



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Key Elements of the Washington State-Initiated Plans

The Washington state-initiated plan has three key elements:

- WSDA provides state-specific data to EPA for effects determinations;
- WSDA provides state-specific data to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for consideration in biological opinions; and
- WSDA, in collaboration with EPA, develops Endangered Species Protection Bulletins (Bulletins) for pesticides that need mitigation.

Each element of the Washington state-initiated plan correlates to a specific phase of the pesticide/ESA consultation process. Details about this correlation are provided below and are illustrated in the flowchart on Page 2.

Phase One: WSDA provides state-specific data to EPA for effects determinations.

State-specific data is necessary to refine the data EPA uses for risk assessments. By providing EPA with information on how a specific pesticide is used in Washington state, WSDA anticipates that EPA will develop locally accurate exposure estimates for salmonid effects determinations. State-specific data includes crop acreage, location, and proximity to salmonid habitat; pesticide use information; and surface water monitoring data.

Phase Two: WSDA provides state-specific data to NMFS for biological opinions.

State-specific data is valuable information for NMFS to use when developing a biological opinion to determine a pesticide's effect on salmonids. By providing Washington state pesticide use profiles, crop information and surface water monitoring data to NMFS, WSDA expects NMFS will be able to develop more accurate pesticide exposure scenarios for salmonids. WSDA can also provide NMFS with pesticide use data at "watershed scale" for development of geographically-specific biological opinions.

Phase Three: WSDA and EPA develop Endangered Species Protection Bulletins for pesticides that need mitigation.

If it is necessary to develop an Endangered Species Protection Bulletin for a pesticide that needs mitigation, WSDA will work with stakeholders to develop mitigation measures that make sense for Washington growers. WSDA envisions a tiered process to reduce exposure that starts with the implementation of best management practices. It is the goal of WSDA to preserve the use of a pesticide while ensuring adequate protection of salmonids.

PESTICIDE/ESA CONSULTATION PROCESS

