



# Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Strategic Plan

## Background

As the state lead agency for FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act), the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Pesticides Program holds the primary responsibility for pesticide registration and use regulation within the State of Oregon. State Lead Agencies for pesticide regulation, such as ODA, have a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are required to have a method, or plan, to ensure that pesticides do not adversely affect the nation’s water resources, and those who depend on them.

Many Oregon state agencies have a vested interest in pesticide use around the state.

An interagency team, the Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (WQPMT), composed of representatives from multiple state agencies was formed in 2007 to efficiently address the protection of waters of the state from pesticide contamination. Current agency members of the WQPMT and their role in protecting water quality are:

- **Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)** is the state lead agency for FIFRA and holds the primary responsibility for pesticide regulation in Oregon.
- **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** has broad authority under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Oregon State statutes, and associated administrative rules to develop and implement programs to protect the quality of waters of the state to ensure public health and the environment are protected.
- **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)** protects and enhances Oregon’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. ODFW has the authority to seek damages for the value of fish and wildlife injured or killed as the result of pesticide pollution or violation of the condition of any permit, and for all costs of restoring fish and wildlife production in affected areas.
- **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)** sets policies, procedures, and standards for forest practice regulation in Oregon. Prescribes additional standards beyond those protections provided by the EPA/FIFRA for natural resource protection when chemicals (including pesticides) are used in forest environments.
- **Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service’s** mission is to engage the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that strengthen communities and economies, sustain natural resources, and promote healthy families and individuals.
- **Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon. The drinking water program emphasizes prevention of contamination through source water protection, technical assistance to water systems and training of water system operators.

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## Definitions

**Mission** – The overarching statement of values and principles which guide the program.

**Goal** – Broad, long-term desired result which requires one or more objectives to be achieved. (Goals are not listed in order of priority or importance.)

**Objective** – Specific, shorter-term measurable actions required to achieve the overall goal.

**Outcome** – Specific desired results that will be used to evaluate if objectives are being met. Outcomes will be in the annual work plan and directly correlate with the goals and objectives outlined below.

**Pesticide Users** – Any person using pesticides in urban, residential, agricultural, forestry, commercial, or industrial settings.

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Under FIFRA, states are encouraged by the EPA to create and implement pesticide management plans. In 2011, the WQPMT created the Pesticide Management Plan for Water Quality Protection which outlines the roles of each agency and the methods the agencies will take to manage pesticide use in the state of Oregon.

One of the methods used to implement the Pesticide Management Plan is the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program. This voluntary program uses water quality data to assess pesticide levels in streams and supports local partners to create educational programming to encourage voluntary changes in pesticide use and management practices. The water quality data is also used to designate pesticides of concern (POC) for the state. POCs are reported to the EPA annually and direct the focus of educational and technical programs.

## Program Goals

**1** *Collect scientifically defensible water quality and sediment data and use PSP data in local and statewide education, outreach, and technical assistance decision-making, while maintaining flexibility to adapt PSP monitoring programs to new pesticide analytes, monitoring approaches, and methods.*

- **Objective 1:** Only use data that has been collected by local partners and analyzed by an accredited lab according to approved quality assurance plans and standard operating procedures.
- **Objective 2:** ODA/DEQ and local partners collaborate to develop the monitoring and assessment approach to meet local and program needs.
- **Objective 3:** DEQ will identify and adopt new laboratory analytical methods to test widely used, new pesticides, and pesticides that have greater toxicity.
- **Objective 4:** DEQ conducts field verification of water and sediment sampling methods and publishes a report at least every fiscal biennium.
- **Objective 5:** WQPMT will identify emerging environmental monitoring and analysis technologies and implement methods and strategies to monitor water quality and sediment.
- **Objective 6:** Provide public access to PSP program information and data.

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## PSP Program Mission

To limit off-target movement of pesticides from all land use types into local waterways while maintaining crop yields and managing pest pressures by supporting local partners to engage pesticide users through voluntary behavior change, engagement, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

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*Use water quality data to facilitate the creation of locally relevant outreach, education, and technical assistance projects that leads to behavior change around pesticide use, thereby improving water quality.*

- **Objective 1:** Meet annually with PSP partners to develop key messaging specific to pesticide users based on water quality data. Seek new techniques to communicate information and overcome barriers pesticide users face when implementing BMPs.
- **Objective 2:** Provide regular opportunities for local agency staff and PSP partners to learn and apply technical knowledge relating to the PSP data.
- **Objective 3:** Use PSP data and pesticides of concern to inform key program decisions.
- **Objective 4:** Collaborate with agencies and organizations to leverage resources and expand program reach to achieve beneficial program outcomes and water quality objectives.
- **Objective 5:** Seek opportunities to partner and engage with pesticide user community groups and others directly impacted by pesticides.
- **Objective 6:** Identify ways to partner with and provide meaningful engagement opportunities for communities of difference, underserved communities, and other groups that are disproportionately impacted by pesticide water quality.

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*Provide opportunities for landowners to dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides at collection events throughout the state.*

- **Objective 1:** Work with ODA's Citizen Advocate & Tribal Liaison to promote events to tribes and host collection events on, or near, tribal lands when there is sufficient interest.
- **Objective 2:** Prioritize pesticide collection event locations in a manner that is equitable to urban and rural residents and historically underserved communities.
- **Objective 3:** Provide information and resources for areas and citizens unable to participate in events.

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*Develop and maintain clearly defined guidelines and performance evaluation methods that can be applied to current and future PSPs.*

- **Objective 1:** Make management decisions and conduct program activities according to program guidelines to ensure uniformity in evaluation and resource allocation considerations among watersheds.
- **Objective 2:** Periodically review and, as appropriate, establish new or refine existing PSP partner grant selection criteria.
- **Objective 3:** Establish processes for evaluating progress towards improving pesticide water quality impacts and for determining overall performance of PSP lead organizations basins.