



# Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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## SPRING 2024

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## President's Report

We had a successful meeting in Denver, without the bomb cyclone of our previous Denver meeting! Thanks to Marcelo Moretti for his work as research chair and Nevin Lawrence who organized a symposium on Palmer Amaranth with a second symposium that involves EPA's process for

mitigation of pesticide effects on species regulated under the Endangered Species Act. Thanks also to Eric Westra for his work as chair of local arrangements and to Lovreet Shergill, chair of the poster committee. I also understand that judging presentations and posters was challenging this year and I will work to improve judging for next year, thank you to all who judged student posters and presentations this year.

We had good discussion sessions this year and I hope you had a chance to participate in at least one discussion group. Those discussions will be summarized in the proceedings. Thanks also to Project Chairs and Chair-elects who moderated their sessions well. And of course, thanks to our members for presenting their work during the meeting. You all make the meeting a forum for new research that keeps all of us informed.

As a society we function well through the hard work of Eric Gustafson and his team. Thank you, Eric, for helping to run a successful meeting.

I have had people ask how they can participate in the WSWs and I would be greatly pleased to receive more inquiries on how to serve within the society.

Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee. We really do have great people helping to run the society, so you have an excellent opportunity to both strengthen and build relationships. You can reach me at [tprather@uidaho.edu](mailto:tprather@uidaho.edu) if you have either a general or specific interest in how you would like to be involved.

There are issues our WSWs will address this year including land resource agency involvement and how to facilitate the EPA/ESA mitigation process involving endangered and threatened species. Of course I also look forward to seeing you in Seattle.

Tim Prather, President

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

# Student Liaison Report – Kenzie Barth

To begin, I'd like to thank all the students who contributed to the annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, through their attendance, posters, and presentations. It is wonderful to see so much participation from students and the interesting, important research students are doing. I hope to see you all next year in Seattle, Washington!

At the WSWs Student Business Luncheon, we elected Weston Maughan from Washington State University as the student liaison chair-elect. Weston will work alongside me this year to learn the role of student liaison and take over at the conclusion of next year's annual meeting. Please congratulate him on this role and opportunity to represent students in the society!

I would like to thank the sponsors, mentors, and the entire board of directors who participated in student-centered events at this annual meeting. The Student Luncheon, Student Reception, and Student Night Out are opportunities for students to connect with each other and meet mentors. These events were a success overall, and next year we would love to have more mentors involved in Student Night Out! The silent auction raised \$1650 for the Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWs Outstanding Student Scholarship. Thank you to everyone that contributed items to the silent auction, it means so much to the students who receive the resulting scholarship.

There are some wonderful opportunities coming up with WSSA! The North Central Weed Science Society is hosting a Student Weed Contest in Sheridan, Indiana on July 24-25. Please see The North Central Weed Science Society website for more information at [ncwss.org](http://ncwss.org).

Finally, I'd like to thank Aaron Becerra-Alvares for his year of service as student liaison and congratulate him on his new position as an Assistant Professor at Oregon State University. Aaron was a great support this year and helped me to learn about the student liaison position. I wish you all the best, Aaron, and hope to see you at future WSWs events!

Please feel free to reach out with ideas to improve the student experience in the Western Society of Weed Science.

Best,  
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)

The WSWs would like to thank **André Lucas Simões Araujo**, MS Student at Colorado State University who graciously volunteered his time and talents to furnish the Award photographs included in this newsletter from the Denver Meeting.

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# 2024 Fellows — Rich Zollinger

The WSSS Fellows and Honorary Member Committee is pleased to announce the Fellow Awards for 2024 were presented to Dr. Stott Howard, Syngenta and Sandra McDonald, Mountain West PEST. The 2024 committee members were Rich Zollinger (Chair), Carol Mallory-Smith, and Ed Peachey. Carol will assume the role of committee chair for 2025.



Stott Howard



Sandra McDonald

## Presidential Award of Merit

Traci Rauch, University of Idaho, received the **Presidential Award of Merit** from Curtis Rainbolt for outstanding contribution to the society for her many years of service in editing and compiling the Research Progress Reports.



## Inaugural National Forum on Biological Control

In March 2024 the USDA Forest Service hosted a National Forum on Biological Control in partnership with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) in Annapolis, MD. The meeting focused on both weed and arthropod biological control and was a venue for all biocontrol practitioners, researchers, and policy makers to come together to identify shared challenges (such as communication, capacity, changing landscapes) and discuss opportunities to overcome challenges. The meeting themes were biological control research, management, and impacts in natural areas.

Based on the success of the first forum, planning is underway for a second forum in 2026. and The long-term plan is to host a National Forum on Biological Control every 2 years. For more information, please visit the National Forum on Biological Control website:

<https://naisma.org/event/2023-usdafs-national-forum-for-biological-control/>



## 2024-2025 WSWS Officers and Executive Committee



The 2024-2025 WSWS Board of Directors are: (back row, left to right) **Carl Coburn**-President Elect, **Weston Maughan**-Student Liaison Chair Elect, **Alan Helm**-WSSA Liaison, **Ryan Rapp**-Treasurer, **Gregory Dahl**-CAST Representative, **Dirk Baker**-Research Section Chair, **Brad Hanson**-Secretary, **Albert Adjesiwor**-Education and Regulatory Section Chair; (front row, left to right) **Beth Fowers** -Research Section Chair Elect, **McKenzie Barth**-Student Liaison Chair, **Timothy Prater**-President, **Sandra McDonald**-Constitution and Operating Procedures, **Curtis Rainbolt**-Past President, **Erik Lehnoff** -Member-At-Large (Public). Not Pictured: **Lee Van Wychen**-Executive Director of Science Policy, **Lovreet Shergill**-Education and Regulatory Section Chair Elect, **Eric Gustafson**-Business Manager, and **Derek Sebastian**-Member-At-Large (Private). Their contact information can be found in the sidebar sections of the newsletter.

## Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund

In honor of Roland's dedication to the Western Society of Weed Science, the society is pleased to announce the establishment of the Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund that will provide funds to assist a county extension agent with travel expenses to attend their annual meeting.

Dr. Roland Schirman, weed scientist and Columbia County, Washington Extension Agent was very active in WSWS and had attended every meeting of the Society in the past 60 years. Sadly, Roland passed away on March 22, 2024, while attending the WSWS meeting in Denver. Roland's colleagues and friends are encouraged to recognize his contributions to the Society, the discipline of weed science and to agriculture in the Pacific Northwest by contributing to the Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund.

To contribute, go to the WSWS website ([www.wsweedsience.org](http://www.wsweedsience.org)) and click tab "Society" and select "Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund", or you can send a check made out to WSWS with a note "Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Fund" and mail to Eric Gustafson, Business Manager, WSWS, 12110 N. Pecos ST., Suite #220, Westminster, CO 80234.

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IMI

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### Publications

**WSWS ONLINE  
EDUCATION**

**WSSA Journals Website  
Online**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Aquatic Plant Management  
Society Annual Meeting**  
Jul. 14 - 18, 2024  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
[www.apms.org](http://www.apms.org)

**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)

# WSWS 2024 Professional Awards



The **Outstanding Weed Manager** award was granted to Joe Swanson, Senior Invasive Plant Supervisor, Boulder Parks and Open Space, Boulder, Colorado.



The **Outstanding Professional Staff** award was granted to Cody Beckley, Researcher, Weed Science Program at Utah State University, Logan, Utah.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career Public Sector** award was granted to Dr. Albert Adjesiwor, Assistant Professor of Weed Science and Extension Specialist, Kimberly Research and Extension Center, University of Idaho, Kimberly, Idaho.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Early Career Private Sector** award was granted to Dr. Derek Sebastian, Envu Government Relations Manager, Cary, North Carolina.



The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Public Sector** award was granted to Dr. Andrew Kniss, Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.



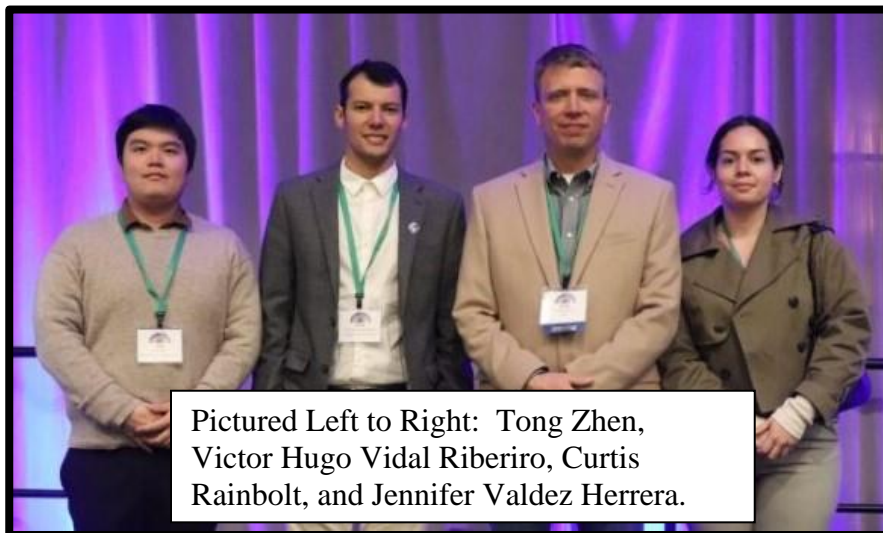
The **Outstanding Weed Scientist – Private Sector** award was granted to Greg Dahl, Senior Research Manager (retired), Winfield United, Indianapolis, Indiana.

# Elena Sanchez Memorial Scholarship

Harry Quicke, Awards Committee Chair announced the recipients of the “WSWS Elena Sanchez Outstanding Student Scholarship Program” were:

- Jennifer Valdez Herrera, M.S. candidate, California State University – Fresno
- Victor Hugo Vidal Ribeiro, Ph.D. candidate, Oregon State University, Carol Mallory-Smith and Judit Barroso advisors
- Tong Zhen, Ph.D. candidate, University of California - Davis

A big thanks to their advisors for bringing along such great promising talent for the future of weed science.



Pictured Left to Right: Tong Zhen, Victor Hugo Vidal Riberiro, Curtis Rainbolt, and Jennifer Valdez Herrera.

## The WSWS Rita Beard Endowment Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipient

The Rita Beard Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees has selected Erin Teichroew (Ph.D. student at Montana State University) for a travel scholarship to attend the Western Society of Weed Science Meeting in 2024. The Rita Beard Endowment Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that was created from a generous donation by Rita Beard’s family and friends. Funds are awarded to support educational opportunities of students and early career invasive species managers by providing registration and travel to professional meetings including Society for Range Management, Western Society of Weed Science, Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, and the North American Invasive Species Management Association. To read more about the Foundation, learn how to apply for the 2025 scholarships, or make a donation go to: [Rita Beard Endowment Travel Scholarship](#)



# Dr. Roland Delbert Schirman

November 1, 1937---March 22, 2024

Dr. Roland Delbert Schirman, 86, of Dayton, Washington, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday, March 22, 2024, after a brief but aggressive infection, while attending the Western Society of Weed Science meetings in Denver, Colorado. Roland was born in Salem, Oregon on November 1, 1937, and was raised on a berry and dairy farm. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Oregon State University. Roland then attended the University of Wisconsin where he completed an M. S. in Agronomy and a Ph. D. in Agronomy with a minor in Plant Physiology.



After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, he began his professional career in Product Development with Chevron Chemical Company located in Fresno, California. With Chevron he covered 11 states. After two years, Roland accepted employment with ARS-USDA in Pullman, Washington, so he could find more time for his budding family. While working for ARS, Roland conducted research on weed management in No-Till farming in the Palouse Region and also conducted research on the biology and control of rush skeletonweed. Roland always had the best interest of the producers in mind when he conducted his research.

In 1979, Roland accepted a position with Washington State University in Dayton, Washington, where he was Extension Agent and County Chair for Columbia County. Roland was an excellent agronomist and weed scientist and had the deep respect of the growers in Columbia and neighboring counties in southeast Washington. He conducted numerous herbicide trials, evaluated alternative crops, worked extensively with direct seeding and minimum or no-till, and he distributed bio-agents for the control of weeds. He worked closely with the Columbia County Noxious Weed Board and served as their Advisor.

Roland attended every meeting of the Western Society of Weed Science in the past 60 years. He served on numerous committees within WSWS, including Finance, Resolutions, Necrology and Nominating. He was chair of the Physiology/Chemical section. Roland published numerous articles in the WSWS Research Progress Report and made several presentations. Roland frequently volunteered his time to help with the registration desk at the WSWS meetings and help run the meetings. In 2005, Roland received the WSWS Fellow Award.

Roland was a long-time member of the Washington State Weed Association and served on the Board of Directors. In 1992, he was named “Weed Warrior of the Year”, the highest honor awarded to a member. Roland was famous for organizing and running the annual weed identification quiz at the annual meetings.

Roland received many other awards for his contributions to agriculture. They included two notable extension awards, the “Kenneth J. Morrison Award” from the Washington State University Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and the “Excellence in Extension Award” from the National Association of Wheat Growers. He also received the “Professional Service Award” from the Washington Association of Conservation Districts.

Roland was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Lydia Schirman of Salem, Oregon, his wife, Carol, of over 48 years and his second wife, Betty, of 10 years. He is survived by his children, Steve (Donna) Schirman of Denver, Colorado; Susan (Shayne) Ganz of Corning, California; and Jane (Edward) Kover of Eagle River, Arkansas along with grandchildren, Billy Paterson, Jack (Samantha) Kover and Ellen Kover.

# 2024 Student Paper and Post Contest

2024 Paper judging committee: Josh Adkins, Clint Beiermann, Alix Whitener, and Georgia Harrison

Twenty-nine student competition judges were recruited and assigned sections to evaluate at the meeting. They were provided with training materials, abstracts, and rubrics. They judged 29 graduate level posters, 6 undergraduate posters, 18 graduate papers, and one undergraduate paper.

## Posters: Graduate Level

### Weeds of Range, Forestry, & Natural Areas

1<sup>st</sup> place: Caroline Kittle, University of Wyoming  
*A Case for EDRR in Wyoming*

### Weeds of Agronomic Crops

1<sup>st</sup> place: Het Desai, Montana State University  
*Effect of relative humidity on glufosinate efficacy in Kochia and common lambsquarters populations.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Hayden Lee, North Dakota State University  
*Tolpyralate and bromoxynil efficacy on green foxtail in small grains.*

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Newman Teye-Doku, University of Wyoming  
*Evaluation of stale seedbed and delayed planting date for weed management in sugar beet.*

### Weeds of Horticultural Crops

1<sup>st</sup> place: Joshua Tong Zhen, UC Davis  
*Evaluation of electrical weed control in California orchards.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Stephen Chang, UC Davis  
*Evaluating the effect of endothall-treated irrigation water on California crops.*

### Basic Biology, Ecology, and Technology

1<sup>st</sup> place: Albert Kwarteng, University of Idaho  
*Potential impacts of transgenerational memory from weed competition on spring wheat*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Dustin Moreno, Colorado State University  
*Basis for dicamba resistance in palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*).*



## Posters: Undergraduate Level

### Weeds of Horticultural Crops, Basic Biology, Ecology, and Technology Combined –

1<sup>st</sup> place: Maloree McDonald, Utah State University

*Seedbank suppression is critical for long-term Dyers Woad Control: It's a long woad.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Maggi Mathews, Utah State University

*Factors influencing plant response to indaziflan.*

## Oral presentations: Graduate Level

### Weeds of Range, Forestry, & Natural Areas

1<sup>st</sup> place: Lilly Sencenbaugh, Montana State University

*Impacts of herbicide, and macro- and micro- nutrients on non-native annual grass, ventenata, and desired species composition in Montana ragelands.*

### Weeds of Agronomic Crops

1<sup>st</sup> place: Het Desai, Montana State University

*Herbicide strategies to manage glyphosate-, glufosinate-, and dicamba-resistant Kochia populations in triple-stacked sugarbeet cultivar.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Victor Ribeiro, Oregon State University

*EPSPS Copy Number Variation is Correlated with Glyphosate Resistance in Some Italian Ryegrass Populations.*

### Weeds of Horticultural Crops, Teaching and Outreach Combined

1<sup>st</sup> place: Luisa Baccin, Oregon State University

*Crop safety and weed control in organic highbush blueberries using electrical weeding.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Caroline Toth, New Mexico State University

*Suitability of a barley crop to suppress weeds of chile pepper in southern New Mexico.*

### Basic Biology, Ecology, and Technology

1<sup>st</sup> place: André Lucas Simões Araujo, Colorado State University

*Investigating dicamba resistance in kochia populations from Colorado.*

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Amber Pelon, Colorado University

*GST Inhibition – Influence on Quizalofop p-ethyl Metabolism in Winter Wheat.*

# WASHINGTON REPORT

April 30, 2024

Lee Van Wychen

On February 5 – 9, 2024, the Minor Use Foundation brought together growers, regulators, researchers, and crop protection professionals in Madrid, Spain for the **fourth Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-4)**.

Dirk Drost, president and board chairman for the Minor Use Foundation was very pleased to have such a diverse and experienced representation at the meeting with nearly 170 participants from 41 countries coming together to share ideas and strengthen our commitment to specialty crops and minor uses.

The Minor Use Foundation will be focused on the following key takeaways and will be hard at work on those “game changing” ideas:

- **Technology:** Understanding and learning to leverage new technologies for crop protection outcomes
- **Engagement:** Increasing connections and engagement with growers around the world
- **Strengthening Codex:** Supporting CCPR/JMPR (particularly with regard to crop group work, JMPR support, and preserving access to key older chemistries)
- **Importance of Minor Uses:** Building political will and a toolkit for governments to support minor use programs around the world
- **Increasing impact:** Incorporation of environmental and social/economic indicators/outcomes
- **Creative and pragmatic solutions:** Incorporation of biological solutions, residue mitigation projects, regional registrations, import tolerances, and others



***Weed Scientists at the 2024 Global Minor Use Summit IV in Madrid, Spain. (L to R: Dan Kunkel, Lee Van Wychen, Wilfredo Robles, Dirk Drost, Jerry Baron, and Michael Braverman***

### **FY 2024 Federal Appropriations Finally Completed**

All 12 of the FY 2024 appropriations bills were finally completed, albeit after four continuing resolutions and six months late. Overall research funding at the USDA will remain flat at \$3.5 billion. The Agriculture Research Service (ARS) will receive a small increase of 1.4 percent to \$1.84 billion, while the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will get a 1.3 percent cut to \$1.7 billion. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative will be funded at \$445 million, roughly \$10 million below the FY 2023 enacted level.

For more details on research and science programs across all the major federal agencies, please visit the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU's) federal budget and appropriations website. They provide an excellent [FY2024 Appropriations Priorities Summary Chart](#), which includes an overview of APLU's annual requests, as well as current funding levels, and congressional action.

### **EPA Pesticide Label Reform is Finally Happening**

On November 15, EPA released a whitepaper: "[Benefits of the Adoption of Structured Content and Digital Pesticide Labels](#)" and requested feedback on its plan to adopt digital pesticide labels that will make labeling information clearer, more consistent, and more accessible to users.

EPA's plan for digital labels covers the creation of both a structured label—which would provide a framework for consistently placing and ordering label information—and a digital label, which would organize the label information as electronic data. Currently, the pesticide product label registration process is mostly manual, with EPA staff reading through long, detailed label submissions to pull out specific information, like application rate, to enter into the EPA's Pesticide Product and Label System. This has led to time-consuming reviews and high cost to registrants and regulators. Further, the increasing complexity of pesticide labels and lack of standardized label format and language can create challenges for pesticide users and the public seeking information about which products to use and how to use them.

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies submitted the following [comments](#). Many thanks to Bill Chism and Stanley Culpepper in particular for their work on this document!

### **EPA Creates New Office to Better Connect with Agricultural Communities**

On March 1, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is establishing a new office to expand engagement with agricultural and rural communities. The creation of the first-ever EPA Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs "represents the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to improving environmental stewardship and economic opportunity for America's farmers and ranchers, as well as strengthening the vitality of small towns and rural communities," according to an EPA statement.

"Farmers and ranchers are crucial partners as we work together to deliver clean air, clear water and climate solutions, all while playing the critical role of ensuring an abundant fiber, fuel and food supply," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "With the launch of this new office, we are ensuring agricultural and rural stakeholders will continue to have a seat at the table for many years to come."

The new office will forge practical, science-based solutions that protect the environment while ensuring a vibrant and productive agricultural system. The new office will also collaborate with small, underserved towns and rural communities that are seeking federal investments in infrastructure upgrades and other community-improvement opportunities. [EPA Press Release](#)

### **U.S. Geological Survey Reverses Course and Will Continue to Track Pesticide Usage**

The U.S. Geological Survey is dropping plans to scale back reporting to a widely used database that tracks the use of approximately 400 agricultural chemicals in the United States.

USGS had decided to reduce the scope of its Agricultural Pesticide-use Estimates and Maps data, which since 1992 had provided county-level data on the use of chemicals to control fungi, weeds, insects and other pests. The agency first reduced the number of tracked chemicals to 72, then said it would stop releasing preliminary pesticide use data annually and instead release final data every 5 years.

More than 250 scientists and 120 agencies signed letters protesting the move, and in late February USGS quietly reversed course. A note on the agency's website says it will resume the annual publication of preliminary data for 400 compounds and that 2018–22 data will be published in 2025. [More on this story at Science.org](#)

### **BLM Receives Approval for Use of Seven Herbicides in 2024**

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies have been working with the Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to get approval on final programmatic environmental impact statements (PEIS) for the use of the following seven herbicides on BLM land:

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1) aminocyclopyrachlor | 6) indaziflam |
| 2) clethodim           | 7) oryzalin   |
| 3) fluazifop-p-butyl   |               |
| 4) flumioxazin         |               |
| 5) imazamox            |               |

These herbicides have already been approved by EPA (some for a long time!), in adjoining nonfederal land. In order to for them to be considered as a management option on BLM lands, they had to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

These additional herbicide active ingredients will diversify BLM's weed management plan and help meet the purposes that were first identified in BLM's 2007 and 2016 PEISs related to vegetation treatments. A **final record of decision** is expected in spring 2024.

### **BLM Finalizes Public Lands Rule Boosting Conservation**

On April 18, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized a comprehensive new rule for managing public lands that designates conservation as a formal use of public lands, on equal footing with energy development, grazing, and recreation. The changes will lead to a fundamental shift in how the agency manages 245 million acres of public lands.

The Department of the Interior has stated that these changes are necessary because of the rapidly increasing impacts of climate change. The [finalized rule](#) emphasizes that urgent action is

needed to protect federal rangelands from droughts and increased wildfires, otherwise these lands will no longer be able to support grazing, recreation, and energy development in the coming decades.

"The rule does not prioritize conservation above other multiple uses. It also does not preclude other uses where conservation use is occurring," reads an excerpt of the final rule. "Many uses are compatible with different types of conservation use, such as sustainable recreation, grazing, and habitat management. The rule also does not enable conservation use to occur in places where an existing, authorized, and incompatible use is occurring."

Critics argue that the new rule may hinder energy production and mining, while supporters see it as a necessary shift towards prioritizing conservation. Under the new rule, BLM would be required to identify federal rangelands that need restoration work and establish a mechanism to lease the lands for a fixed period of no more than 10 years to allow this work to be done. This would allow NGOs and conservation groups to lease BLM land to conserve or restore it. These leases could also be purchased by energy, mining, or timber companies to offset project impacts as a condition of permit approval.

### **USDA-ARS Weed Science News: Winter 2024 from Steve Young**

The winter 2024 edition of the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Weed Science Newsletter is available at: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/people/steve-young-phd/weed-science-newsletter/weed-science-research-news-and-highlights/>

The winter issue highlights ARS weed science research in the Northeast, Midwest, Plains, Pacific West and the Southeast, highlights the work of Dr. Ali Wright at the ARS Sugarcane Research Unit in Houma, LA, and lists event and announcements including:

### **USDA ARS Weed Science Positions: Recent Hires**

**Casey Barickman** – ARS Natural Products Utilization Research Unit, Oxford, MS

**Olivia Landau** – ARS Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit, Pullman, WA

**Jens Beets** – ARS Invasive Species and Pollinator Health Research Unit, Albany, CA

**Vijaya Varanasi** – ARS Crop Production Systems Unit, Stoneville, MS

**Allen Dray** – ARS Invasive Plant Research Unit, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Current Openings:

Weed Ecologist – [ARS Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center](#), Pendleton, Oregon (TBD)

Weed Scientist – [ARS Northwest Sustainable Agroecosystems Research Unit](#), Pullman, Washington (TBD)

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Science Policy

National & Regional Weed Science Societies

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(202) 746-4686

# Note from the Business Office – Eric Gustafson

The 2024 WSWS Annual Meeting was held in Denver, Colorado, March 4- 7, 2024 at the Grand Hyatt.

The meeting was a great success thanks to the numerous volunteers that graciously gave their time and energy to the Society and all its endeavors. President Rainbolt and Program Chair Prather did a fantastic job of navigating all the hurdles of hosting the event and the weather was accommodating as well. Many of us recall the 2018 meeting with sheer dread related to the snow event that changes so many plans.

Attendance was very strong with almost 250 attendees registered for the event. It was great to see all the members networking together at the Monday social and throughout the week. It is always energizing and refreshing to see our members network and interact during the breaks and poster sessions. We were also

fortunate to have such an engaging group of students working the silent auction table and sessions. We had symposia related to the Endangered Species Act and Palmer Amaranth in the West.

The planning has started for the 2025 meeting in Seattle, WA. Please add March 10-13, 2025, to your calendar for the WSWS Annual Meeting at the Westin Seattle.

The new website is up and running. Please log in and make sure your contact information is up to date.

If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting or need to update your membership, please log in to your account and pay your dues for 2024. We are available in the office to assist as well – (303) 327-8016. To send a check, simply fill out the Membership Form at the end of the newsletter and send that in with the check for \$30.00.

## 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.**

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**Last name      First name      Affiliation**

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**Mailing address      City      State      Zip code**

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**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**

## 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.

