



# Natural Resources Assessment **NEWS**

Washington State Department of Agriculture ♦ Natural Resources Assessment Section Newsletter

## WSDA consolidates resource protection activities

Bob Arrington, Pesticide Management Division Assistant Director, announced the consolidation of all WSDA programs dealing with issues affecting ground and surface water. Administered by Kirk Cook, the Natural Resources Assessment Section now includes the Waste Pesticide Program as well as the Endangered Species Protection and Water Quality Protection programs.



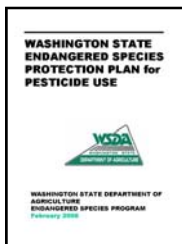
According to Arrington, “These activities were merged as part of the agency’s continued efforts to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the agricultural community and our stakeholders. Having all these programs under one roof will give us a new-found flexibility to be more responsive to the needs of our customers.”

The Natural Resource Assessment Section provides technical assistance for water quality-related issues. Among its key activities are surface water pesticide monitoring, pesticide impact assessments for ground and surface water in Washington state, and waste pesticide collection. ♦

## State-initiated plan gets provisional approval

EPA has given provisional approval to the WSDA plan for EPA to use state-specific pesticide data to make ecological risk assessments and Endangered Species Act effects determinations. In order for EPA to fully approve the Washington State Endangered Species Protection Plan for Pesticide Use, WSDA must ensure that data provided under the plan meets EPA quality standards.

To assure EPA of its data integrity and to gain full approval of the state-initiated plan, WSDA is currently documenting the methodology, scope, and quality assurance procedures that it uses when collecting Washington state crop production, pesticide use and water quality data.



EPA approved the other aspects of the state-initiated plan including the WSDA proposal to work with EPA to develop reasonable and effective mitigation when necessary to protect listed threatened or endangered species and to provide information from the WSDA Surface Water Monitoring Program to determine if mitigation measures are working. (See related article about Endangered Species Protection Bulletins on page 2.)

For more information about the Washington State Endangered Species Protection Plan for Pesticide Use, visit [agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/WaStateInitPlan.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/WaStateInitPlan.htm) ♦

## Bulletins Live! available on-line

EPA has updated its Web site to reflect enforceable limitations on pesticides that will be put in place through its Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP). Visit [epa.gov/espp/](http://epa.gov/espp/) to view pesticide use limitations for your county or read the Bulletins Live! tutorial.

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### COMMENTS?

We welcome your input.  
Please e-mail your  
comments and questions to  
[esp@agr.wa.gov](mailto:esp@agr.wa.gov)

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When appropriate, pesticide labels will refer the pesticide user to Bulletins Live! for geographically-specific Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. The Bulletins will contain enforceable use limitations for a pesticide when necessary to protect listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. Bulletins become enforceable when referenced on a pesticide product label in the marketplace.

The ESPP is based on pesticide labels and Endangered Species Protection Bulletins, unlike the previous voluntary “county bulletin” program, which relied on cooperative efforts of states, tribes, and pesticide users. ♦

## 2006 surface water monitoring data released

A summary of the 2006 monitoring results of Washington state’s ongoing surface water monitoring program has been released by the Washington State Departments of Agriculture (WSDA) and Ecology.

During the 2006 monitoring study, a total of 42 currently registered pesticide, historical-use pesticide and/or degradate compounds were detected in the urban and agricultural drainages. The majority of the pesticide detections was low and close to analytical detection limits.

When pesticides were detected, the commonly found general pesticide category for both the urban and agriculture basins was herbicides. The study found dichlobenil (Casoron®) was the most frequently detected pesticide in the Cedar-Sammamish watershed. Atrazine was the most frequently detected compound in the Lower Yakima watershed while 2,4-D was the most frequently detected pesticide in the Skagit-Samish watershed.

Azinphos-methyl, chlorpyrifos, and DDE exceeded either a state water quality standard or a recommended water quality criteria at least once during 2006.

Year 2006 is the first of a three-year study cycle to investigate pesticide occurrence in the Skagit-Samish watershed and the fourth in a six-year cycle to study pesticides in the Cedar-Sammamish and Lower Yakima watersheds.

For detailed information about the study results, visit the WSDA Web site at [agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/SWM/default.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/SWM/default.htm) or the Ecology Web site at [ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0703016.html](http://ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0703016.html) ♦



## Feds withdraw appeal on counterpart regulations ruling

NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the defendant-intervenor have withdrawn their appeal of a U.S. District Court judge’s order setting aside federal plans to streamline Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation requirements.

Judge John Coughenour’s order will make it more difficult for EPA to get new pesticides through the consultation process and approved for registration.

Issued in 2004, the counterpart regulations were intended to enhance and streamline the Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation process by allowing EPA to register a pesticide without additional consultation when it has determined the pesticide has no effect or is not likely to affect endangered species. ♦

## Resource Realities:



The average person in the United States uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day.

Showers use 9 gallons of water per minute. A bath requires 30-50 gallons.

During medieval times, a person used only 5 gallons per day. Barrels were often used as baths, with entire families sharing the same water. ♦

**Awareness**

**Assessment**

**Action**