



2024 WSSA Endangered Species Special Committee Report, Version 2

Committee Name and Code: Endangered Species Act Committee (designated Standing Committee in 2024) – P24.

Committee Chair: Bill Chism

Committee Members, 2024

Aaron Hager, Univ. Ill, NCWSS
Amy Hope, American Phytopathological Society representative
Brad Hanson, UC Davis, WSWS
Bill Chism, Chair, retired from EPA
Cameron Douglass, USDA
Carroll Moseley, Syngenta
Emily Unglesbee, GROW
Frank Wong, Bayer Env. Sciences
Leah Duzy, Compliance Service International
Lee Van Wychen, WSSA
Mark VanGessel, Univ DE and EPA Liaison, NEWSS
Stanley Culpepper, UGA, SWSS
Taylor Randell-Singleton, UGA
Tom Anderson, Entomological Society of America representative
Sarah Chu, TAMU, Graduate Student Representative
Daewon Koo, VT, Graduate Student Representative

Board of Directors Liaison:

Carroll Moseley, Syngenta

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements:

- Carroll Moseley, Syngenta, was asked to stay on the committee because of his extensive state contacts.
- Tom Anderson, Entomology Society of American was added.
- Amy Hope, American Phytopathological Society was added January 2025.

Summary of past year's activities including:

Committee Goals

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) Endangered Species Act (ESA) committee was created to foster the protection of threatened and endangered (T & E)

species and their habitat while protecting critical weed management tools through developing partnerships which maximize the WSSA's ability to communicate science-based information to regulators.

Goals for 2025:

- Conduct ESA Symposium at WSSA annual meeting in Vancouver, BC.
 - Including speakers from FWS, NMFS, WA state regulator, and topics on improved mapping (Univ GA) and how to use the EPA website (Compliance Services International). The EPA had to withdraw from making two presentations so Mark VanGessel and Bill Chism will make those presentations.
- Add additional information to Endangered Species Act webpage.
- Produce and distribute additional ESA presentations for members and non-members.
- Work with external partners such as state regulators, retailers, extension, or crop consultants to communicate ESA to their members.
- Produce communication materials to help explain to our members what data could help with ESA assessments.

Committee Accomplishments

- **Label Format:** Committee presented recommendations to EPA in response to their “EPA: WHITE PAPER: Benefits of the Adoption of Structured Content and Digital Pesticide Labels.” Stanley Culpepper and Bill Chism worked with Lindsay Roe in the EPA Herbicide Branch and Adama to develop a Structured Label format. Label is due to be released February of 2025 but the new administration may delay that date.
- **Mapping:** Taylor Randell-Singleton and Stanley Culpepper have worked directly with FWS and EPA to develop a “method paper” to improve mapping of threatened and endangered species and farm field locations. We will add information on this topic to webpage.
- **Members:** We have added a member from the Entomological Society of America and the American Phytopathological Society to help create a uniform message across the three societies engaged in pest management in agriculture. We are looking into adding a member from the Tri-Societies (ASA, CSSS, and SSSA) to expand our reach.
- **Meetings:** National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC), State FIFRA Regulators (SFIREG), National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP).
- **Outreach:** Provided short description of ESA to be inserted into Pest Management Guides or sent as part of extension newsletter. Multiple members of the committee participated in media interviews on ESA throughout the year, resulting in several published news articles and podcasts on the topic.
- **Presentations:** Produced presentations and placed on webpage. Worked with Pesticide Safety Education Program coordinators to develop a short presentation on ESA. Numerous presentations by committee members during the year.
- **Webpage:** Endangered Species Act webpage was created on WSSA website (<https://wssa.net/endangered-species/>).
 - Includes background information on landing page
 - Links to EPA, FWS, and NMFS webpages
 - Glossary of terms

- Short documents describing ESA and the final Herbicide Strategy

WSSA Funds Requested

- Sponsor an ESA Resource Hub (website) to host information on how to protect listed species for members, consultants and growers (see Appendix A) \$1,000/yr
 - Travel funds for Bill Chism \$6,000 to give presentations and attend meetings.
 - Georgia Vegetation Management Meeting – presentation on ESA \$1,000
 - Three trips to ESA Workshops given by IPM Centers \$1,000 each or \$3,000
 - WSSA National Meeting \$2,000
- **Total** **\$7,000**

Current State of Committee’s Projects or Activities

- Activities ongoing.
- 2025 provide basic information on ESA to growers, consultants, and WSSA members.
- In fall of 2025/winter of 2026 provide more detailed information on ESA and Herbicide Strategy.

New Information Posted on WSSA Website

- See webpage section above.

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

- No changes in goals.
- Update the ESA Communication webpage.
- Continue ESA training to growers, extension, and state regulators.
 - Mark VanGessel and Bill Chism are organizing a half day training workshop in Maryland with consultants, growers, MD pesticide trainer, state dept of ag, NRCS, and USDA.

Recommendations for Board or Membership Action (funds or other requests):

Funds requested for 2024: See attached project proposal form.

- In 2024 we requested a total of \$18,000 and spent ~ \$6,600 of that amount.
- Funding for literature reviews on existing mitigation research and phytotoxicity research. 2 literature reviews at \$6,000 per article = \$12,000. The committee decided this would not be helpful to EPA or Services so work was not conducted and money was not used.
- Funding for ESA for \$6,000 from Compliance Services International for a slide presentation that is available on our WSSA webpage.
- Travel for Bill Chism \$4,500 was requested but only travel charged was for WI Farm Tour \$555.39

Appendix A: Compliance Services International Is Developing a Resource Hub for ESA Information

Compliance Services International (CSI) is embarking on a new endeavor: a “one-stop-shop” resource hub for aggregated ESA and FIFRA education and training materials. Because a resource hub for ESA and FIFRA resources has the potential to benefit a wide range of stakeholders and will need to be updated and maintained for the materials to remain relevant and accurate, CSI is seeking partners in the endeavor. Through supporting the ESA Pesticide Resource Hub and continued development and maintenance of training materials, your organization and CSI can provide end-users of pesticides and those who support them with access to available resources.

Project Description, Funding, and Timeline

While WSSA, FIFRA Endangered Species Task Force (FESTF), CropLife America (CLA), and many other organizations have been exploring their role and many have already begun developing materials such as presentations and websites on ESA and FIFRA, CSI sees the need for a larger system that can serve as an aggregated and up-to-date resource for ESA and FIFRA materials. As such, the intended purpose of developing a resource hub is to:

- Provide accurate and current resources for use by a variety of audiences that interact with pesticides and species,
- Provide efficiencies in how the material is distributed and economies of scale, and
- Link stakeholders with experts, resources, and support which in turn will lead to protection of product registrations, better informed use decisions, and enhanced species needs and awareness.
- This resource hub will be public and not behind a paywall. It will be incorporating it into their Avoidance, Minimization, and other Measures for Protecting Species (AMMPS) platform ([AMMPS - Welcome!](#)). Which already has publicly availability information.

CSI recognizes that WSSA has been a leader in this space and we see the resource hub as an opportunity to highlight the work of WSSA and other groups. Our goal is to not replace the websites and work that is already underway but to highlight it and direct more people to those resources. As the number of voices grow in this space, having a central location to find experts, presentations, fact sheets, articles, and other material will help with efficiencies and increase the likelihood of a successful implementation.

The following supporter levels are available for stakeholders:

Level 1: \$500 - name and logo on resource hub

Level 2: \$1000 - Level 1 + link to website on resource hub

Level 3: \$5000 - Level 2 + seat on Advisory board

Level 4: \$10000 - Level 3 + custom webinar for your organization