



Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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SUMMER 2024

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President's Report

As president, I have been active on several fronts for the society. One topic area is the ESA/EPA regulatory changes that are in development. Ian Burke and I attended a workshop in Ellensburg, Washington to gain understanding of how herbicide applications are impacted by the

emerging new system to mitigate potential injury to endangered/threatened species. The workshop demonstrated the effort was a work in progress and the mitigation bulletins needed significant review/editing by people with agricultural knowledge. I created an ad hoc committee to address the issue, chaired by Brad Hansen who also is a member of the WSSA committee addressing this same issue and that committee also includes land managers outside production agriculture and members are Alan Helm, Dan Tekiela (USDA Forest Service) and Jolene Trujillo (US Fish and Wildlife Service). The topic also was addressed through discussions of the Science Policy committee of WSSA. Other Science policy topics included: 1) EPA Label comments submitted for WSSA and regional societies, 2) Farm Bill Appropriations, 3) Cuts to IR-4 program and CPPM program.

I participated in the Weed Science Presidents DC visit where we joined with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research meeting and their subsequent meetings with legislative staff where we voiced support for funding the following; 1) Agricultural Research Service (ARS): \$1.95 billion 2) Economic Research Service (ERS): \$98 million, 3) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS): \$241 million, 4) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): capacity programs within Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): \$500 million, 5) Research Facilities Act (RFA): \$500 million, and 6) Agricultural Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA): \$50 million. Our national and regional weed science presidents met with legislative staff with a focus on CPPM and IR-4 cuts.

We nearly have a full slate of individuals serving your society within our standing committees. Thank you to all who agreed to serve the society. The current list of committees and members can be found at: [WSWS Committees](#).

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

President's Report – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The board of directors voted in July to select Tucson as our next meeting location after Seattle. The venue is adjacent to campus and I expect the location will be a good one for us.

The WSSA and regional presidents, and some program chairs, including our own Carl Coburn, participated in a search for an alternative to the software used for our program development. Eric Gustafson also participated. The group determined the best package was submitted by a company called ConFex. Recently the WSSA board decided to utilize the company. Our WSWs board voted to also use ConFex so expect to see some changes to the submission process for abstracts and titles.

Finally, several board members including Ryan Rapp, Carl Coburn, myself and Eric Gustafson had a video conference with Tina Nabilone who works for HPN Global. The North Central Weed Science Society utilizes her company to assist them in site selection and venue negotiation. We decided to work with Tina for our meeting after Tucson. We will not directly pay Tina, her company is compensated by conference facility owners.

Ok, really this time, finally, I hope you will join us for our next meeting in Seattle. Our program chair, Carl Coburn, has already started work and please see details about the Seattle meeting in his article within this newsletter.

Preliminary Annual Meeting Update

On behalf of the 2025 Program and Local Arrangements Committees, we look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming annual meeting in Seattle to visit with colleagues, form new relationships, and engage with the latest research, strategies for teaching and outreach, and regulatory/policy issues.

We have a great venue, and as always, it is the people in attendance who make WSWs what it is! The meeting will commence with the welcome reception on the evening of **Monday, March 10, 2025 and conclude Thursday, March 13, 2025**. Meeting events and lodging are both at The Westin Seattle. The board of directors toured the facility during our summer meeting and the meeting rooms should be well clustered to make moving across projects efficient. With the meeting in the downtown, there are numerous restaurant choices within walking distance of the hotel. Faculty, please encourage your students to participate in student oral presentation and/or poster contests as well as "Student Night Out" to network with members from academia and industry.

Carl Coburn President-Elect/Program Chair

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Student Paper Judging, Local
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Student Liaison Report – Kenzie Barth

Summer is field season! Amidst the chaos of field work the WSSWS summer board meeting took place in Seattle, where the 2025 annual meeting will take place. Wes and I both got to attend the summer board meeting to represent student interests and contribute to board discussions. Seattle has a wonderful venue and plenty of great restaurants and things to see.

We have some WSSWS committees looking for student members so if you're interested, keep an eye on your email! Serving on committees is a great opportunity to serve the WSSWS community and learn about the Society's activities, while making connections with other committee members.

Please reach out to Wes and I with any ideas or questions for the Student Liaison. Have a wonderful rest of y'all's summer!

Kenzie Barth, Student Chair

mbarth3@uwyo.edu

Weston Maughan, Student Chair (elect)

peter.maughan@wsu.edu

Publications Available from the WSSWS

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

- 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.

Call for Papers and Posters

Carl Coburn President-Elect/Program Chair

The 2025 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) will take place March 10-13, 2025 in Seattle, Washington at The Westin Seattle.

Title and abstract submission will open October 23, 2024. Deadline for title submission is **December 1, 2024**, but abstracts may be entered and revised any time through mid-February 2025. **An important change for this year** is the use of ConFex Event Management for title and abstract submission, which is expected to be aligned across national and regional weed science societies. **The link for title and abstract submission will be provided in the coming weeks.**

Please follow the guidelines when entering oral paper and poster titles. In particular, use proper capitalization and punctuation as will be outlined on the forthcoming title and abstract submission site link. Standardizing author and organizational names will help make a smoother program. Your cooperation on this is appreciated!

All attendees are invited and encouraged to participate by presenting at least one paper or poster, and multiple submissions are welcome. We will continue to have oral papers and posters divided into projects:

- 1) *Weeds of Agronomic Crops,*
- 2) *Basic Biology, Ecology, and Technology,*
- 3) *Weeds of Horticultural Crops,*
- 4) *Teaching and Outreach,*
- 5) *Regulatory and Policy,*
- 6) *Weeds of Range, Forestry, and Natural Areas.*

Graduate and undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to enter the student paper and/or poster contests.

Oral paper presentations will be scheduled every 15 minutes in concurrent sessions. Maintaining a timely schedule is important for those who need to move between sessions. Therefore, presentations of 12 to 13 minutes are recommended to allow time for questions and transition to the next presenter. WSWS Poster size should not exceed 42-inches by 42-inches.

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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

**North Central Weed
Science Society Annual
Meeting**
Dec. 9 – 12, 2024
Kansas City, Missouri
www.ncwss.org

**Northeastern Weed
Science Society Annual
Meeting**
Jan. 8 - 11, 2025
Annapolis, Maryland
www.newss.org

**Southern Weed Science
Society Annual Meeting**
Jan. 20 - 23, 2025
Charleston, South Carolina
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
www.weedscience.ca

**Western Society of Weed
Science Annual Meeting**
Mar. 10 – 13, 2025
Seattle, Washington
www.wsweedscience.org

**Aquatic Plant Management
Society Annual Meeting**
Jul. 14 - 17, 2025
Providence, Rhode Island
www.apms.org

National Invasive Species Council has prioritized Biological Control

The National Invasive Species Council, or NISC, prioritized biological control as an area of focus beginning in fiscal year 2024. NISC was established by Presidential Executive Orders 13112 and 13751 to provide the vision and national leadership necessary to coordinate, sustain, and expand federal efforts to safeguard the interests of the United States through the prevention, eradication, and control of invasive species. NISC membership includes the secretaries or administrators of 12 Federal departments and four White House offices, so its focus on biocontrol will foster dialogue and coordination across the Federal Government on the topic.

NISC's biocontrol work is in its early stages. NISC staff held a special session during the National Forum on Biological Control in April of 2024 to hear individual perspectives on obstacles and needs. They assembled a task team comprised of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, the Interior, and State, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, with team member roles that include practitioners, researchers, and regulatory officials. The team meets regularly and has proposed developing a strategic framework to overcome challenges and highlight opportunities for biological control coordination within the Federal Government, with the goal of elevating biological control as a cost-effective strategy to control invasive species.

More information about NISC can be found here: www.invasivespecies.gov

The NISC team may participate in the 2025 National Forum on Biological Control to advance their efforts. To learn more about the forum, please follow this link: <https://naisma.org/event/national-forum-on-biological-control-conference/>.

Elena Sanchez Memorial Outstanding Student Scholarship Program

The Western Society of Weed Science is pleased to offer the WSWs Outstanding Student Scholarship to promote greater student participation at the WSWs annual meeting and encourage new weed science research and future weed science careers. Scholarships will be awarded to three outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WSWs student members who will attend and present at the WSWs annual meeting.

A total of \$3,000 (three \$1,000 scholarships) will be awarded to outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WSWs student members currently conducting research relevant to weed science. The scholarship money may be used to defray research costs, as a stipend, and for travel to the WSWs annual meeting. To ensure scholarship money can be used for travel to the annual meeting, the deadline for applications is Friday, October 4, 2024. Selections will be made, and participants notified of the committee's decision by Friday, November 1, 2024.

Go to: [Elena Sanchez Western Society of Weed Science Outstanding Student Scholarship](http://www.wsws.org) for information and details on qualifications and how to apply. If you have questions, contact Drew Lyon, WSWs Awards Chair (drew.lyon@wsu.edu).

REQUEST FOR WSWF FELLOW AND HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Please take this opportunity to nominate deserving colleagues as a WSWF Fellow or Honorary Member!

WSWF FELLOW

WSWF 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 WSWF guidelines as currently posted on the WSWF 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 WSWF – 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.

WSWF HONORARY MEMBER

WSWF 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 WSWF 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 WSWF 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 WSWF 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

(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

ROLAND SCHIRMAN MEMORIAL TRAVEL GRANT

The Western Society of Weed Science is pleased to offer the WSWs Roland Schirman Memorial Travel Grant to promote greater participation by county extension agents and county weed district personnel to attend the WSWs annual meeting and encourage additional weed science education and research efforts.

TRAVEL GRANTS

One \$1,000 travel grant will be awarded annually to an outstanding county extension agent or county weed district supervisor to be used towards travel-related expenses to attend the annual WSWs meeting. To ensure the award can be used for travel to the annual meeting, a recipient will be selected and contacted before the title submission deadline (typically around December 1).

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be employed within the WSWs region as a county extension agent or county weed district supervisor (see <https://wsweedscience.org/aboutus/> and scroll to membership for a list states/provinces included). Applicants must have a portion of their extension or weed district activities focusing on weeds or weed management education or research. Preferred candidates will have demonstrated an interest and involvement in activities promoting education or research on weeds and their management.

Demonstrated activities may include bulletins, fact sheets, videos, social media and internet sites, popular articles, research and demonstration plots, field day presentations, participation with weed districts or noxious weed boards, presentations at grower meetings and conferences, training demonstrations, participation at local, state, or regional weed meetings, and educational efforts with farmers, ranchers, master gardeners, roadside or irrigation district vegetation managers or other groups involved with managing weeds.

Applicants are encouraged to become WSWs members and present at the annual meeting (see <https://wsweedscience.org/future-meetings/> for meeting details). Preference will be given to applicants who intend to present at the annual meeting. Applicants are limited to one award in a 2-year period.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

1. Completed Application Form (found at the end of this document)
2. One-page cover letter describing; a) how applicant is involved in weed management extension or research activities, b) how applicant's efforts will contribute to the field of weed science and the WSWs objectives (listed below), and c) what future contributions applicant hopes to make to the field of weed science.
3. One-page CV or resume summary highlighting recent relevant experience through education, work, internships, awards, honors, publications, leadership positions, or community activities.
4. Draft abstract for a paper or poster presentation at WSWs annual meeting (if planning to present)

5. Two letters of support from colleagues (such as a state/province weed extension specialist, University weed scientist, county weed board supervisor, state or federal land managers, state or regional biological weed control coordinators, or industry representative) that are familiar with applicant's efforts and contributions in weed-related extension or research.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated by the WSWS Awards Committee based on the contributions of their weed-related extension or research efforts to the discipline of weed science and to the WSWS objectives (listed below), potential contributions to the future of weed science, and participation in extracurricular pursuits contributing to the advancement of weed science.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are encouraged to present their weed-related extension and/or research activities or programs at the WSWS annual meeting and are invited to share a brief summary (1page maximum) of completed weed-related projects in the WSWS newsletter.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents [application form, cover letter, CV summary, draft abstract (if presenting) and two letters of support] should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or into a single zip folder and sent to: Drew Lyon (drew.lyon@wsu.edu).

Deadline for applications is October 1. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Grant winner will be contacted prior to the WSWS title submission deadline (usually around December 1) and will be recognized at the annual meeting. For questions please contact: Drew Lyon (drew.lyon@wsu.edu).

WESTERN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE

The Western Society of Weed Science is a professional and scientific society of western weed scientists, weed managers, and others. Membership is open to anyone, including federal, state, and local employees, private company personnel, crop consultants, growers, or others interested in a wide variety of weed science related information.

The objectives of WSWS are:

- 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.

See application form next page.

**Roland Schirman Memorial Western Society of Weed Science Travel Grant
APPLICATION FORM**

INSTRUCTIONS: This application is to be completed by the applicant. Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents [application form, cover letter, CV summary, draft abstract (if presenting) and one letter of support] should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or into a single zip folder and sent to: {current WSWS President}

Full Name:

Address:

City/State or Province:

County:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Descriptive Title of Extension/Research Weed Program:

Objective of Weed Program (250 words or less):



14th Annual Western Invasive Weed Short Course

The 14th Annual Western Invasive Weed Short Course will be held April 21-24, 2025 at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, Colorado.

Registration (\$850.00 by March 10, 2025; \$950.00 on March 10, 2025) 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, Course Coordinator, for additional information at 970-266-9573 or Sandra@MountainWestPest.com



WASHINGTON REPORT

August 12, 2024

Lee Van Wychen

2024 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds in Aquatic and Non-Crop Areas

We would greatly appreciate your participation in the 2024 Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds in **Aquatic and Non-Crop Areas** in the U.S. and Canada.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KDQJFQS>.

EPA Adding Ecological Mitigation Menu to Certain to Pesticide Labels to Reduce Runoff

What is the ecological mitigation menu? The EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) hosted a webinar on June 18, 2024 to introduce their mitigation menu webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu>). The mitigation measures listed on the menu are designed to reduce pesticide movement out of a treated field due to runoff or erosion and will be part of future Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration and registration review decisions. The mitigation measures presented on this website currently reflect the FIFRA Interim Ecological Mitigation (IEM) effort. Some proposed interim decisions for insecticides (e.g. dimethoate, dicotophos) and the herbicide L-glufosinate have already incorporated interim ecological mitigation measures and we may see these mitigation measures proposed for herbicides. EPA decisions that propose label directions referencing EPA's runoff/erosion mitigation menu website can be found on www.regulations.gov

Are ecological mitigation measures the same thing as endangered species act mitigation strategies? The ecological mitigation measures are the first step in protecting endangered species. The EPA is incorporating ecological mitigation measures on labels using FIFRA regulations to protect nontarget species including endangered and threatened species. The EPA Workplan Update of November 2022 (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/esa-workplan-update.pdf>) explained that they are using the FIFRA process to add additional mitigation measures to help the EPA compliance in the future with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). By adding these mitigation measures the EPA is reducing its legal vulnerability and providing farmers access to pesticides while the ESA review process takes place between multiple federal agencies (e.g., EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and USDA).

How do the ecological mitigation measures affect herbicide use? Some pesticides have the potential to move with water or soil off the treated field and may pose an environmental risk to adjacent areas. Following the mitigation requirements will permit use of the pesticide and allow the user flexibility in selecting ways to protect the environment. Pesticides with environmental concerns will have directions on the label directing the user to the mitigation menu website for a description of when mitigation measures are needed, and will provide a list of options to select from. The mitigation menu is on a website to allow rapid updating of new practices as additional data come into OPP. EPA intends to update this mitigation menu website annually in the fall so pesticide users can review any changes and prepare for the next growing season.

Who will be impacted? Not all users will be required to use additional runoff/erosion mitigation. Check the FIFRA Section 3 product label first. (Types of FIFRA pesticide registrations (i.e. Section 3, 5, 18, 24) <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/types-registrations-under-fifra>). Some pesticide labels contain a "Runoff/Erosion Mitigation" section which lists specific measures to reduce runoff/erosion concerns. Initially, only counties with high runoff vulnerability (**Figure 1**) will be subject to the mitigation measures described on the website. The

mitigation menu website has two files one with the list of counties with high runoff vulnerability and a second file lists counties with reduced runoff vulnerability. Areas with very low, low, and medium runoff vulnerability are currently **not** subject to additional mitigation.

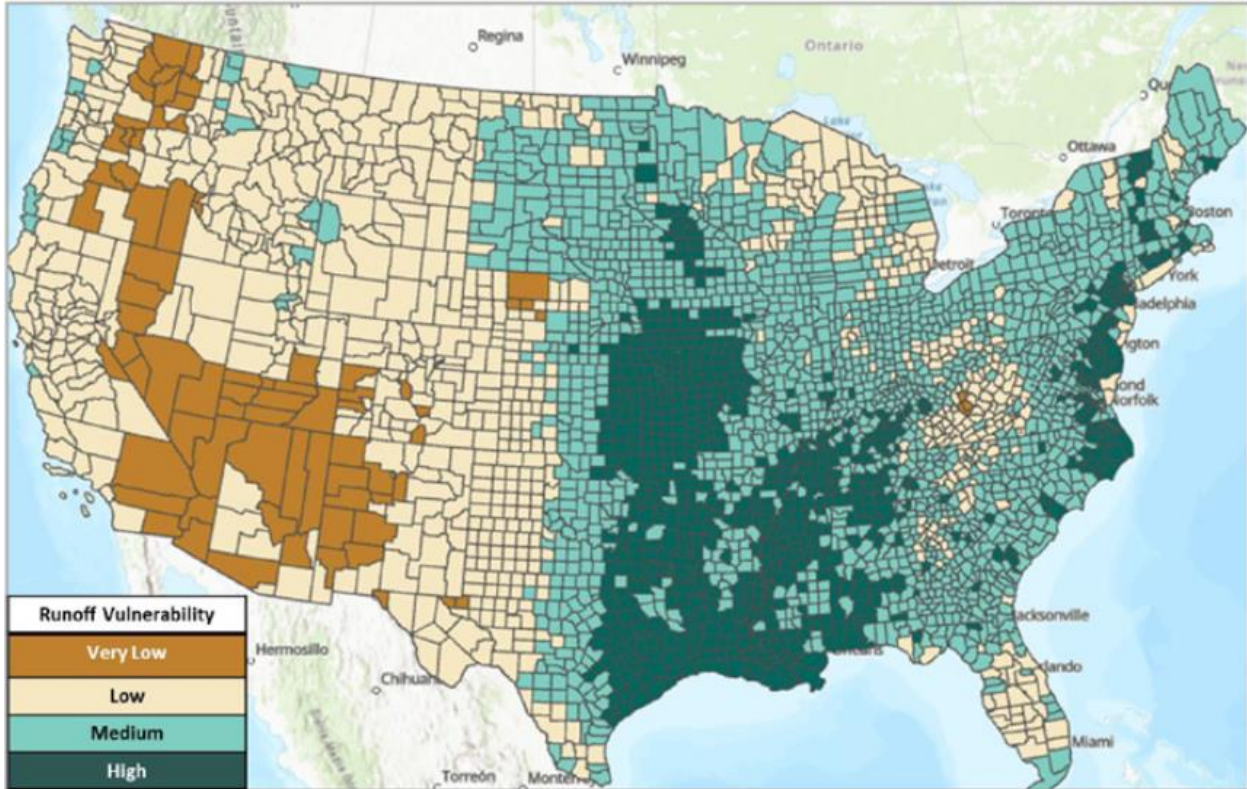


Figure 1. Runoff vulnerability at the county level. Only counties in the high (dark green) category will need additional runoff/erosion mitigation at this time.

Exceptions: In counties with high (dark green) runoff potential, runoff/erosion mitigation for interim environmental mitigation decisions are not required if any one of the following six parameters occur or can be met.

1. The soil in the application area is over 50% sand, a loamy sand, or sandy loam soil.
2. The application area has a slope of $\leq 3\%$.
3. The application is a partial field treatment (i.e., banded application, spot treatment, or backpack/handheld/precision sprayer application).
4. The application is incorporated via irrigation or as a soil incorporation.
5. The treated field has subsurface or tile drains installed with controlled drainage.
6. The treated field has a perimeter berm system.

What are examples of ecological mitigation measures that I might have to use? If the application site is in a county with high runoff vulnerability and none of the field conditions or application parameters apply then you must choose at least one of the mitigation measures listed on the website if directed by the label. The number of measures required may vary based on pesticide and the county where the field is located. There are 20 different mitigation measures currently listed and described on the website.

- Contour farming

- Contour farming with in-field vegetation (e.g., contour buffer strips, contour strip cropping)
- Vegetative barriers
- Cover cropping/continuous ground cover
- Vegetative filter strip (20 ft minimum width, in-field or field-adjacent)
- Alley cropping
- Strip cropping
- Irrigation water management, including:
 - Center pivot, overhead sprinklers, flood, and furrow irrigation with runoff reducing technology (e.g., soil moisture sensors or evapotranspiration meters)
 - Micro irrigation (e.g., aboveground drip tape, drip emitters, or micro sprinklers)
 - Subsurface irrigation
- Mulching with natural materials
- Reduced tillage or no-tillage
- Terrace farming
- Reservoir tillage
- Erosion barriers (e.g., wattles)
- Riparian buffer zone
- Field border
- Grassed waterway
- Vegetative drainage ditch
- Constructed wetland
- Tailwater return systems
- Water retention systems (e.g., retention ponds, sediment basins)

Why is this a different website than Bulletins Live! Two? This mitigation menu is currently part of the FIFRA registration review process and the Interim Ecological Mitigation (IEM) effort. Bulletins Live! Two is part of the Endangered Species Act process. In the future, the EPA expects to expand the mitigation menu website to include mitigation options to protect endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) but currently this applies to interim environmental mitigation decisions under FIFRA.

What will we see in the future? Under FIFRA, EPA is proposing runoff/erosion mitigation measures to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides. EPA plans to use similar mitigation measures to protect endangered species. The ecological mitigation presented on this website currently reflects the FIFRA IEM effort, however, EPA intends to revise the ecological mitigation to reflect updates as its strategies to further endangered species protection are finalized, and as additional data on mitigation are submitted to the agency.

Note- A special thank you to **Bill Chism**, WSSA Endangered Species Act chair for compiling this information and his tireless work on these issues. Bill can be reached at **carlysbarn@gmail.com**; 301-351-3852. Also, many thanks to the members of WSSA's ESA Committee for their comments and edits: Stanley Culpepper, Cameron Douglass, Leah Duzy, Aaron Hager, Brad Hanson, Carroll Moseley, Taylor Randell-Singleton, Emily Unglesbee, Mark VanGessel, Frank Wong, Nicole Zinn, Sarah Chu and Daewon Koo.

WSSA Endangered Species Act webpage: <https://wssa.net/endangered-species/>

Meet the 2024-2025 Science Policy Fellows

Sarah Ann-Drumm Chu

Sarah is a third-year PhD Student at Texas A&M University studying under Dr. Muthukumar Bagavathiannan. Sarah's dissertation project is focused on developing methods to practice



harvest weed seed control in cotton in addition to testing a new possible form of harvest weed seed control that uses blue light and mid-infrared wavelength. She received her B.S. in a dual degree of Horticulture and Agronomy at Michigan State University while working as an undergrad research assistant to Dr. Don Penner, where she was first exposed to weed science. She then earned a M.S. at Michigan State University under Dr. Erin Burns. Sarah has made strides to work on her science communication skills through the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Fellowship, allowing her to participate in congressional visits day to advocate for agricultural research. This training and congressional visits day launched her to pursue an application to the Weed Science Policy Fellowship, where she looks forward to engaging in conversations about agriculture research funding.

Joshua Miranda

Joshua is a Ph.D. Candidate at Oregon State University under the supervision of Dr. Marcelo Moretti, where he studies a critical issue in hazelnut production: herbicide resistance in weeds.



Joshua's research efforts involve conducting extensive field trials and employing both basic and applied research methodologies to understand weed dynamics and the mechanisms underlying herbicide resistance. Through his work, Joshua aspires to bridge the gap between scientific research and practical application, ensuring that innovations in weed management are accessible and beneficial to farmers, agricultural stakeholders, and the broader community. Joshua is very excited about the opportunity to be a Science Policy Fellow and is committed to making a positive impact on agriculture, farming communities, and the environment. His goal is to contribute to the committee by informing and shaping policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices and effective weed management strategies. Joshua is grateful to the WSSA and Science Policy Committee for providing him with this invaluable learning opportunity.

Weed Science Presidents Travel to DC to Promote Ag Research Funding

During the week of May 6 – 9, five weed science society presidents visited Washington DC to advocate for federal agriculture research funding. They also attended the National Coalition for Food and Agriculture Research (NCFAR) annual meeting, which provided a great overview of federal agriculture spending and priorities. We also heard from USDA's Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), Sanah Baig and from the main House and Senate Ag Committee staff working on the Research Title in the Farm Bill. This included:

Brandon Honeycutt with Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow
Jeremy Witte, with Senate Ag Committee Ranking Member John Boozman
Ricki Schroeder, with House Ag Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson

Emily Pliscott, with House Ag Committee Ranking Member Austin Scott



From L to R: Lee Van Wychen, Executive Director of Science Policy; Dawn Refsell, NCWSS President; Todd Baughman, SWSS President; Tim Prather, WSWS President; Greg Dahl, WSSA President; and Erin Hitchner, NEWSS President

We visited 25 Congressional offices to discuss our top priority issues: 1) to restore funding for the USDA Crop Protection & Pest Management (CPPM) program and 2) increase funding for the IR-4 program.

1. Support the USDA NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program at \$21 million in FY 2025. The President's Budget Request for FY 2025 slashed this program by 85% to \$3 million. The CPPM was funded at \$21 million in both FY 2023 and FY 2024. The CPPM tackles real world weed, insect, and disease problems with applied solutions through the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM). The CPPM funds Extension IPM personnel as well as a competitive IPM grants program.
2. Support the USDA NIFA IR-4 Project funding at \$25 million in FY 2025. The IR-4 Project was funded at \$15 million in FY 2024. The President's Budget Request for FY 2025 is \$15 million. There is a phenomenal need for specialty crop research and pest management solutions. The IR-4 Project conducts research and develops the data needed to facilitate the registration of crop protection products, including reduced risk and bio-based pesticides, for major food crops such as fruits and vegetables, as well as herbs, spices, ornamental plants and other horticultural crops. The IR-4 Project provides an incredible return on investment as it contributes \$8.97 billion to the annual U.S. GDP.

The Congressional visits were very successful. The House Appropriations Committee has restored the USDA NIFA CPPM program funding to \$21 million for FY 2025 and it appears the Senate will also do the same. The House Appropriations Committee also provided a \$750,000 increase for the IR-4 Program for FY 2025. We are waiting to see what Senate Appropriations

Committee will do, but any increase in funding in this very difficult fiscal year is very much welcomed.

We also met with several other agricultural groups, including the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) and the National Farmers Union (NFU). One of the outcomes of those meetings is a tour that is being planned for EPA and FWS staff to review ESA issues. The tour is being co-sponsored by WSSA and NAICC during September 3-5 in Wisconsin. We will discuss mitigations for endangered species like the Massasauga Rattlesnake and the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, view the unique challenges posed by the Central Sands hydrology and irrigated potato production, and view IPM practices being used in cranberry production. Finally, the group will tour the Winfield United Innovation Center in River Falls to the latest research in spray drift reduction technologies.



Steve Mirsky (back to camera) a weed scientist and research ecologist with USDA-ARS in Beltsville, MD, discusses the research involved in developing a weed image database for use in artificial intelligence and robotic precision sensor equipment. Todd Baughman (2nd from right) and Greg Dahl (4th from right) attended this NCFAR event on May 6. We also got to spend the day with USDA NIFA Director Dr. Manjit Misra (5th from right) touring various USDA ARS and University of Maryland agricultural research projects.

I want to personally thank each of the Weed Science Society presidents for their professionalism and leadership. Not to mention taking the time from their busy schedules to travel to Washington DC. I can assure you that each of their societies is well represented!

Weed Science Societies Support the Use of DRAs for ESA Mitigations

The six National and Regional Weed Science Societies sent a letter to EPA supporting the addition of Drift Reduction Adjuvants (DRAs) to the list of mitigation options available to pesticide users for Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. EPA's Draft Herbicide Strategy does not currently list DRAs as a tool to reduce spray drift and run off, even though DRAs are used on over 100 million acres every year.

The letter from the six Weed Science Societies supports a letter sent earlier this year on the same topic from many other stakeholder groups, including the Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA), CropLife America (CLA), and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC). EPA has responded favorably to our request and we hope they include DRAs as a mitigation option in their Final Herbicide Strategy for ESA that is expected by August 30, 2024. The Weed Science Societies letter is at: <https://wssa.net/2024/07/national-and-regional-weed-science-societies-support-drift-reduction-adjuvants-dras-as-mitigation-options-for-endangered-species-act-esa-compliance/>

EPA Increases Atrazine CE-LOC From 3.4 to 9.7 µg/L

On July 7, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an update to the level at which atrazine is expected to adversely affect aquatic plants. The new revised atrazine concentration of 9.7 micrograms per liter (µg/L), which was derived following an August 2023 FIFRA Science Advisory Panel (SAP) peer review, will be used to develop a revised regulatory decision to help protect aquatic plants as well as fish, invertebrates, and amphibians. Many thanks go to Jay Ferrell, John Madsen and Kurt Getsinger for their service on the FIFRA SAP.

The level at which atrazine is expected to adversely affect aquatic plants is also known as the concentration-equivalent level of concern or CE-LOC. Included in this announcement is an EPA [memorandum](#) that provides details on updates to EPA's database of aquatic plant community studies and revised exposure modeling. Also included is an updated map that shows where the level of concern is expected to be exceeded. Collectively, these updates resulted in the removal of millions of acres of land from the 2022 map of watersheds that were expected to exceed the level of concern and added a much smaller number of acres in other areas of the country. Later this year, EPA plans to update its [2022 atrazine mitigation proposal](#) to reflect the revised level of concern and the corrections to the exposure modeling, as well as to incorporate feedback received during the 2022 public comment period. EPA will take public comment on the revised mitigation proposal and also release a response to comments on the 2022 proposed revisions to the interim decision at that time.

Letter to EPA on Improving Process for Assessing Potential Risks to ESA Species.

On July 22, 2024, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies were among 318 stakeholder organizations who endorsed a letter to EPA looking to work with the Agency on ways to improve their processes for assessing potential risks that pesticides may pose to endangered species and their critical habitats. We appreciate EPA's openness to discussing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) risk assessment process with stakeholders.

The current methods EPA uses to assess these risks are exceedingly conservative, often relying on unrefined models and very conservative assumptions, in lieu of considering available relevant and reliable scientific and commercial data. As a result, these assessments can significantly overstate risks to species, concluding that pesticide users must adopt more costly, stringent restrictions than are truly necessary to protect listed species. [Click here to read the full letter.](#)

Farm Bill Advances in the House, But Still Waiting on the Senate

The House Committee on Agriculture passed their version of the next Farm Bill on May 24, 2024. However, the Senate Agriculture Committee has yet to release their full draft of a Farm

Bill. It appears that another one-year extension of the 2018 Farm Bill may be necessary if the House and Senate cannot get their bills passed before the August recess for Congress.

Some notable provisions included in the House Farm Bill:

- Reauthorizes the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) to continue as a competitively awarded research grant program through FY 2029 and adds additional topics to the scope of eligible research.
- Provides \$2.5 billion in mandatory funding for a competitively awarded agriculture research facilities grant program.
- Mandates \$100 million in funding for student scholarships at land-grant colleges and universities.
- Directs USDA to establish at least 15 Centers of Excellence, which were previously authorized to receive priority for funding. Changed the eligible areas of focus to include aquaculture, biosecurity, biotechnology, invasive species, water quality, and other topics.
- Expands the scope of the High-Priority Research and Extension Initiative grant program by adding research on rangeland, tropical plant health, invasive species, biochar, soil health, microplastics and PFAS impacts on farmland, and wildfire smoke exposure on crops.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.

Executive Director of Science Policy

National & Regional Weed Science Societies

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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.

2024 Membership Renewal Form

To pay by credit card, please login to your account at 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 | | |

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Private Industry (manufacturing and sales) ___ Private Industry (consulting) ___
Unemployed ___ Retired ___ other (specify) _____

Send to: WSWS/IMI,
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