



2022 WSSA Endangered Species Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Endangered Species Act Committee

Committee Chair: Bill Chism

Committee Members, 2022 (includes sub-committee members):

Brad Hanson
Stanley Culpepper
Cameron Douglass
Mark VanGessel
Sarah Lancaster
Taylor Randell Singleton

Board of Directors Liaison:

Lee Van Wychen

Committee Members Rotating Off:

No members are scheduled to rotate off

Recommended Replacements/Additions:

Suggest one additional member each from
Pesticide Registrant
Endangered Species Consultant Company
Communication person to help develop educational materials
Subcommittees will be developed, after the ESA workshop, to address data needs that the federal agencies have described and to consider communication and education topics.

Objective of Committee:

Foster the protection of endangered and threatened species through developing partnerships which maximize the WSSA's ability to communicate science-based information to regulators.

Summary of past year's activities including:

Goals for 2022:

- The committee first met on April 8, 2022 and continues to meet monthly.
- Foster the protection of endangered and threatened species through developing partnerships which maximize the WSSA's ability to communicate science-based information to regulators.
- Organize an Endangered Species workshop at the WSSA annual meeting to determine what scientific information WSSA members could provide the EPA, FWS, NMFS, and USDA for their endangered species assessments.

Committee accomplishments since the last annual meeting

- Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.

- Increased visibility of the Endangered Species Act through a series of presentations across the U.S.
 - WSSA Weed Tour for EPA, Maryland September 13, 2022
 - Illinois Extension Weed Science Meeting Virtual Presentation September 27, 2022
 - CropLife and Fish and Wildlife Service Meetings Falls Church, VA November 17, 2022
 - North Carolina Crop Protection School, Virtual Presentation December 1, 2022
 - North Central Weed Science Society Meeting, St. Louis, MO December 7, 2022
 - Illinois Fertilizer and Farm Chemical Association, Peoria, IL January 18, 2023
 - SWSS General Session Symposium Presentation, Baton Rouge, LA January 23, 2023
- Workshop on Endangered Species with Federal Regulators at WSSA Meeting Jan. 31, 2023 in Washington DC with help from the EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the USDA.
 - The committee plans to publish suggestions from the endangered species workshop in a WSSA journal.
- WSSA funds requested if any?
 - The committee requested but did not receive a WSSA Innovative Grant.
 - Currently requested funding total is \$ 18,000 as described below.
 - Two presentations on Endangered Species Act.
 - An introductory presentation on the ESA suitable for WSSA members, farmers, Extension, public, and crop consultants that have little current knowledge regarding the topic or its potential impacts, approximately 20-30 minutes in length. The presentation will cover the history, goals in protecting threatened and endangered (T & E) species, and why future labels will be changed to protect those species. Presentations will be made available to our members and regional members for training purposes.
 - A second presentation will describe the types of data regulators use when making ESA assessments thereby helping WSSA members understand the detail needed by OPP and the Services when making technical assessments.
 - This money would pay Compliance Service International, a firm with many years of experience in endangered species research, to create two presentations on ESA.
 - Estimated cost for both presentations is \$6,000
 - Literature reviews of existing published data on herbicide phytotoxicity and reducing off-site movement relevant to T & E species.
 - Summarize herbicide phytotoxicity data on T & E species. OPP and Services are currently making critical decisions that lack complete scientific data. This will provide a database of existing herbicidal phytotoxic effects for OPP and the Services. This type of information will be valuable if there is no or limited herbicide specific data.
 - Summarize research data for regulators on ways to minimize off-site movement of herbicides focusing on drift, runoff, and volatility. Off-target mitigation measures do differ by regions, and this may help OPP and the Services in considering if individual states should adopt unique approaches.
 - This money will pay graduate students to conduct a literature review and help draft the articles.
 - Estimated cost for each article is \$6,000 for a total of \$12,000.
- Current state of the committee's projects or activities?
 - Our majority activity is the WSSA workshop which will provide guidance for future projects and activities.
- Any new information posted on the WSSA website?
 - Information regarding the endangered species workshop will be posted after the annual meeting.
 - We are hopeful that once the website is updated there will be an ESA page on the WSSA website.

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

- Produce presentations for our members on the endangered species act that are introductory or basic that can be used in extension training. Produce presentations with additional information to help explain to our members what data would help with ESA assessments.
- The Endangered Species Committee is hosting a workshop at the WSSA annual meeting, Jan. 31, 2023 with help from the EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the USDA. At the workshop we will develop information on ways our members can provide scientifically based information on:
 - Phytotoxicity data on endangered plant species or use surrogate, related species to develop that data.
 - Information for label clean up as well as endangered species protection.
 - Information to help establish endangered plant species for “offsetting” plantings, site restoration, or to grow the plants for test purposes. The initial discussions with the Botanical Society of America have suggested a Google Blog might be an ideal and easy place to store this type of information.
 - Information on crop timeline or crop calendar of when herbicides are applied in different parts of the country.
 - Information to reduce offsite movement of pesticides.
- The committee will publish results of the suggestions of the workshop in a WSSA Journal.
- The committee will establish subcommittees to collect or develop information suggested at the workshop.
- The committee will also discuss the need for extramural funding for endangered species research so that can be discussed with Board members.
- Develop a page on the WSSA webpage to describe what our committee is doing in regards to endangered species.

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

- As the Endangered Species Committee interacts with other societies (e.g., ESA, APS, Botanical Society of America), consultants (CCA and NAICC), registrants, and government agencies it would be helpful if the Board members suggested when they would like to be informed or invited to the discussions.