



Oregon
Environmental
Council
It's Your Oregon

Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) advances innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Pesticide Stewardship

effective, collaborative, local solutions for pesticide management



Pesticide Stewardship Programs

Since 2000, foundation and federal funds supported seven pilot Pesticide Stewardship Programs in the Hood River, Wasco, Walla Walla, Clackamas, Yamhill, Long Tom and Pudding watersheds.

Step one: Identify issues

Agency experts work with local experts and industry leaders to identify pesticide issues within a geographic scope. They collect water samples from local waterways for analysis.

Step two: Bring people to the table

Local pesticide users join experts and agencies to view results of the water sample analysis and detection of current-use pesticides.

Step three: Identify solutions

Partners develop and implement voluntary, customized solutions that are most practical for land managers in order to reduce pesticides in local waters.

Step four: Monitor progress

Voluntary programs have shown measurable results in reducing pesticide concentrations below levels of concern, successfully precluding need for a regulatory approach.

We support the Governor's budget package for pesticide stewardship

Unless we establish secure funding for effective pesticide stewardship programs, we risk losing them.

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides \$1.5 million/biennium for a Pesticide Stewardship Program. This package, with 50% general funds and 50% existing pesticide registration fee revenue, would provide:

- pesticide sampling and analysis in rivers and streams for **10 Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships** at a time;
- pesticide, disease and weed control **tools, planning, education and technical assistance** for landowners;
- **community pesticide collection events** to help Oregonians protect and improve water quality.

This budget package will not raise pesticide prices for Oregon's pesticide users.

Urban and rural clean water solutions

- **Ensure clean water for people:** In the last half of 2012, pesticide applicators **safely disposed of about 35,000 pounds of unusable pesticides.**
- **Promote healthy runs of wild salmon:** In Hood River and Walla Walla River Pesticide Stewardship Programs, partners **reduced by 90% concentrations of chlorpyrifos**, a pesticide that can harm salmon.
- **Avoid expensive regulatory mandates:** Traditional one-size-fits-all regulation can take more than five years to implement. Voluntary programs can start within two years, and consistent monitoring can show effective results.

"Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships show that a regulatory solution isn't always necessary to achieve the results we're looking for."

*--Kevin Masterson,
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality*

People & salmon need pesticide stewards

- There are 72 “pesticides of interest” in current use here in Oregon. They have the potential to occur at concentrations that exceed health and environmental standards.
- Three “high priority” pesticides are found in Oregon waterways exceeding tolerable limits. Another eight “moderate” priority pesticides are approaching levels of concern.



Voluntary programs are the best first option

If voluntary stewardship is the state's first strategy, we can:

- Avoid a regulatory approach as the first strategy;
- Provide flexibility and control to land managers rather than top-down, one-size-fits-all mandates;
- Enable pesticide users to address multiple pesticides at once in a single voluntary project, reducing potential for future problems;
- Implement solutions in two years rather than five or more years for the regulatory process;
- Provide effective results for the least implementation cost;
- Provide Oregon with monitoring data and practical solutions to inform federal pesticide use debates.

“Voluntary actions now can help avoid more costly regulations later.”

*--Ken Bailey, Orchard View Farms,
The Dalles.*

Bringing value to land managers

- Pesticide Stewardship Programs give local land managers the best access to the resources of the state's nationally-recognized academic experts in pest, disease and weed management.
- These resources help land managers develop alternative pest, disease and weed control strategies that maintain profitability, protect water resources and avoid regulatory risk.
- Community pesticide collection events enable pesticides users to anonymously and safely dispose of waste pesticides. This reduces costs for land managers and prevents leaks, spills and runoff.

“...state registration fees have absolutely no impact at all on final market price of a product.”

--A major pesticide manufacturer, in an email to Steve Riley at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The budget package won't raise prices

The Governor's pesticide stewardship budget package does not rely on an increase in pesticide registration fees in the next biennium.

However, if the Oregon Department of Agriculture increases pesticide registration fees in the future to fund this program and others, it will not impact the price of pesticides for users.

For more information:



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