

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ESA pesticide activities

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Outline

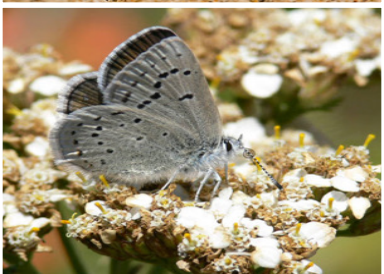
1. Updates on FWS' pesticide activities
2. Challenges to mitigation and conservation
3. EPA's ESA pesticide initiatives
4. Building regional relationships



Updates on pesticide activities

Malathion

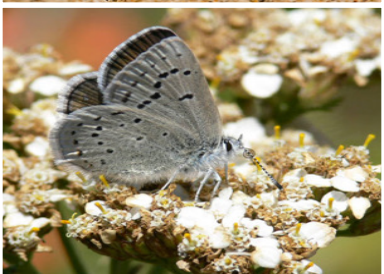
- Completed February 2022
- No jeopardy/adverse modification determination
- Currently in implementation phase
 - Developing internal guidance to facilitate implementation
 - 64 species-specific conservation measures
 - Cover agricultural uses and mosquito adulticide
 - Pesticide use limitation areas (PULAs)



Updates on pesticide activities

Enlist One/Enlist Duo

- Just completed November 2023
- No jeopardy/no adverse modification opinion
 - Up front mitigations: Runoff mitigation pick-list
 - PULAs for 2 species and 1 critical habitat
 - sub-county, sub-species range
 - Reduced application, timing restriction, and avoidance





Challenges to developing conservation and mitigation measures

FWS is continuing with individual pesticide consultations

- Mitigation and conservation measures are likely key to continued success

Developing effective mitigation and conservation measures can be challenging

- Scale and scope of national consultations
- Developing measures for each consultation can be inefficient





EPA's ESA initiatives



FWS committed to helping EPA develop, revise, and refine initiatives



Numerous benefits:

- More efficient consultations
 - Increased consistency and regulatory certainty across consultations
 - Insight into the federal process
 - Reduced need for additional requirements related to specific consultations in the future
 - Opportunity for early feedback
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Considerations for developing measures

Trying to apply lessons learned to our consultations

Important considerations:

- Offer choices accommodating different situations
- Recognize possible geographic differences in implementation
- Acknowledge and provide credit for existing mitigations
- Be consistent and predictable



Strategies for implementation

7(a)(1) Conservation plan

- Framework to collect, organize, and implement EPA's pesticide activities, including the various ESA strategies
 - Mechanism to update measures as our understanding grows
 - Emphasis on adaptive management
- Define how FWS will consider and incorporate strategies into individual consultations
- Build in stakeholder involvement
 - Define roles, develop mechanisms for sharing information/data/BMPs, communication channels, etc.






Opportunities for regional groups





State groups have a wealth of information that can inform FWS' analyses

- Where usage and risk is highest
- Feasibility and efficacy of specific mitigation measures based on local needs
- Existing protections, conservation activities, BMPs



State groups play an important role interacting with those who ultimately need to implement the measures we develop

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- Communication, outreach, education
 - How to mitigate, but also why mitigations are needed
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Building regional relationships

FWS still developing a process to formally interact and collaborate with regional groups

- Current means of communication and transfer of information
 - Individual consultations; public comment
 - One-on-one meetings and conferences
 - Field visits
- Other ways to collaborate?
 - Define stakeholder roles in EPA's conservation plan
- Welcome ideas and feedback from stakeholders



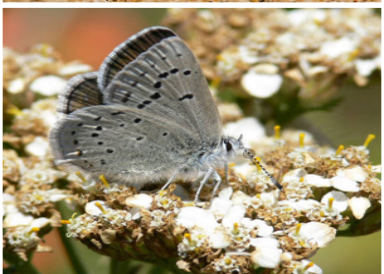
In summary...

Positive trend in USFWS' pesticide activities

Committed to working with EPA to continually refine ESA initiatives

Developing holistic pesticide conservation plan with EPA

Looking to foster regional relationships to improve the long-term success of pesticide actions





Questions?
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