd Gaines. His main project is investigating auxin resistance in kochia, using molecular biology, bioinformatics, and metabolomics to explore resistance mechanisms. Andre plans to pursue a career in industry, where he can apply his knowledge and experience to develop innovative solutions for growers facing herbicide resistance and evolving weed challenges, ensuring agricultural productivity and sustainability.
- **Luisa Carolina Baccin:** Luisa is a PhD student in the Horticulture Department at Oregon State University, working under the guidance of Dr. Marcelo Moretti. Luisa's research focuses on the development of nonchemical tools for weed management in perennial horticultural crops. She is currently working on the efficacy and crop safety of electrical weed control for highbush blueberries. Luisa's long-term goal is to collaborate with both academic and agricultural communities to implement sustainable weed management strategies that improve weed control and enhance crop production.
- **Het Samir Desai:** Het is a PhD student in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences at Montana State University, working under the guidance of Dr. Lovreet Singh Shergill and Dr. Fabian Menalled. His research focuses on evaluating the eco-evolutionary implications of forthcoming triple-stacked sugarbeet cultivars within Montana's cropping systems, optimizing glufosinate efficacy in regions with low relative humidity and high temperatures, and assessing crop-weed functional trait dynamics that will help in developing integrated weed management programs. Het would like to continue his career in academia but is open to working in herbicide discovery research with industry.

Congratulations to these students! Each winner will receive \$1,000 to help defray the costs of attending the 2025 WSWS annual meeting in Seattle, Washington. In addition to presenting a paper or poster at the annual meeting, each winner will provide approximately 4 hours of assistance with various tasks at the meeting. For more information about this scholarship, please visit: [Elena Sanchez Western Society of Weed Science Outstanding Student Scholarship](#) or contact Drew Lyon, WSWS Awards Chair ([drew.lyon@wsu.edu](mailto:drew.lyon@wsu.edu)) if you have questions.

# Student Paper and Poster Contest Information

Jake Courkamp, Chair

**Committee Members:** Alix Whitener (Past Chair), Judit Barosso, and Tong Zhen (Student Representative)

The WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest provides an excellent opportunity for students to improve their presentation skills and increase visibility within the society. Winners of each division also receive a plaque and cash award to honor their achievement.

- All graduate students are encouraged to enter one paper and/or one poster in the contest.
- Undergraduate students may enter in the poster contest and will be judged in a separate section. All undergraduate students who intend to participate must notify the committee chair.
- If students entering the contest do not wish to be judged (i.e. considered for awards) but would like to receive feedback on their presentations, please notify the committee chair.
- Contest rules and scoring criteria can be found on the Student Resources page.

## Invitation to Serve as a Judge

Our committee seeks non-student volunteers to participate as judges for the paper and poster competition. Volunteer judges are critical to the function and success of the student contest! Serving as a judge is an opportunity to invest in new and upcoming scientists in our society. Constructive feedback from judges provides students an opportunity to improve their presentation skills and excel in their professional career.

*If you are interested in volunteering, please email the committee chair ([jacob.courkamp@colostate.edu](mailto:jacob.courkamp@colostate.edu)). Your help is greatly appreciated; thank you to those who have served as judges in the past, and thank you for considering becoming a judge at the 2025 meeting!*

## Attention to Advisors and Students

The WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest committee will be enforcing the below policies. The committee is focused on making the contest a fair and enjoyable experience for all students.

- Information presented in the WSWS Student Paper and Poster Contest must be original and unique. If a topic has been used by the author in another presentation at a different weed science society meeting, additional data must be included to constitute a unique presentation.
- Oral and poster presentations entered for competition by the same person should be substantively different from each other (for example, not just changing the title or simply adding more data to the poster). There should be no overlap between the data presented in the poster and oral format by the author (if entered in a competition).
- Students attending institutions in states that are not WSWS members may participate in the student contest and are eligible for awards.
- All students entering the contest are required to submit an abstract not to exceed 250 words (word count in Microsoft Word). All abstracts exceeding 250 words will be docked points accordingly.

Current scoring criteria and rules for the paper and poster contest can be found on the Student Resources page of the WSWS website. For detailed procedures of the student contest please refer to the Student Paper Judging Committee section of the Operating Procedures Guide, which can be found [here](#).

Please contact the committee chair if there are additional questions.

Jake Courkamp, Student Paper and Poster Judging Committee Chair  
email: [jacob.courkamp@colostate.edu](mailto:jacob.courkamp@colostate.edu)



**REQUEST FOR WSWs FELLOW AND HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS**  
**Please take this opportunity to nominate deserving colleagues as a WSWs Fellow or Honorary Member!**

**WSWS FELLOW**

**WSWS Guidelines for Nominating Fellows:**

**Fellows of the society are members who have given meritorious service to the Western Society of Weed Science.**

The nominator must contact the member to be nominated and request them to prepare a concise [2-3 page] resume.

- a. The nominee must be involved in the process. The most pertinent information about the nominee can only be obtained from the nominee.
- b. The nominee's resume should be based on the WSWs guidelines as currently posted on the WSWs website.
- c. Information from the resume will be used by the nominator in writing the letter of nomination.
- d. The nominator is also responsible for soliciting two letters of support for the nominee. The letters should be sent to the nominator and included in the nomination package sent to the committee.
- e. The nomination package should include the nominee's vita, the nominator's letter of nomination, and two support letters.

**SERVICE TO WSWs – Please address the following points in the resume:**

1. Honors, awards and recognitions by professional societies and private institutions.
2. Positions held in professional societies, companies, or institutions.
3. A brief summary of presentations and published books, book chapters, research, extension, and technical publications.
4. Academic and Industry Weed Science Endeavors in research, development, teaching, educational and extension contributions.
5. Other Meritorious Weed Science Service.

**WSWS HONORARY MEMBER**

**WSWS Guidelines for Nominating Honorary Members:**

**Honorary members are selected from individuals whose activities have been largely from outside the Western Society of Weed Science, but who have significantly contributed to the field of weed science.**

The nominator will send a complete single pdf file nomination package to the WSWs Fellow and Honorary Member Committee Chair.

The package should consist of:

1. The nomination letter written by the nominator summarizing the nominee's contribution to the area of weed science with emphasis on how the interests of the WSWs have been served by the non-member.
2. The nominee's resume. It is the nominator's responsibility to coordinate the nomination and to assure that it is complete and submitted before the deadline. The nominator must contact the person to be nominated and request them to prepare a vita.
3. The nominator will then prepare a letter summarizing the nominee's contribution to the area of weed science with emphasis on how the interests of the WSWs have been served by this non-member.
4. Include the vita with the letter of nomination to provide all pertinent information to the Committee.

NOMINATIONS FOR FELLOW AND HONORARY MEMBER PACKAGES ARE DUE BY **DECEMBER 1, 2024**

Send To:

*Electronic submission preferred.*

Carol Mallory-Smith

[carol.mallory-smith@oregonstate.edu](mailto:carol.mallory-smith@oregonstate.edu)

(514) 971-1441

# **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

## **2025 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Everyone knows of some skilled and outstanding weed scientists in the western region who have contributed a great deal over the years and deserve our recognition and appreciation. One way to recognize such persons is to nominate them for a WSWS award. We had a full slate of excellent nominees for our awards in 2024. We would like to maintain this momentum in 2025. Please take the time and nominate an individual for one of the awards listed below.

*CRITERIA USED FOR EVALUATING NOMINATIONS:* Awards are based on merit and impact on weed science and weed management practices. Applicants **MUST BE** a member of WSWS. Professional achievements and their impacts are the principal criteria for receiving these awards. There is no requirement that an award be given in any or every category. Past winners are not eligible again in the same category. An award may be given each year in both the private and public sectors for Outstanding Weed Scientist and Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career. Only one award may be given each year for Weed Manager and Professional Staff. Within the guidelines for each category, there is flexibility to fit the nominee.

### **I. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST**

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science from individuals in both the public and private sectors. Principle criteria for this award includes innovative or unique approaches that result in learning, ability to clearly communicate ideas, motivation of the intended audience, demonstrate excellence and creativity in research accomplishments, applying results to solve problems in weed science, the impact on weed management practices and principals of weed science, and recognition of accomplishments by peers and intended audiences.

### **II. OUTSTANDING WEED SCIENTIST – EARLY CAREER**

This award is to be given to members in the private and public sectors with no more than 10 years of service after completion of their terminal degree. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science early in the individual career with the same criteria as the outstanding weed scientist above.

### **III. WEED MANAGER**

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. This award is intended for those paid by taxpayers and that are working in the public sector, such as employees of state departments of agriculture, weed boards, public land managers, and vegetation management personnel. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science for at least five years at the time of nomination.

### **IV. PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

This award recognizes outstanding and sustained contributions in support of weed science activities. Nominees will be restricted to individuals that work under the direction of university,

federal, or industry scientists. These individuals may have titles such as researcher, research associate, technician, support scientist, or specialist. The nominee must have been involved in the WSWS and weed science research, extension, or resident education for at least five years at the time of nomination.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE:** Nominations must be received by **December 1, 2024**.

**NOMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY:** The nominator will submit a nomination package using the following format:

1. **NOMINATION AWARD:** Name of award the Nominee is nominated for.
2. **NOMINEE:** Provide name, title, complete mailing address, telephone number and brief biography that would be acceptable for publishing in the WSWS proceedings.
3. **PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SECTOR NOMINEE:** Indicate the appropriate sector.
4. **SUPPORT STATEMENT BY NOMINATOR:** A concise summary and accomplishments of the nominee.
5. **EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE:** Degrees, institutions, dates, and positions held.
6. **PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE:** Offices held, committees, papers presented, honors, awards.
7. **PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATIONS OTHER THAN IN THE WSWS:** Memberships, offices held, committee activities, papers presented, honors, awards, state, regional and national organizations.
8. **PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS:** Provide pertinent information relative to the award sought. This may include but is not limited to books written or edited, referred journal articles, technical information, research reports, extension material, products developed, patents, agronomic practices researched, innovations, creativity enhancement. List and explain the contributions made to the weed science profession by the nominee.
9. **LETTERS OF SUPPORT:** Obtain three (maximum) supporting letters for the nominee. Preferably these letters should not exceed one page in length. The nominator should obtain supporting letters from the different disciplines, i.e., faculty member or co-worker, individual not employed at same location, industry representative, university, government, or regulatory individual. Members of the Awards Committee are not eligible to write supporting letters.
10. **NOMINATOR:** Provide name, title, complete address, telephone number.

Unsuccessful nominations will remain active for three years; however, an updated nomination packet of holdover candidates is encouraged.

The nomination package, including the supporting letters, should be sent, by email, to the chair of the Awards Committee by Sunday, **December 1, 2024**:

Drew Lyon

[drew.lyon@wsu.edu](mailto:drew.lyon@wsu.edu)

# WASHINGTON REPORT

October 10, 2024

Lee Van Wychen

## EPA Herbicide Strategy for ESA Mitigations- Released Aug. 20, 2024

### **EPA's Final Herbicide Strategy for ESA: What Could Change**

The following description has been endorsed by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and reviewed by the WSSA ESA Committee. Special thanks to Bill Chism for leading this effort.

Questions covered include:

**1: What is the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?**

**2: What is the Final Herbicide Strategy?**

**3: How will the Herbicide Strategy affect pesticide use?**

**4: What about fungicides, insecticides, and rodenticides?**

**5: How can I reduce spray drift?**

**6: How can I reduce runoff/erosion?**

**7: Mitigation Relief Points for Runoff Vulnerability:**

**8: Pesticide use in critical areas: Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULA)**

For more information: WSSA ESA Website.

<https://wssa.net/endangered-species/> and the full article at: [Fall 2024 Washington Report](#)

## EPA Finalizes Vulnerable Species Action Plan

On September 26, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a **Vulnerable Species Action Plan (VSAP)** as part of its Endangered Species Act (ESA) Workplan implementation for pesticide products. The VSAP builds on EPA's June 2023 Vulnerable Species Pilot Project (VSPP).

In the VSAP release, EPA identified 27 species listed by USFWS in the lower 48 states as "vulnerable species" and within the scope of the VSAP. These species include various types of plants and animals, adding seven species that were not originally included in June 2023 pilot project. The final VSAP also removed seven species from the pilot project after determining that they did not meet the definition of a

vulnerable species. Over time, EPA expects to add species in the VSAP through formal consultations or coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS).

Twenty-Seven Vulnerable Species Included in the final September 2024 VSAP:

- 1) Attwater's greater prairie-chicken
- 2) Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew
- 3) Avon Park harebells – Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 4) Carter's mustard - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 5) Florida ziziphus - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 6) Garrett's mint - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 7) Highlands scrub hypericum - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 8) Lewton's polygala - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 9) Sandlace O- Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 10) Scrub blazingstar - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 11) Scrub mint - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 12) Short-leaved rosemary - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 13) Snakeroot - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 14) Wireweed - Lake Wales Ridge, FL
- 15) Leedy's roseroot (MN & NY)
- 16) Madison cave isopod
- 17) Mead's milkweed
- 18) Ozark cavefish
- 19) Palmate-bracted bird's beak
- 20) Poweshiek skipperling (MI & WI)
- 21) Rusty patch bumblebee
- 22) Scaleshell mussel
- 23) Spring creek bladderpod (TN)
- 24) White Bluffs bladderpod (WA)
- 25) Whorled sunflower
- 26) Winged mapleleaf
- 27) Wyoming Toad

The Seven Species from the pilot project (VSPP) that are **NOT included** in the final VSAP are:

- 1) American burying beetle
- 2) Okeechobee gourd
- 3) Ouachita rock pocketbook
- 4) Rayed bean
- 5) Riverside fairy shrimp

- 6) San Diego fairy shrimp
- 7) Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly

The VSAP also explains that when EPA has developed a different strategy that applies to a pesticide, it will apply that strategy before applying the VSAP. The VSAP would thus supplement that strategy to the extent that the strategy does not cover pesticide uses and exposure routes to a vulnerable species. The VSAP includes mitigations for common exposure routes, including spray drift and runoff, but also addresses other routes of pesticide exposure to the vulnerable species. Examples include on-field exposure to a vulnerable species and pesticide volatilization. This action plan, along with the Ecological Mitigation Support document, are available in the public docket [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0327](#) at [regulations.gov](#), and on [EPA's website](#)

For further information on the VSAP see the report at [Fall 2024 Washington Report](#)

As part of WSSA's comments on the proposed vulnerable species pilot project, I also asked my Science Policy Fellows to research one of the 27 pilot species. Sarah Chu, PhD Candidate at Texas A&M, reported on the *Rusty-Patched Bumble\_Bee* and Josh Miranda, PhD Candidate at Oregon State University reported on the *Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly*. Their reports can be found here: [Fall 2024 Washington Report](#)

#### **Congress Passes Stopgap Spending Bill**

On Wednesday, September 25, just five days before FY 2024 funding for the government was set to expire, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government until December 20, 2024. Members of the House of Representatives passed the CR on a bipartisan vote of 341-82. The Senate subsequently voted and passed the CR on a vote of 78-18 and it was signed by the President before the September 30 deadline.

#### **Farm Bill Authorization Expired on Sep. 30.**

The 2018 farm bill, which was already extended one year in FY 2023, has now expired on Sep 30, 2024. The Farm Bill is a complicated piece of legislation with different programs with many different provisions for each title of the Farm Bill with varied expirations and authorizations.

The federal crop insurance program is permanently authorized. It doesn't need to be reauthorized by a farm bill. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which accounts for about 80% of the spending in the farm bill, is reauthorized through appropriations bills and continuing resolutions (CRs). As of October 1, 2024, the government is operating under a continuing resolution (CR) through Dec. 20, 2024.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), extended four major conservation programs and their funding authority through FY 2031: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Notably however, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) wasn't extended to 2031, so its authority expired Sep. 30, 2024. The same is true for the Healthy Forest Restoration Program and Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

Then there are other Farm Bill programs that are impacted by "Permanent Law", such as some commodity support programs and dairy that would "drop off the cliff" come January 1, 2025. Permanent law provides support based on a parity price from the 1910-1914 period that does not recognize productivity gains and technological advances in agriculture or modern marketing and policy approaches.

Finally, Farm Bill programs that rely on mandatory funding are typically most affected. In the Research Title (VII), this would include programs like the Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) and the Organic Agriculture Research and



Extension Initiative (OREI) that receive mandatory funding every year and do not depend on year-to-year discretionary appropriations. Research title programs that are funded with discretionary appropriations on year-to-year basis include the USDA NIFA AFRI competitive grants program, the IR-4 project, Smith-Lever and Hatch capacity funds, and the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program. You could make the argument that this is the one time where discretionary funded programs are better off compared to mandatory funded programs. Either way, Congress must address the Farm Bill by January 1, 2025 or things will get crazy out in rural America.

### **USDA-ARS NP 304 Crop Protection and Quarantine Stakeholder Review**

In March, the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) held a stakeholder meeting to review their National Program 304 (NP304) and layout research priorities for 2025-2030. The NP304 covers four main components in crop protection and quarantine: 1) Systematics and Identification; 2) Weeds; 3) Insects and Mites; and 4) Postharvest Protection of Commodities.

Many thanks to those who could attend and represent weed and invasive plant science interests: Ian Burke, Carroll Moseley, John Byrd, Bill Chism, Jim Anderson, Gaylon Morgan, Dave Horvath, and Emily Unglesbee. A special thanks goes to USDA-ARS scientist Steven Mirsky for his presentation on advancements and application of technology for managing weeds in cropping systems during the meeting. Last, but not least, we'd like to thank Steve Young, USDA ARS National Program Leader for Weeds and Invasive Species, for his excellent guidance and leadership in this stakeholder review.

The 2025-2030 strategic plan was released on July 27, 2024. Overall, the plan reflects well on the priorities and challenges facing weed and invasive plant science: .....***ARS will leverage recent***

***advances in robotics and machine learning, herbicide resistance management, integrated approaches including cover crops and harvest weed seed control, bio-based chemistries and control tactics, gene editing and RNAi, and plant physiology and development, that provide novel, affordable, safe, and effective management strategies, and to anticipate and prevent the introduction and spread of weeds and invasive plants."***

Can ARS rise to meet the challenges facing growers and land managers struggling with some of the most intractable weeds and invasive plants? WSSA is working on a letter to USDA Secretary Vilsack discussing the importance of funding for federal programs for weed and invasive plant management. During the stakeholder meeting, several of the major commodity groups, including cotton, soybean, sorghum, sugarbeets, voiced their concerns that a lack of new weed management tools coupled with herbicide resistance issues are greatly impairing their ability to effectively manage weeds resulting in significant crop yield losses. Simply stated, federal research programs focused on weed and invasive plant management are not receiving enough attention and funding. It is paramount that USDA leadership and Congress hears about these challenges and getting the letter endorsed by as many grower and stakeholder groups as possible will be key to this ongoing and important effort.

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## 2024 Membership Renewal Form

To pay by credit card, please login to your account at [www.wsweedscience.org](http://www.wsweedscience.org)

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING BUT WANT TO REMAIN A MEMBER, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND SEND \$30.00 FOR DUES TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED.

Last name	First name	Affiliation	
Mailing address	City	State	Zip code
Phone # w/area code	e-mail address		

**Classification:** Student \_\_\_ University \_\_\_ Federal Agency \_\_\_ State Agency \_\_\_  
Private Industry (manufacturing and sales) \_\_\_ Private Industry (consulting) \_\_\_  
Unemployed \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: WSWS/IMI,  
12110 Pecos St., Ste 220,  
Westminster, CO 80234



Questions? [info@wsweedscience.org](mailto:info@wsweedscience.org) or (303) 327-8016

### 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.

### 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.