



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

Washington State Surface Water Monitoring Program for Pesticides in Salmonid Bearing Streams, 2003-2005

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) contracted with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to design a multi-year monitoring effort to evaluate pesticide concentrations in salmonid-bearing surface waters. The data collected will allow WSDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) to refine exposure assessments for pesticides registered for use in Washington State. The exposure assessment is compiled from 455 surface water samples, taken over a three year period (2003-2005), during the typical pesticide use season. Exposure results are linked to life history and habitat utilization of Puget Sound Fall Chinook, and Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead. Thornton Creek, in the Cedar-Sammamish watershed was chosen as the urban drainage. Marion Drain, Spring Creek, and Sulphur Creek Wasteway in the Lower Yakima watersheds were chosen as the agricultural drainage. Impact Statement: Understanding the fate and transport of pesticides used in Washington State allows regulators to make state-based decisions to protect endangered species while minimizing the economic impacts to agriculture. Monitoring results are presented to pesticide users in a timely manner in order to advise use modification and management prior to initiating regulatory action.

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