

ATTACHMENT: COMPILATION OF HANDOUTS

In addition to lively verbal updates and reports from participants, please find these handouts numbered as follows:

1. **EPA Region 10 Letter of Support for PSPs** to OR Dept of Ag and Dept of Environmental Quality -- 2 pages
2. **OR DEQ, OR Dept of Ag and OR Dept of Forestry Letter of Support and Commitment to PSP Stakeholders** -- 2 pages
3. **Becoming a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA)** – 2 pages
4. **Edge-of-Field Monitoring** – 2 pages
5. **Waste pesticide collection event** (OSU and Blue Mountain Horticulture Society event is July 22 in Milton-Freewater – must pre-register, see flyer enclosed) – 2 pages
6. **Strengthening Conservation with Regional Partnerships.** RCCP \$400 million of funding through Farm Bill – see [nrcs.usda.gov/Farm Bill](http://nrcs.usda.gov/Farm%20Bill) and send (up to) 6-page pre-proposal in by July 14, 2014 – 4 pages
7. **Columbia River Restoration Act** – 4 pages
8. **Effective Salmon-Safe IPM through PRiME** – 1 page



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

June 30, 2014

Mr. Dick Pedersen, Director
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204

Ms. Katy Coba, Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-2532

Dear Mr. Pedersen and Ms. Coba:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 I would like to acknowledge and express my support for the excellent work being done by the Pesticide Stewardship Program partners in multiple Oregon watersheds to achieve reductions in pesticides in water and fish. EPA has been long been supportive of voluntary initiatives and partnerships that can result in significant and measurable water quality improvements. EPA is especially appreciative of the leadership provided by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to promote pesticide stewardship partnerships throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

EPA will continue to look for opportunities to promote this important work. To date, EPA has provided funding assistance for Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships through Clean Water Act Section 319 funding, and most recently funding support through the EPA Urban Waters Program for the Amazon Creek, Oregon, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership. EPA also has highlighted the Walla Walla Pesticide Stewardship Partnership work as a "Best Practice" in the *EPA 2010 National Water Program Best Practices and End of Year Performance Report* http://water.epa.gov/resource_performance/upload/FY2010_EOY_full_report.pdf. We are providing a platform for advocating and promoting the pesticide stewardship partnership model in the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group, including co-sponsorship of the July 2, 2014, *Collaborative Approaches to Pesticide Stewardship in the Columbia River Basin Workshop*, to be held in Walla Walla, Washington.

The Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships are an excellent example of voluntary, local efforts built on collaboration, environmental monitoring, and innovative practices that can make meaningful contributions to restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.

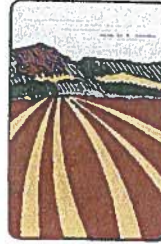
EPA encourages the continued implementation and expansion of this program to achieve water quality improvement throughout the Columbia River Basin and the Pacific Northwest. Thank you again for your leadership in this important work.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Opalski, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds

cc: Mr. Kevin Masterson, ODEQ
Mr. Steve Riley ODA
Mr. Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

2

March 6, 2014

Dear Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Stakeholders:

The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program began as a pilot project in Hood River in 2000 after current use pesticides were found to exceed water quality standards. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality could have taken a regulatory approach under the Clean Water Act to address this problem. Instead, DEQ partnered with local growers and watershed groups on a voluntary and collaborative new approach. This voluntary approach was successful in reducing pollution from current use pesticides, producing measureable environmental results. It worked because of the tools, resources and expertise in Oregon available for helping landowners and applicators to improve pesticide application and pest management practices.

The 2013 Oregon Legislature noticed the program's accomplishments and -- with the Governor's support -- provided resources to continue the program and expand it to new areas. Now that the program is established in locations throughout the state, we would like to provide a clear statement of our commitment to the PSP program in addressing current use pesticides. We also want to stress that the voluntary approach is central to achieving the goals outlined in Oregon's Water Quality Pesticide Management Plan, a plan involving the Oregon Department of Agriculture, DEQ, the Department of Forestry and Oregon Health Authority.

We continue to be committed to working with pesticide users and watershed groups in a voluntary way to address water quality exceedances in PSP watersheds. The program works, mainly because it relies on the collaboration, communication and cooperation of our PSP partners.

Historically, pesticide monitoring data in some PSP basins has resulted in streams being included on the state's list of impaired waters, referred to as the 303(d) list. Identifying waters as impaired is not an indication that DEQ is pursuing a regulatory approach. Rather, the PSP program remains our chosen path to pesticide reduction. In fact, DEQ has even used the impaired water listing as a source of information to identify basins for future PSP projects. DEQ remains committed to the program, and inclusion of a stream on the 303(d) list in no way contradicts or undermines that commitment.

While development of an estimated pollutant load a water body can receive (called a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL) is one way to achieve water quality standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allows and supports alternative approaches, such as the PSP program. In cases where alternative approaches are expected to attain standards, a body of water can be removed from the list of impaired waters and into a separate category, known as a Category 4B. This designation acknowledges that an

approach other than a TMDL will be used. EPA has suggested that the program basins included in the PSP program are good candidates to include in the 4B Category. DEQ will be working with EPA to determine the information needed to re-categorize the waters.

I hope this memo clarifies our support of the PSPs and our intention to continue using it as an appropriate course of action in selected watersheds in Oregon.



Dick Pedersen
Director
Department of Environmental Quality



Doug Decker
Oregon State Forester
Department of Forestry



Katy Coba
Director
Department of Agriculture

What is CCA Certification?

The purpose of a certification program is to protect the public and the profession. The same is true of our certifications. They are voluntary professional enhancements to a person's career credentials. Once certified you are telling your clients, employer and the public that you are serious about what you do as a professional.

All successful certification programs have one common element and that is, to serve and protect the public interest. Many professions require a license to practice such as in medicine, engineering, and accounting. A license is basically a certification program offered by the state. If a profession is licensed, it is generally required that a person have a license to practice in that profession. Certification programs offered by ASA are voluntary, but offer similar benefits to the public as licensing programs. Certification programs set standards for knowledge, skills, and conduct.

Steps to Certification

- Pass two comprehensive exams covering nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management, and crop management.
- At least two years of documented crop advising experience with grower references for holders of a Bachelor of Science degree or four years of documented post-high school advising experience including grower references.
- Must sign and adhere to the CCA Code of Ethics, meaning, CCAs always focus on grower profitability while optimizing and protecting natural resources.
- Earning 40 hours of continuing education every two years. CCAs always have the latest information on new technology and industry developments.

www.certifiedcropadviser.org

About the Program

CCA is a certification program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA). ASA established the certification programs more than 20 years ago to provide a benchmark for practicing agronomy professionals.



American Society of Agronomy
5585 Guilford Road
Madison, WI 53711
608-273-8080

That's Sound Advice

20 years of sound advice for those feeding the World



Become A Certified Crop Adviser (CCA)

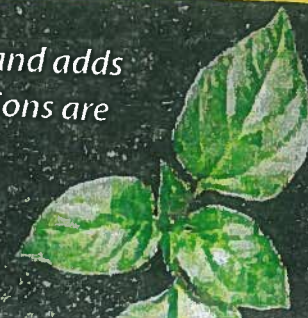
**FAR
WEST
AGRI-BUSINESS
ASSOCIATION**

Your Northwest Partner with the
American Society of Agronomy

Visit www.fwaa.org for more
information and a list of CCAs or
call Far West at (509) 465-5055.

Being a CCA, "gains respect from farmers and adds
to their confidence that the recommendations are
sound...it adds credibility."

—Ed Ruff, CCA of the Year, 2006



Sound advice for those feeding the world.

Certified Crop Adviser (CCA)

Every day, you face the challenge of both protecting the environment and ensuring economic success for your clients, employer, and yourself.

The American Society of Agronomy's certification programs provide you with Sound Advice coupled with the tools you need to succeed in all areas. Earning CCA Certification brings you:

- **Opportunity:** Your job opportunities and potential for earning and advancement will increase.
- **Recognition:** You are acknowledged by employers and clientele as a credible and competent adviser and partner.

- **Respect:** You are highly regarded — above other professionals — as an adviser, consultant, and/or teacher of agronomic practices.
- **Pride:** Your dedication to furthering your skills and continuing your education is obvious to all.

CCA Certification is the standard by which agronomy professionals are judged nationwide. For more than 20 years, ASA's certification programs have set and maintained the highest of standards that benefit you and your chosen career.



Who Should Be Certified?

An agronomist that advises agriculture growers on agronomic practices, conducts training programs for other agronomists, conducts research, manages other agronomists, or provides technical support to field agronomists and can meet the standards of the program.

Any individual whose education, experience, and career path is associated with the practice of agronomy, including:

- Field agronomists or salespeople working in public, private, or commercial sectors
- Consultants and farm managers
- Natural resource conservation personnel
- Educators and extension specialists
- Government and academic scientists and agronomy researchers
- Technical support personnel

Get Certified

Application forms and information on exams and criteria are available at www.certifiedcropadviser.org. You may also get information by calling us at 608-273-8080.

That's Sound Advice

20 years of sound advice for those feeding the World



Data Confidentiality

Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 8791 (Information Gathering) prohibits disclosure any information provided to NRCS or an NRCS cooperator by an agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land concerning the agricultural operation, farming or conservation practices, or the land itself, in order to participate in an NRCS program such as EQIP. NRCS will not share monitoring data unless it is aggregated to a level protective of PII.

In some cases, NRCS may share data with a cooperator if a data sharing agreement is in place and it specifies that the cooperator is bound by Section 1619 requirements. A cooperator under an agreement will not share your data.

However, NRCS has no authority over monitoring partners, and they are not subject to the protections from disclosure that are provided by Section 1619. Monitoring partners may want to use your monitoring data, location, and other information to publish scientific reports or conduct field tours. Because the monitoring partner works for you, the EQIP participant, a written agreement between you and your monitoring partner can ensure that your monitoring information is identified and properly protected.

EOF Support

Edge-of-Field Monitoring is a new offering from NRCS, and it can seem very complicated. To make sure projects are well planned, scientifically sound, and meet the needs of the producer, NRCS has trained staff available at the local and state office levels. There is also a national team of water quality experts, the NRCS Water Quality Management Team, available to assist you through planning, installation and monitoring for the life of the project.

Funding for Edge-of-Field Monitoring is available in selected watersheds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For more information about technical assistance and conservation programs, contact your local NRCS office.

More information on EOF Monitoring is available at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/water/quality/tr/?cid=stelprdb1044783>


United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service


United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Edge-of-Field Monitoring



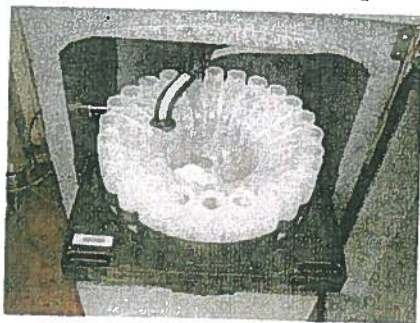
Helping People Help the Land

What is Edge-of-Field Monitoring?

Edge-of-Field (EOF) Monitoring is a new set of NRCS conservation activities to evaluate runoff water quality at the edge of a farm field, and evaluate the level of water quality protection gained from various conservation systems

EOF Activities include: Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation (201), and Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation (202), collectively referred to as EOF Monitoring.

EOF monitoring is targeted to evaluate performance of conservation practices and systems, such as nutrient management, tile drains, buffers, and irrigation water management. It will provide NRCS information to validate and calibrate models for nutrient and sediment transport, and help the farmer make the best conservation investments possible.



In 2014, EOF Monitoring is being offered in watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin, Chesapeake Bay, Lake Champlain, Great Lakes, and in each state through the National Water Quality Initiative.



How it works

If you are interested, start by contacting your local USDA-NRCS field office to see if you are in a selected watershed and to prepare or update your conservation plan to include EOF activities. You may want to work with a monitoring partner, such as a university, to install the equipment and collect and analyze the data. Once a preliminary plan is developed, the field office will help you submit an application. As you work with NRCS on your overall conservation plan and application, you and the monitoring partner will draft a monitoring plan and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). If the EQIP application is funded, the QAPP and monitoring plan are submitted to the NRCS Water Quality Monitoring Team for approval. Once approved, installation, and subsequent monitoring begin.



Why Participate?

NRCS is committed to demonstrating that voluntary conservation efforts by farmers are valuable to everyone

We believe this collaboration with producers will demonstrate the effectiveness of system-wide conservation approaches and their positive effects on water quality

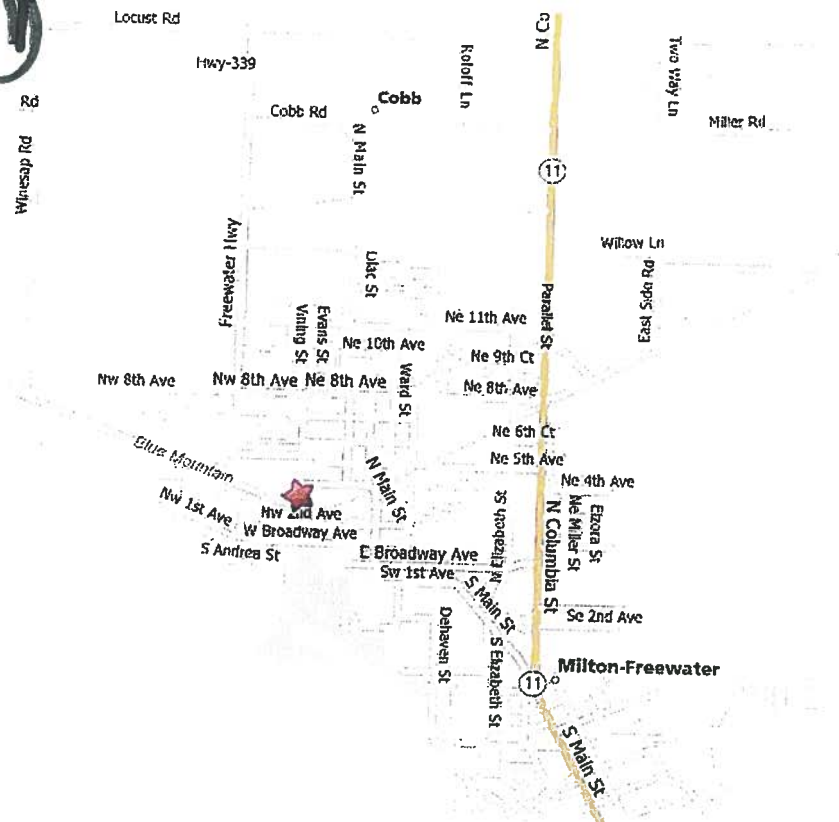
The project will provide much needed data that shows the quantifiable effects of conservation practices on water quality

We expect the data will help farmers adapt their management to both increase productivity and protect water quality

Conservation...

Our Purpose

Our Passion



323 Evans Street
Milton-Freewater, OR

Waste Pesticide Collection Event!

Free Collection Event for
Pesticides and Empty Pesticide Containers

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

8:30am – 12:30pm

323 Evans Street

Milton-Freewater, OR



OSU
Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Extension Service



Blue Mountain Horticultural Society

OSU
Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Extension Service



Blue Mountain Horticultural Society

Do you have old pesticides you want to get rid of?

- Take advantage of this opportunity to safely and anonymously dispose of unused, unusable, damaged or cancelled pesticides.
- This collection event is for growers and commercial applicators in the Walla Walla River Basin and surrounding communities.
- **You must** pre-register so the contractor knows what wastes to expect. Please complete and send the application by mail, fax, or email to Clean Harbors Environmental Services by July 18, 2014.

Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc.

To get an application or ask about the application process, contact:

Sheree Large

Ph. (503) 742-7109

Fax (503) 786-7877

Email: large.sheree@cleanharbors.com

OSU Extension

You can also get an application at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/mf/index.php>

Clive Kaiser at OSU Extension in Milton-Freewater can be contacted to find out more about event logistics. Call Clive at (541) 938-5597

Do you also want to drop off your empty plastic pesticide containers?

- A container recycler will also be at the event to take empty, triple-rinsed (or pressure-washed) plastic pesticide containers.
- All sizes up to 55-gallon capacity plastic drums can be accepted. Containers need to be made from high density polyethylene (HDPE) and embossed with recycling symbol #2.
- No pre-registration is needed for dropping off empty, triple-rinsed pesticide containers.

The Blue Mountain Horticultural Society, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon DEQ are working together on programs to improve water quality conditions in local streams.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Strengthening Conservation with Regional Partnerships

Apply to the NEW

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a new, comprehensive and flexible program that uses partnerships to stretch and multiply conservation investments and reach conservation goals on a regional or watershed scale.

Benefits

Partners participating in RCPP can use their local knowledge and networks to undertake conservation projects by joining with agricultural producers to restore or sustain natural resources such as:

- clean and abundant water
- healthy, productive soils
- enhanced wildlife and pollinator habitat

More Information

visit your
local USDA Service Center

or

nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill

How It Works

Through RCPP, NRCS and state, local and regional partners coordinate resources to help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas. Partners leverage RCPP funding in project areas and report on the benefits achieved.

Forty percent of RCPP funding will go to national, multi-state projects; 25 percent will go to state projects; and 35 percent will go to critical conservation areas (CCAs) designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligibility

Eligible Partners - Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education.

Eligible Participants - Eligible producers and landowners of agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland should visit their local USDA Service Center for information on how to enter into conservation program contracts or easement agreements under the framework of an RCPP partnership agreement.

How to Apply

The Announcement of Program Funding outlines the requirements for proposal submissions. NRCS and the selected partner will enter into a partnership agreement through which they will coordinate resources to provide assistance to producers in the project area. Partnership agreements may be for a period of up to five years, but NRCS may extend for an additional 12 months if needed to meet the objectives of the program.

More information will be available at a later date for producers interested in applying.

Partnership Agreement

The partnership agreement defines the scope of the project, including:

1. Eligible activities to be implemented
2. Potential agricultural or nonindustrial private forest operation affected
3. Local, state, multi-state or other geographic area covered
4. Planning, outreach, implementation, and assessment to be conducted

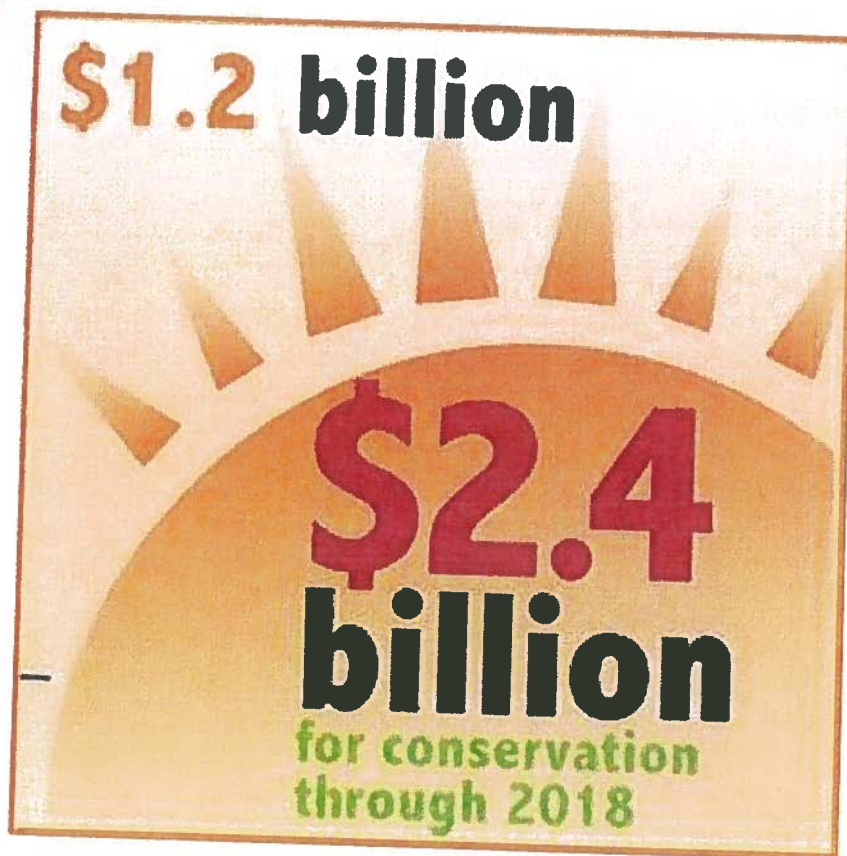
Partners are responsible for contributing to the cost of the project, conducting outreach and education to eligible producers for potential participation in the project and for conducting an assessment of the project's effects. In addition, partners may act on behalf of the eligible landowner or producer in applying for assistance. Partners may also leverage financial or technical assistance provided by NRCS with additional funds to help achieve the project objectives. Before closing the agreement the partner must provide an assessment of the project costs and conservation effects.

nrcs.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Receives funding by:

- \$100 million each year directly from the Farm Bill
- Also, by reserving 7% of funds from the four covered programs annually
- Over five years, USDA plans to invest up to \$1.2 billion with partners matching funding that could be as much as \$2.4 billion for conservation
- Up to \$400 million available this year nationwide



Sequence of Events for RCPP Proposals

- Partners work with NRCS to define the scope of the proposal
- Partners submit a pre-proposal by July 14, 2014 *(not to exceed 6 pages)*
- Pre-proposals are evaluated at the national and state level
- Selected partners are invited to submit a full project proposal by Sept. 26
- Full proposals are evaluated and selected (October 2014)

Columbia River Restoration Act 2014

What is the Columbia River Restoration Act?

The bill is the first bill to authorize Congress to appropriate funds to the Columbia Basin to clean up toxics and keep them from getting into the water and soil.

It will reduce human, fish & wildlife exposures to contaminants and help avoid costly environmental clean-ups, economic loss, and public health impacts.

What does it do?

It is a voluntary program.

It is preventative.

- It would create a grant program, like the one for Puget Sound, which could bring \$50,000,000 to northwest states and communities to clean up toxics.
- It is a modern day approach to a clean environment: Doing business a new way.
 - Farmers show other farmers what they can do; Builders show other builders alternatives; toxics get cleaned up voluntarily because it costs less and is good for business.
- It keeps toxics from getting in the water and soil.
- It funds voluntary, collaborative and incentive-driven initiatives to improve water quality which is more efficient than many regulatory processes.

Why the Columbia Basin?

Our region is not getting its share.

The Columbia Basin is the only major EPA designated 'large aquatic ecosystem' to receive zero funding pursuant to this designation.

For fiscal year 2013, through EPA's Geographic Programs, Congress appropriated:

Chesapeake Bay: \$58,000,000
 Great Lakes: \$334,025,000
 Gulf of Mexico: \$5,515,000
 Lake Champlain: \$2,432,000
 Long Island Sound: \$4,018,000
 Puget Sound: \$30,404,00
 San Francisco: \$5,924,000
 South Florida Ecosystem: \$2,082,000
Columbia Basin: \$0

Is this a new program?

These large water bodies or Large Aquatic Ecosystems already are authorized in the EPA's budget in the Geographic Programs.

What is the economic impact to the region?

Natural resource projects create family wage jobs and leverage a lot of dollars.

Every \$1,000,000 spent on natural resource projects creates 20 direct jobs that ripple through the economy.

Natural resource work creates jobs. For habitat restoration projects and toxics reduction projects, including collection events, these are on-the-ground family wage jobs (average salary \$53,644).

These are **direct** investments – the people who design a project, replace a culvert, build a bridge, haul the collected pesticides, or remove oil tanks. For those jobs, another 24 **indirect** jobs (suppliers of materials & equipment) and **induced** (gasoline stations, grocery store clerks) are created. When those people spend their incomes to support their households – groceries, household expenses, and transportation – economic benefits reach many sectors.

If the region receives \$50,000,000 from this program, it would generate another \$45,000,000 cycling through the economy; that's 2,200 family wage jobs.

What is being done now to reduce toxics?

There is progress, it's not enough. There isn't enough money to fund what we need to do.

This bill would allow us to expand on demonstrated successes to reduce toxics.

There are successes reducing toxics, including:

- The Port of Vancouver, Washington treats up to 99% of its stormwater before it reaches the Columbia.
- The City of Portland completed a \$1 billion project that reduced combined sewer overflows by 94%.
- Jointly, Oregon and Washington have a purchasing project for 'green' janitorial supplies (a contract estimated at \$20 million in purchasing power).
- Idaho, Oregon, Washington have collected millions of pounds of pesticides in recent years through hugely successful pesticide collection events.
- The Oregon legislature allocated an additional \$1.5 million recently to increase these successful collaborative pesticide stewardship partnerships statewide.
- In the Yakima River, a collaboration of irrigation districts, Washington Department of Ecology and Yakama Indian Nation reached a 20-year goal for DDT reduction in just 5 years and fish advisories were lifted.
- Growers in Walla Walla Basin decreased use of one pesticide by over 90% in just three years.
- Commitment by agricultural producers to third party labeling, such as Salmon Safe, has created an international market for agricultural products that use less or no pesticides.

What is the problem?

The more we learn, the more contamination we find. The more alarming the information.

Toxics impact people, fish, wildlife and our economy.

They have far-reaching impacts on drinking water, salmon spawning, other fish and wildlife, commercial fishing, economic viability, recreation, wetlands and private property.

They impact farming, ranching, forestry, paper and aluminum industries, fishing - everyone.

A healthy river creates healthy businesses that lead to healthy people, healthy fish and clean ecosystems.

The problems have existed for a long time. New ones are emerging.

We do not know contaminant sources or how levels change over time.

Levels of contaminants found in Columbia River fish, sediment and water column directly impact human health, fish, and wildlife. They impair our economic viability and competitiveness.

Heavy metals, bacteria, PAH, fertilizers, and pesticides, come from a range of activities and sources including household chemicals, paints, motor oils, gasoline, lawn treatment, and construction.

PCBs come from certain dyes and remain from former uses including refrigerants and coolants.

Mercury pollution comes from coal-fired power plants, boilers, steel production, incinerators, and cement plants.

PBDEs, known as flame retardants, are ubiquitous—they are in a wide array of products, including building materials, electronics, furnishings, motor vehicles, airplanes, plastics, and textiles.

Human Health Impact

- Multiple cultures, including Native American, Asian and Russian populations, rely on fish as a cultural and dietary staple.
- Mercury levels, a significant problem on many tribal lands, cause neurological, developmental and reproductive problems, including birth defects and learning disabilities in humans.
- DDT causes cancer, liver disease and disrupts hormones.
- PCBs harm immune systems and increase cancer risks.
- PBDEs increase cancer rates, including thyroid cancer, and disrupt hormonal balances.

We know what we need to do:

- EPA's Columbia Basin Toxics Action Reduction Plan

<http://www2.epa.gov/columbiariver/toxics-reduction-action-plan>

- Estuary Partnership Toxics Reduction Strategy

Economic Impact

- Contaminated dredge materials in ports and marinas threaten operations & economic vitality.
- Commercial fishing, once constituting the largest salmon producing river system in the world with annual returns peaking at 16 million fish, is threatened.
- Contaminated lands cannot be redeveloped until they undergo costly cleanup.

Species Impact

- Thirteen species of salmonids are listed under the ESA as threatened or endangered. All use the lower river and estuary twice during their life cycle.
- Contaminants, including mercury, ammonia, bacteria, DDE, DDT, dioxin, PCBs and arsenic, increase mortality and disease susceptibility, halt growth, impair productive organs of male river otters and thin eggshells of osprey and bald eagles, reducing reproduction in some areas by half.
- Contaminants in flame-retardants, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products cause male fish to essentially morph to female within their life cycles. They affect the ability to reproduce, avoid predators, and resist disease, inhibiting recovery of ESA-listed species.
- High water temperature and dissolved gas levels exceed levels safe for species survival.

Habitat Impact

- Over 50% of lower Columbia River's wetlands (114,050 acres) have been lost since the 1880s.
- The 20,217 acres of habitat restored in the lower river is not protected from contaminants.
- Dozens of sites identified as toxic "hot spots" in the 1990s are still there.

Columbia River fish advisories are clear evidence that we have a huge problem.

In 2013, additional advisories were issued by the State Health agencies recommending limits to fish consumption of resident fish; additional advisories will be issued in 2014.

Fish are among the healthiest thing we can eat.

Doesn't the region already spend a lot on toxics?

No, habitat restoration receives most of the funding and attention.

The Pacific NW region is spending millions annually on **habitat restoration** to recover ESA listed salmonids to mitigate for impacts caused by the hydropower system. Current funding is **not spent on toxics reduction** or monitoring. We need to protect the investment made in habitat; NOAA studies confirm in Seattle's Longfellow Creek and Grover's Creek Hatchery in North Kitsap areas, millions have been invested in habitat restoration, the fish return – and die from toxics in runoff.

What activities can funds be used for?

Reduce toxics and clean up toxics, including small sites.

This would not fund clean up of superfund sites and it does not absolve responsible parties.

- Eliminate or reduce pollution
- Clean up small contaminated sites
- Improve water quality
- Monitor to evaluate trends to target clean up and reduction
- Reduce contaminated runoff, manage stormwater
- Protect habitat for multi-species, including lamprey and resident species, not just salmonids

Who is eligible? What kind of projects qualify?

Water pollution control entities; Tribal, State, or local governments; conservation entities; watershed councils; soil & water conservation districts.

- A Soil & Water Conservation District could use funds for farmers or ranchers to fence in cattle from streams or to develop GIS applied pesticide applications to reduce runoff of contaminants.
- A state agency, local government, tribal government, or non-profit could use funds to collect pesticides, mercury, or pharmaceuticals, or to monitor contaminants.
- Entities could use funds for consumer education about toxics of concern.
- A local government, or other entity, could use funds to reduce stormwater runoff or initiate green purchasing programs.

How Significant is the Columbia Basin?

The Columbia:

- *supplies thousands of jobs.*
- *provides low cost power for the Northwest and beyond.*
- *is major transportation artery for the region and nation.*
- *supports commercial and recreational fishing industries.*
- *is a national recreational and cultural resource.*

- It is the largest river system in the NW, flowing 1,253 miles from Canada to the Pacific Ocean; it is the sixth largest watershed in the United States.
- It irrigates 6,000,000 acres of agricultural land.
- It carried \$20 billion in cargo value in 2010 – 40,000 jobs depend on this trade – plus an additional \$3 billion in inland navigation cargo.
- It generates \$15-\$20 million annual in revenue from tourism (dinner and overnight cruises).
- It produces more hydroelectric power than any other North American river.
- The basin historically constituted the largest salmon-producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at 16 million fish.
- The lower river and estuary are designated an Estuary of National Significance (1995), a Clean Water Act §320 designation; the Basin is one of ten Large Aquatic Ecosystems, an EPA designation (2006).
- It is home to 8 million people.

Is this new legislation?

No, it was first introduced in 2010.

In 2010, Congressman Blumenauer and Senator Merkley introduced the Columbia River Restoration Act. Several other similar bills for other Large Aquatic Ecosystems were introduced at the same time, including San Francisco and Puget Sound. They had already received an appropriation in the Geographic Programs and were seeking specific authorizing legislation.

The Senator Environment and Public Works and the House Transportation Infrastructure committees held hearings. The Estuary Partnership, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and others were invited to testify. The bill passed out of the Senate committee with a unanimous vote. The bill was not voted on by the House committee.

In late 2010, the bills were combined into the Great American Outdoors Act, along with several other major environmental programs and projects. That did not reach a floor vote in either the Senate or the House.

What is different from 2010?

This bill makes it clear that this would provide funds to the people of the Columbia Basin.

The 2014 draft makes it clear that this is a grant program making funds available so local entities can reduce or clean up toxic contaminants in the Columbia Basin.

A large stakeholder group helped develop the bill to ensure it meets local needs.

More years have passed with the **Columbia still receiving \$0** while other great water bodies continue to be funded.



Effective Salmon-Safe IPM through PRiME

Seeking to Protect Water Quality and Native Fish

Certain pesticides are a serious threat to salmon and other aquatic life including pesticides at sublethal concentrations that can stress juveniles, alter swimming ability, interrupt schooling behavior, cause salmon to seek suboptimal water temperatures, inhibit seaward migration, and delay spawning. All of these behavioral changes ultimately affect survival rates. To minimize the possibility of waterway contamination with agricultural chemicals, it is important that growers look carefully at how they manage pests. For more than a decade, Salmon-Safe has utilized a "High Risk" list of restricted pesticides that pose excessive risks to salmon and aquatic ecosystems, even when used carefully and in accordance with product label directions. At the same time, Salmon-Safe has been exploring new quantitative approaches to helping growers establish an effective pest control management plan that take into account the environment and particularly native fish, avoid unnecessary treatments, and makes best use of the least toxic products and methods available.

Testing a New Tool

Salmon-Safe has joined with Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) to test a new USDA-funded tool called the Pesticide Risk Mitigation Engine (PRiME). PRiME is designed to help growers (or certifiers like Salmon-Safe) evaluate pesticide risks using the latest available science. Pesticide risks are calibrated to field effects, not effects obtained in laboratories. Risk values also take into account method of application and rate. Find out more about PRiME at: <http://ipmprime.org>.

Learn more about PRiME:
www.salmonsafe.org/prime

Salmon-Safe currently is piloting pre-release version PRiME across multiple regions and crop sectors including hops, wine grapes, apples, and others with the goal of incorporating the tool in our certification program, particularly in cases where pesticides we consider "high risk" to salmon are being used. Participating growers can compare different pest management scenarios and select options with the fewest potential environmental and health hazards.

PRiME is a user-friendly, innovative online tool that ranks pesticide products for impacts on fish and aquatic ecosystems as well as birds, earthworms, small mammals, and worker/bystander health and safety. PRiME applies an innovative risk calculation based on site-specific conditions, pesticide properties, and empirical field impact data where available. The tool calculates risk to a comprehensive set of indices and can display a risk summary in various formats including risk ratings grouped by risk indices or products.

What's Involved for Growers

For participating Salmon-Safe growers, piloting PRiME simply involves providing pesticide records electronically so that Salmon-Safe or OSU can run the analysis. This data will be entirely anonymous as required by Salmon-Safe policy and OSU's federal research grant for this project.

Salmon-Safe is supported by a joint USDA Conservation Innovation Grant with Food Alliance to test PRiME and there is no additional cost to growers in the pilot.

Questions about Salmon-Safe and PRiME:

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