



Western Society of Weed Science Newsletter

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Summer 2010

In This Issue

Report from the President

A Note from the Business Office

Nominations:

- Fellow and Honorary Member Award
- Board Nominations
- Distinguished Achievement Awards

Call for Papers

Call for Research Progress Reports

Student Liaison Report

Outstanding Student Scholarship

WSSA Undergraduate Research Award

Washington Update

Sidebar highlights

- Contact us
- WSWS Officers & Executive Committee
- Publication
- Dates to Remember
- Calendar

Contact us

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Report from the President by Joe DiTomaso



As the summer heats up, so have the activities of the WSWS Board of Directors. We met in Spokane, Washington, on July 16-17 at the Doubletree Hotel City Center, which is the site of the 2011 WSWS annual meeting March 7-10. The hotel is very nice, the rooms are spacious and, most importantly, the beds are comfortable. In addition, the location is right in the center of the city with many good restaurants and beautiful areas to just stroll. While we have enough meeting rooms, the site is not as spacious as Hawaii, so we may be a bit cozier in 2011. In any event, that leads to more lively conversations. Chuck Rice, the local arrangements chair, has done a great job of representing the society and the staff at the hotel is working hard to make sure everything will run smoothly.

The Board dealt with a number of changes and new items. First, Vanelle Peterson and her program committee are putting together an excellent program. We will have two special symposia during the meeting. For more details, see the Program Chairs article. Once again, the society will solicit nominations for the WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship awards this year, each for \$1000. Like last year, these will be given out at our awards luncheon during the meeting in Spokane. We have also revisited the Students Night Out Program and have proposed changes that include surveying students and mentors on their interest, with the goal of connecting students with a mentor that fits their interest a couple of weeks before the meeting.

Although we lost money at the Hawaii meeting last year, our society is still in good standing. The Board approved of a number of cost saving items, including online only publication of the Research Progress Reports and the Proceedings, beginning next year. Despite our cost saving efforts, there will not be an increase in the registration fees for the 2011 meeting. We will also be using a new online title and abstract submission process although it will not be substantially different from the user perspective. The advantage to the program, however, is that it will allow for more efficient and timely development of the program, Proceedings, and Research Progress Report. This program is also being used by WSSA and other regional Weed Science societies.

Last year, the Board considered how to replace the highly successful Noxious Weed Short Course. At the meeting we approved two outstanding proposals for WSWS sponsored Noxious Weed Short Courses. These courses will begin in 2011. One is very similar to the short course that Celestine Duncan conducted and will be administered by Sandra McDonald. This course will occur at the Sylvan Dale Ranch in Loveland, Colorado. The second course will be a more advanced course focusing on using ecologically-based principles in developing invasive plant management programs. This course will be conducted in different locations throughout the west, but initially in Logan, Utah. It will be directed by Roger Sheley, Jeremy James, and Brenda Smith.

For those planning well in advance, we signed a contract to go to San Diego, California, in 2013 and will be looking at sites in Colorado Springs in 2014. In the mean time, don't forget that the 2012 WSWS meeting will be held at the Peppertree Resort in Reno, Nevada. I have personally visited the site and the hotel is spectacular with some of the lowest hotel rates we have seen in years. The hotel underwent a \$400 million dollar renovation and the rooms are luxurious with 10 restaurants at the facility. This will be a great venue for our meetings and rest assured, the hotel does not smell of smoke, as others have noted from past experience in gambling establishments.

Finally, please consider nominating a deserving person for one of the available awards, as well as fellows and honorary members. Contact Nelroy Jackson, Chair of the Awards Committee, about award nominations. Also contact Don Morishita, Chair of the Fellows and Honorary Members Committee. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me (530-754-8715, jmditomaso@ucdavis.edu). Enjoy your summer!

**WSWS Officers and
Executive Committee**

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Legislative

A Note from the Business Office by Phil Banks

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It is pretty quite here but things should become active when registration for the Spokane meeting opens on October 1. Tony White does a great job of maintaining the website with title/abstract submission and meeting and hotel registration information. If you did not attend the past meeting and have not done so already, you should renew your WSWs membership for 2010. You can do this by login to your contact page at the website (www.wsweedsociety.org) and scrolling to the bottom of the page. You can also renew by just sending me a check for \$30.00 along with your name and current contact information. If you have changed address, job, phone number, or e-mail address, please take the time to update your information. Let me know if you have any questions on this or need additional information.

Our next annual meeting will be at the Doubletree Hotel in Spokane, WA March 7-10, 2011. The summer Board meeting was held there and the hotel and surrounding area will provide an effective and enjoyable experience for everyone. Besides an affordable room rate, the hotel also offers free parking and internet service.

If you need to contact the office, please give us a call at 575-527-1888 or e-mail at wsws@marathonag.com.

WSWS Fellows and Honorary Members Award

Nomination by Don Morishita

The WSWs committee for WSWs fellows requests nominations for fellows for recognition at the 2010 WSWs meeting. Fellows are WSWs members who have given meritorious service in weed science and who are approved by a two-thirds majority of the board. Up to 2 fellows can be selected in a given year. Please consider nominating your colleague, friend, or good acquaintance for this WSWs award. Please submit a current CV of the candidate and a supporting cover letter by Oct. 20, 2008. Electronic materials are preferred. Send to Dr. Don Morishita, University of Idaho, Twin Falls R&E Center, P.O. Box 1827, Twin Falls, ID 83303-1827, Ph: 208.736.3616, Fax: 208.736.0843, don@uidaho.edu

WSWS Call for Board Nominations

The WSWs Board of Director's are looking for a few good members to fill WSWs Officer positions. Please consider running or nominating one of your colleagues for these positions. Contact Jesse Richardson at jmrichardson@dow.com

WSWS Call for Distinguished Achievement Awards Nominations Presented at the 2011 WSWs Annual Meeting

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. Please take the time and nominate an individual for one of 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.

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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 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 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, 2010.

NOMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY:

The nominator will submit a nomination document following the "Instructions for Nomination" guideline. The nominator is responsible for obtaining three letters of support and including them with the nomination package. Unsuccessful nominations will remain active for three years; however, an updated nomination packet of holdover candidates is encouraged.

The nomination package and supporting letters should be sent, by email, to all three members of the Awards Committee by December 1, 2010:

Nelroy Jackson, Awards Committee Chairperson: nelroy.jackson@att.net

1187 Stillwater Road, Corona, CA 92882 Phone: 951-314-045

Frank Young: youngfl@wsu.edu

Jill Schroeder: Jischroe@nmsu.edu

WSWS Call for Research Progress Reports

by Joan Campbell

and Tracy Rauch, Editors

The WSWs Research Progress Report is published to make significant new weed science research in the West available with the least possible delay. Early dissemination of weed research data is an important aid in formulating recommendations and in planning research. We encourage members of WSWs to submit pertinent new research data for publication in the Research Progress Report.

The Research Progress Report is produced on a very tight schedule. In order to expedite publication, all reports must be submitted in a "camera ready" condition. The report must be prepared according to the specific directions outlined below. Reports that do not strictly adhere to the requirements will be returned to the author. The report will be rejected if there is not time to make the necessary changes.

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Publication

Glyphosate Resistance in
Crops and Weeds: History,
Development and
Management,
Vijay K. Nandula (Editor)
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Email: custserv@wiley.com
Internet: www.wiley.com

Dates to Remember

Oct 20 Deadline to submit
nominations for Fellows and
Honorary Members

Nov 1 Deadline to submit
applications for Outstanding
Student Scholarship

Nov 13 Deadline to submit
applications for WSSA
Undergraduate Scholarship

December 1 Deadline to
submit nominations for
Distinguished Achievement
Award

Each contributor must:

1. Follow instructions carefully and completely.
2. Obtain two additional reviews of each report and have each reviewer sign at the bottom of the index outline. The two reviewers can be anyone other than the senior author of the report. The two reviews are a requirement for publication.
3. Send the original (unfolded), with an index outline for each report. Remember, the report will be printed as received.
4. Adhere strictly to the submission **deadline of January 4, 2011 (postmarked)**. Send an **electronic copy as a Microsoft Word file (doc or xdoc) or as an Acrobat file (pdf) attached via e-mail to trauch@uidaho.edu and jcampbel@uidaho.edu by January 4, 2011.**

Submit your reports to:

WSWS Progress Report Editors
Rauch and Campbell
University of Idaho
PO Box 442339
Sixth Street and Rayburn
Moscow, ID 83844-2339

Questions? Contact Traci Rauch or Joan Campbell
208-885-9709 or 208 -885-7730
trauch@uidaho.edu or jcampbel@uidaho.edu

Western Society of Weed Science Call for Papers

by Vanelle Peterson

The 64th annual conference of the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) will be held March 7-10, 2010, at the **Doubletree City Center** in Spokane, Washington. We encourage all members to participate in the program. Members may present a paper as an oral presentation or in a poster session. Oral presentations are strictly limited to fifteen (15) minutes, which includes a 1 to 2 minute period to respond to questions from the audience.

The call for submission of symposia ideas for the 2011 meeting had a great response with 5 submissions! Thank you to everyone who submitted a proposal. Two of the proposals were accepted to be part of the program and the others are being considered for discussion topics in the appropriate project discussion periods during the program. The 2 symposia are: *Ventenata dubia: A Growing Concern in Hay, CRP, Rangelands and Wildlands* and *Impacts of Invasive Plants on Native Ecosystems and Considerations for Control*. It is not too early to be thinking of ideas for symposia for the 2012 meeting in Reno, NV. They can be submitted to the program chair as early as the March 2011 meeting.

Registration and title and abstract submission will be open at the WSWS website on October 5, 2010.

Recently, the WSWS Board decided to move to a new system for online submission of titles and abstracts. This system has recently been adopted by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS). There are several "behind the scenes" advantages to this system related to scheduling the program and organizing the conference agenda and proceedings. Benefits include an improved ability to upload titles and abstracts, plus the added benefits of uploading presentations prior to the meeting and downloading abstracts for the Proceedings. Since WSSA and NCWSS are also using this site, you will be able to have one account and access those meetings with the same account. **You will still use the WSWS web site for registration to the WSWS annual meeting and to link to the new title, abstract and presentation submission system.** Information on submitting titles and abstracts will be available soon on the web site (www.wsweedsociety.org). Our WSWS webmaster extraordinaire, Tony White, is working with the webmaster of the new site to make sure that it is a smooth transition for us.

Calendar of Events

Canadian Weed Science Society's Annual Conference

November 15-18, 2010 at the Hotel Delta Regina, Saskatchewan

For more information contact Rick Holm at rick.holm@usask.ca (306) 966-5009 or Clark Brenzil Clark.Brenzil@gov.sk.ca (306) 787-4673.

Symposium:

Climate Change and the Implications for Plant Protection

University of Guelph
Guelph Ontario Canada
(519) 767-5001

info@open.uoguelph.ca
www.weedcenter.org/wab2010

Western Weed Coordinating Committee

Nov 30 – Dec 2, 2010

The Orleans Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

<http://www.weedcenter.org/wwcc> for more information

WSSA

51st Annual Meeting

February 7-10 2011

Hilton Hotel
Portland, Oregon

www.wssa.net

23rd Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference *Weed Management in a Changing World*

September 25-30, 2011

At the Sebel Cairnes, North Queensland, Australia

<http://www.apwss2011.com/>

XIIIth International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds

Kohala Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii

http://uhhconferencecenter.com/xiii_ishcw.html

Student Liaison Report by Tanya Skurski, Student Liaison Chair

Greeting WWS students- I hope you are having an enjoyable summer and productive field season so far. Student Liaison Chair-Elect, Mike Ostlie, and I recently attended the WWS Board of Directors meeting in Spokane, WA. Thanks to groundwork laid by previous student liaisons and the support of the Board, this was the first meeting at which the Student Liaison Chair served as an official voting member of the Board. We discussed and will continue to work with other Board members on a number of student-related initiatives and activities. One project we would really like to see succeed is the Student Night-Out Program. This program matches students with weed science professionals for one evening out to dinner during the Annual Meeting. The original intent of the program was: 1) to provide students with the opportunity to learn about weed science careers and opportunities in industry, government, and academia; and 2) to provide representatives from those sectors an opportunity to meet with potential future employees. In recent years the program has suffered from both low participation and outings of groups much larger than is practical for the purpose. However, we and other members of the Board still feel it is a worthwhile endeavor, and if implemented as envisioned can help students learn about future career paths and build contacts. Beginning this year you will sign up for the program when you register on-line for the Annual Meeting. You will choose which sector you are most interested in and we will match you with a professional from that field ("WeedHarmony" as it has been dubbed). Please take advantage of this great opportunity. Also of interest to students: the initial year of the WWS Outstanding Student Scholarship program was a success and it will be offered again this year. Please see the announcement in this newsletter and on the WWS website for details and eligibility/application information.

We encourage all students to consider serving as a Student Liaison for 2011-2012. This is a great opportunity to play an active role in the society and foster relationships with other weed science students and professionals. If you are interested, please send me (tskurski@gmail.com) a short bio with a brief background, your current program and research, and why you would like to serve as a student liaison. We will post candidate bios on the website in December and the election will be held at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the WWS student membership, I would like to sincerely thank the past and present WWS Board members for their tremendous support of the student liaison positions, receptiveness to student input and ideas, and willingness to assist with student endeavors. Your actions demonstrate that students are a valued and integral part of the society.

As the student liaisons, we are here to foster communication among the students, voice concerns and issues to the society members and Board of Directors, and initiate/promote beneficial student activities. Please contact us at any time with questions, input, ideas or concerns: Tanya (tskurski@gmail.com) or Mike (mostlie@rams.colostate.edu).

WWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program

The Western Society of Weed Science is pleased to announce the 2nd annual WWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program. The purpose of the scholarship is to promote greater student attendance and participation at the annual meeting, as well as encourage young weed scientists and new weed science research. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to three outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WWS student members. Scholarship applicants must be currently conducting, or have recently completed, research relevant to weed science. Recipients are required to volunteer time and present research at the WWS annual meeting. Deadline for applications is **November 1, 2010**. **Please share this opportunity with any eligible students you know!** Details, application instructions and materials are available at: http://www.wsweedscience.org/Students/Student_Portal.asp

**WSSA
Undergraduate
Research Award**

WSSA Undergraduate Research Award -- 2011

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

AWARD:

Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2011. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.

APPLICANT TO APPLY

The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

TO APPLY

Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.

FACULTY SPONSOR

Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget; the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

HOW TO APPLY

The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4686, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: jjjachetta@dow.com. Proposals should be received no later than November 13, 2010. Funding decisions will be made by January 21, 2011 and presented at the 2011 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony.

Washington Update By Lee Van Wychen Ph.D., Director of Science Policy

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies, 900 2nd St. NE, Suite 205, Washington, DC 20002
Lee.VanWychen@WSSA.net, 202-746-4686 www.wssa.net

Weed Resistance to Biotech Crops Stressed in NRC Report

The National Research Council (NRC) report, *The Impact of Genetically Engineered Crops on Farm Sustainability in the United States*, says that glyphosate resistant crops "could lose their effectiveness unless farmers also use other proven weed management practices." NRC Panel Chairman David Ervin, a Portland State University agricultural economist, said it's a "pivotal time" for genetically engineered crops. "Now's the time to take stock and document the weed resistance problem." Dr. Mike Owen from Iowa State was one of 12 authors on the report, but the only weed scientist.

The report includes 10 key findings and makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1. Federal and state government agencies, private-sector technology developers, universities, farmer organizations, and other relevant stakeholders should collaborate to document emerging weed-resistance problems and to develop cost-effective resistance-management programs and practices that preserve effective weed control in HR crops.

Recommendation 2. The U.S. Geological Survey and companion federal and state environmental agencies should receive the financial resources necessary to document the water quality effects related to the adoption of GE crops.

Recommendation 3. Public and private research institutions should allocate sufficient resources to monitor and assess the substantial environmental, economic, and social effects of current and emerging agricultural biotechnology on U.S. farms so that technology developers, policymakers, and farmers can make decisions that ensure genetic engineering is a technology that contributes to sustainable agriculture.

Recommendation 4. Public and private research institutions should be eligible for government support to develop GE crops that can deliver valuable public goods but have insufficient market potential to justify private investment. Intellectual property patented in the course of developing major crops should continue to be made available for such public goods purposes to the extent possible. Furthermore, support should be focused on expanding the purview of genetic engineering technology in both the private and public sectors to address public goods issues. Examples of GE-crop developments that could deliver such public goods include but are not limited to:

- plants that reduce pollution of off-farm waterways through improved use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers,
- plants that fix their own nitrogen and reduce pollution caused by fertilizer application,
- plants that improve feedstocks for renewable energy,
- plants with reduced water requirements that slow the depletion of regional water resources,
- plants with improved nutritional quality that deliver health benefits, and
- plants resilient to changing climate conditions.

The report is the first comprehensive assessment of how GE crops are affecting all U.S. farmers; including farmers that do not use biotechnology and is available for free download from the NRC at http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12804

EPA Releases Draft NPDES Permit Language

The Environmental Protection Agency released a draft **pesticide general permit** (PGP) that would set general conditions for point source discharges from the application of pesticides to “waters of the United States”, defined by EPA to be:

- 1) Navigable waters
- 2) Tributaries of navigable waters
- 3) Interstate waters
- 4) Intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams:
 - a. Used by interstate travelers for recreation and other purposes; or
 - i. Which are the source of fish or shellfish sold in interstate commerce; or
 - ii. Which are utilized for industrial purposes by industries engaged in interstate commerce to include:

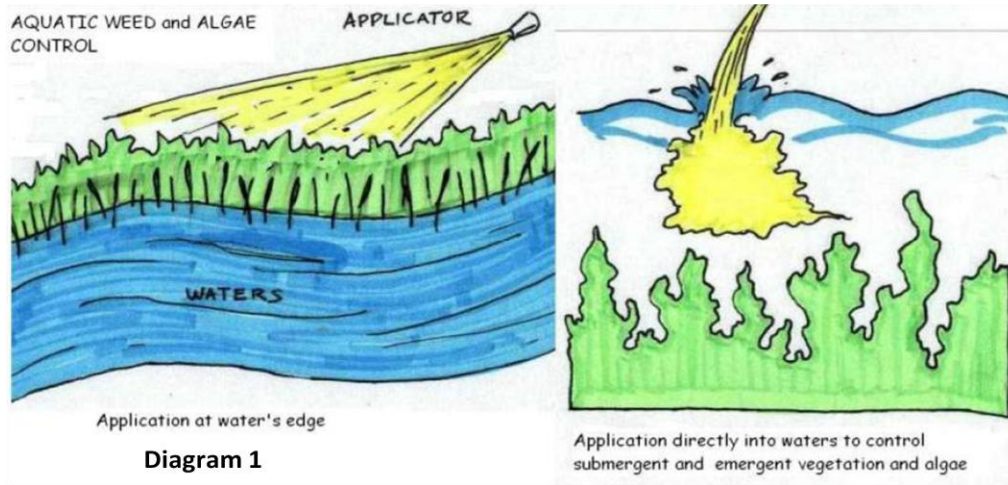
This definition has been interpreted to cover virtually all types of surface waters including: Rivers and streams; lakes and ponds; wetlands; sloughs; prairie potholes; intermittent streams; territorial seas, etc.

The draft PGP would cover discharges in areas where EPA is the permitting authority for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. These areas include Alaska, Idaho, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Oklahoma, 6 of the 7 U.S. Territories, Indian Country lands, and certain federal facilities. The remaining 44 states, which are authorized to administer NPDES permits, will issue their own permits. State-issued general permits must meet all Clean Water Act requirements that the Federally-issued permit must meet but can be more stringent. EPA received comments on its draft permit through July 19 and intends to issue a final general permit by December. The 44 NPDES authorized states will need to have permits issued and effective by April 9, 2011.

EPA estimated the permit program will affect approximately 365,000 pesticide applicators nationwide that perform 5.6 million pesticide applications annually.

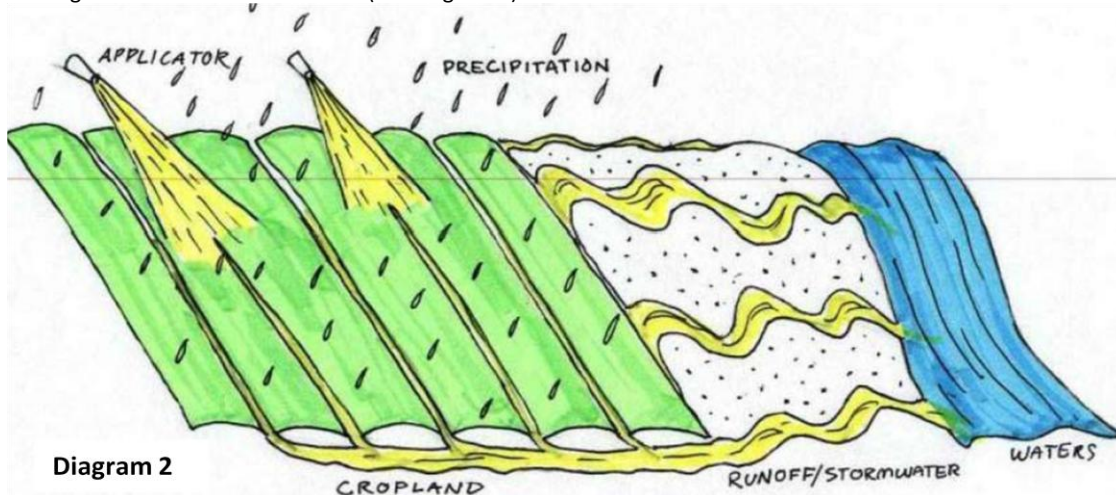
Pesticide uses covered under the draft PGP:

- 1) Mosquito and Other Flying Insect Control (in or above “standing or flowing water”)
- 2) Aquatic Weed and Algae Control (in “waters of the US” as well as “water’s edge,” including irrigation ditches/canals (see diagram 1)
- 3) Aquatic Nuisance Animal Control (in “water and at water’s edge”)
- 4) Forest Canopy Pest Control (where a portion of the pesticide will unavoidably be deposited to “water” below the canopy)



Pesticide uses outside the scope of the draft PGP:

- 1) Terrestrial applications to control pests on agricultural crops or forest floors
- 2) Off target spray drift
- 3) Activities exempt from permitting under the Clean Water Act:
 - a. Irrigation Return Flow
 - b. Agricultural Stormwater Runoff (see diagram 2)



The application of pesticides for control of terrestrial pests associated with crop production is **not** covered under EPA's NPDES draft PGP. Farmers that apply pesticides in any of the four use patterns that discharge to U.S. waters may need permit coverage. Example: application of pesticides in or along the sides of irrigation canals or ditches to control vegetation.

Who Has to File a Notice of Intent (NOI)?

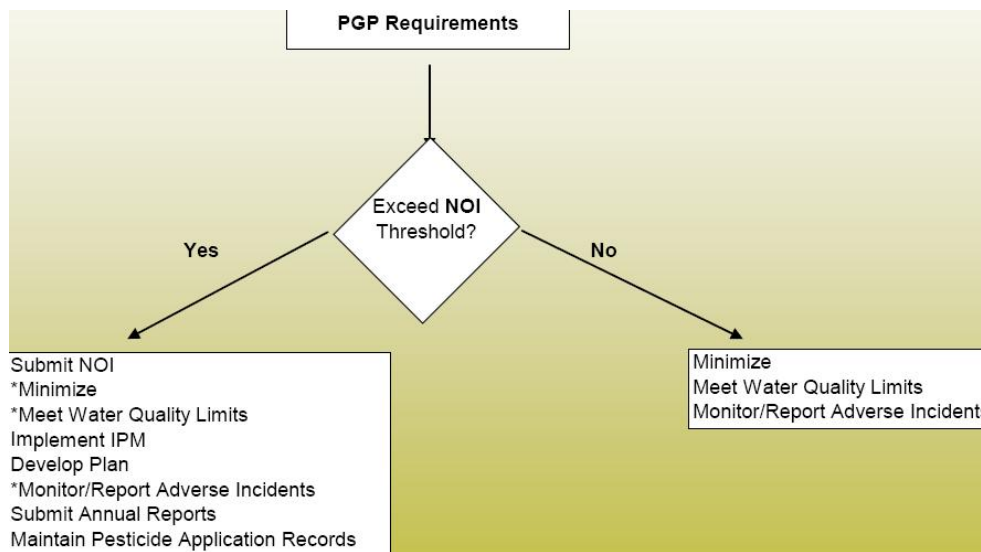
NOIs will be required for entities that know or reasonably should have known that they will exceed any of the pesticide application thresholds. The NOI filer, in most cases, would be the entity with control over financing for or the decision to perform pesticide applications, as opposed to the person performing the applications that result in a discharge, if different. However, any contract applicator would need to file an NOI, if it exceeds the application threshold for any applications not already covered under another NOI

What are the Annual Treatment Thresholds?

Pesticide Use	Annual Threshold
Mosquitoes and Other Flying Insect Pest Control	640 acres of treatment
Aquatic Weed and Algae Control	
In Water	20 acres of water treatment area (1)
At Water's Edge	20 linear miles at water's edge (2)
Aquatic Nuisance Animal Control	
In Water	20 acres of water treatment area (1)
At Water's Edge	20 linear miles at water's edge (2)
Forest Canopy Pest Control	640 acres of forest canopy

(1) Calculations should include the area the applications made to: (a) waters of the US, and (b) "conveyances with a hydrologic surface connection to waters of the US at the time of pesticide application". For calculating annual treatment area totals, count each application as separate activity. For example, applying pesticides twice a year to a 10 acre site should be counted as 20 acres of treatment.

(2) Calculations are identical as above and each application counts as a separate activity. Thus, if you were treating both sides of a 10 mile ditch, that would equal 20 miles of linear water treatment.



While EPA is proposing an NOI framework to "obtain NOIs from the largest dischargers", the annual treatment threshold triggering an NOI submission for aquatic weed and algae management is only 20 acres of total treatment area or 20 linear miles of treatment area at the water's edge. The 20 acre threshold for aquatics is extremely low given EPA's stated intent to exclude small area operators. Operators that do not exceed an annual treatment area threshold are covered automatically under the PGP without the need to submit an NOI.

The agency asks for feedback on whether the framework "strikes an appropriate balance between capturing information on discharges from the largest pesticide application activities and avoiding the imposition of unreasonable burdens on operators whose pesticide application activities affect smaller areas," as well as comments on whether the threshold will result in EPA receiving NOIs from "an appropriately targeted set of large dischargers."

EPA is also seeking comment on other significant issues, including input on how many entities will be covered under the permit as written, limitations on coverage, technology-based effluent limitations, and water quality-based effluent limitations, as well as monitoring and reporting issues.

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies comments included:

- 1) EPA should ask 6th Circuit Court for additional time (at least 2 more years)
- 2) Application rate objectives are best met by directing the applicator to follow the FIFRA prescriptive label, rather than requiring research-based judgments the applicator is unqualified to make in order to "minimize" application rates.
- 3) EPA is incorrect that reduced rates are effective for resistance prevention (Note- EPA Office of Water staff assured me that this is not their objective, but that is not how the draft PGP currently reads.). Again, the PGP stresses "MINIMIZE" and makes it sound like you will be in violation of your permit if you DO NOT USE LESS than the labeled rate.

- 4) Increased jurisdictional clarity would help others determine if their pesticide use(s) warrant inclusion under this general NPDES permit. It's plausible that an applicator could be sued for applying an herbicide in their field where that field has a ditch with water in it at the time of application. While Agricultural Stormwater runoff and Irrigation Return Flow are exempt from Clean Water Act permitting, the application of pesticides for control of terrestrial pests associated with crop production is not covered under EPA's NPDES draft PGP.
- 5) Make Outstanding National Resources Water (Tier 3) eligible for PGP.
- 6) Pesticide R&D (such as that done at Land Grant colleges or Industry) should be automatically covered by this permit and not be required to submit an NOI and be subject to "citizen lawsuits"

More information on the NPDES requirements for discharges from pesticide applications is available at www.epa.gov/npdes/pesticides. Copies of the draft PGP, the PGP fact sheet and Federal Register notice can be downloaded from that site as well as details on how to provide public comment through EPA's website at www.regulations.gov (for docket number EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0257). The Federal Register comment period closed on Monday, July 19, but if you have comments that you would like to relay to EPA, please contact me directly.

WSSA Appeal to USDA to Restore Weed Science Funding

The restructuring of the old CSREES into the new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has resulted in many changes in programs and priorities. While the National and Regional Weed Science Societies have been very vocal supporters of increasing the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grant money and maintaining the Land Grant formula funding, we were very disappointed when the AFRI request for applications (RFA's) were released in March. Since that time, we have had many meetings with USDA-NIFA and I have coordinated comments submitted jointly by the National and Regional Weed Science Societies. The National and Regional Weed Science Societies appealed to USDA to make three changes: **1)** Add a Foundational program within AFRI to address weedy plant biology, ecology and management, similar to those focused on phytopathology and entomology; **2)** Reconfigure larger AFRI research programs to encompass the full breadth of the agricultural sciences. Currently, program objectives are written so narrowly as to exclude not only weed science, but many other important areas of study; and **3)** Restore funding for integrated activities under the Section 406 Legislative Authority. Section 406 supports integrated weed management research through initiatives like the Regional IPM Centers, Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program, Crops at Risk and Organic Transitions Program. Funding for these programs was zeroed out in the President's FY 2011 budget. I'd like to give special thanks to Dave Mortensen and Adam Davis on the WSSA Research and Competitive Grants Committee as well as Mike Barrett for substantial comments and editing. In addition, both Mortensen and Barrett traveled to Washington DC to represent the WSSA in separate USDA-NIFA stakeholder workshops in April and June. The NIFA response to the Weed Science Societies letter indicates that money will be directed to weed resistance issues and that slightly more money will go to foundational programs rather than the five "pipeline" initiatives. The letter from Roger Beachy also indicated that NIFA will not support separate funding lines for the Section 406 programs (which has been the USDA position for a number of years), thus I will continue to lobby House and Senate appropriators to restore that funding through the appropriations process (which they have done up to last year). The 2011 AFRI RFA's are tentatively scheduled to be announced in December.

2012 Farm Bill Hearings Begin

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have begun holding hearings on the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, MN, noted that a mere 14% of the 2008 Farm Bill was targeted on actual farming. He stressed that existing support for small farmers must be maintained or large corporate farms would further dominate agricultural production. Likewise, the House Ag Committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas, OK, noted that 75% of the 2008 Farm Bill was devoted to nutrition programs. He also mentioned that increased regulations by the EPA are driving farmers and ranchers out of business by subjecting them to financial burdens to comply with new regulations.

Spray Drift Comments Submitted

The WSSA, Entomological Society of America -Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section (ESA P-IE), and the American Phytopathological Society (APS) jointly submitted Federal Register comments on the EPA Spray Drift Pesticide Registration Notice in March. One of our main recommendations included removing the word "could" from "could cause" (compared to the existing "causes adverse observable effects") on the proposed spray drift label language. "Could cause" is very subjective and could attract frivolous complaints, leading to difficult, confusing and uneven drift enforcement decisions. Obvious and off-label drift occurrences that might not have readily observable adverse effects are already enforceable as application violations (residues, species decline, etc).

Another important recommendation was to only use downwind buffers between target and sensitive sites instead of uniform buffers around all sites regardless of wind direction. USDA determined with the previous EPA drift PR notice in 2000 that if buffers were not made wind-directional, the economic loss would be on the order of \$1-2 billion dollars due to the large amount of irreplaceable acreage removed from production.

Finally, I am working with Jill Schroeder and John Jachetta to bring Bob Wolf into Washington DC this fall to give a presentation to federal staff on the progress made in spray drift reduction technologies.

Tamarisk Can Use More Water than Natives – It Depends on the Site!

By Tim Carlson, Research and Policy Director, The Tamarisk Coalition

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) recently released a report on the impacts of tamarisk and Russian olive to riparian systems. The full report, [USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2009-5247](#), is available online along with [USGS Fact Sheet 2009-3110](#) that summarizes the findings. This information complements the [Colorado River Basin Tamarisk and Russian Olive Assessment](#) and [Evapotranspiration Peer Panel Report](#). Findings from both studies are nearly identical; i.e., tamarisk and Russian olive use about the same amount of water as native phreatophytes, cottonwood and willow. This is not new information – scientists have known this for decades. The bigger issue, identified in both reports, was that deep rooted tamarisk and Russian olive, when growing in the higher terraces of a floodplain, will use more water than dryland species (grasses and native shrubs). Cottonwoods and willows do not grow in these areas because the groundwater is deeper and is not accessible to their shallow root systems. Thus, the greatest opportunity for meaningful water savings will occur on upper terraces within the floodplain where more xeric vegetation is appropriate as replacement vegetation.

What is not known is whether any of this saved water can be recovered. The Tamarisk Coalition is in absolute agreement with USGS that large-scale demonstrations coupled with detailed research are critical to answering this question. In 2006 Congress passed legislation (PL 109-320) with overwhelming bi-partisan support that authorized funding to help answer these types of questions. The Tamarisk Coalition therefore encourages states to pursue carefully designed demonstration projects that can be coordinated with USGS and other scientists.

Both the Tamarisk Coalition and USGS also found similar impacts to wildlife from tamarisk and Russian olive. Effects on wildlife are diverse and depend on the species considered, but again both reports identify that native vegetation provides superior habitat and affords greater biodiversity than do dense stands of tamarisk and Russian olive.

The Tamarisk Coalition supports this research as it can be considered along with other research and site-specific information for restoration and land management decisions.

USDA APHIS PPQ Ends *Diorhabda* Biological Control Program for Salt Cedar

The saltcedar leaf beetle, *Diorhabda* species, (including all species, subspecies, or ecotypes in the *Diorhabda elongata* complex) was previously permitted for environmental release for the biological control of salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp. L.) in the US by USDA APHIS. Concerns about the potential effects to the critical habitat of the federally-listed, endangered southwestern willow flycatcher have resulted in the following actions by USDA APHIS on June 15:

1. The APHIS PPQ saltcedar biological control program in 13 states has been terminated. Survey and evaluation of PPQ program releases will continue to assess the impact on saltcedar density and reestablishment of native vegetation.
2. The PPQ Permit Unit has discontinued issuing new permits for field cage or greenhouse studies using the saltcedar leaf beetle outside of a containment facility.
3. The PPQ Permit Unit has discontinued issuing new permits for interstate movement and environmental release of *Diorhabda* spp.
4. The PPQ Permit Unit has cancelled all issued (Le., active) permits for interstate movement and environmental release of *Diorhabda* spp.
5. PPQ will not authorize the release of *Diorhabda* spp. from containment or caged field study sites. However, the PPQ Permit Unit will authorize continuation of
 1. existing *Diorhabda* spp. activities in containment facilities.

In the event that endangered species issues are resolved, consultation between USDA APHIS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be initiated to allow resumption of APHIS *Diorhabda* spp. permitting and biological control program activities. Until these concerns are alleviated and the program activities are officially reinstated, any unauthorized human assisted movement of *Diorhabda* spp., particularly into the critical habitat of the southwestern willow flycatcher, is not authorized by APHIS, and may constitute a violation of the Endangered Species Act which could result in criminal punishment and/or fines. Additionally, the unauthorized collection, interstate transportation, and release of *Diorhabda* spp. in the U.S. may constitute a criminal and/or civil violation of the Plant Protection Act, with criminal penalties and/or fines assessed up to \$250,000 per violation. APHIS does not permit unauthorized provision of *Diorhabda* spp. or access to them to parties who intend to move, transport and/or release the beetles. For information on the PPQ Biological Control Program please visit: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plantjpest_infolbiocontrol



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