

SFIREG: REGION 10 REPORT – June 2-4, 2026

Pre-SFIREG meeting – Annual Region 10 Pesticide Directors Meeting

Date:	January 28 – 29, 2026
Location:	EPA Region 10 Office, Park Place Building 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle WA
Prepared By:	Brian Hurzeler (ISDA) – Region 10 SFIREG Representative

The Region 10 pre-SFIREG meeting was held in person at the EPA Region 10 Office as part of the Annual Pesticide Directors Meeting, with an online link option for those that chose to attend virtually.

In attendance

- Alaska (ADEC): Bob Blankenburg.
- Idaho (ISDA): Brian Slabaugh, Elizabeth Palmateer, Brian Hurzeler, and Douglas Chan.
- Oregon (ODA): Gilbert Uribe-Valdez, Colton Bond, Kathryn Rifenburg, and Toby Primbs.
- Oregon OSHA: Penny Wolf-McCormack.
- Washington (WSDA): Kelly McLain, Timothy Stein, Daleena Blair, Margaret Drennan, Tina Zimmerman, and Ofelio Borges.
- National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC): Serhan Mermer.
- EPA (Region 10): Justin Spenillo, Nick Hurwit, Marie Hallinen, Martin Lovato, Kelly Tindall, Linda Liu, and Chad Schulze.
- EPA (OPP): Anne Overstreet, Kelly Tindall, Fank Farruggia, Natalie Bray, Kaitlin Picone, Eric Meiderhoff, Jessica Bailey, and Jose Gayoso.
- Coeur d’Alene Tribe: Eric Gjevre.
- Yakima Nation: Joe Herrera

Topics and State Responses:

- Alaska (ADEC): Bob Blankenburg
- Idaho (ISDA): Brian Hurzeler; Brian Slabaugh
- Oregon (ODA): Toby Primbs; Gilberto Uribe-Valdez
- Washington (WSDA): Tim Stein; Matt Sunseri; Jaclyn Hancock; Abby Nickleson.

1. **Pesticide in Water Calculator:**

Q: Is there interest in attending a webinar or training program to learn how to use EPA's Pesticide in Water Calculator (PWC)?

- **ADEC:** We would likely attend a webinar to learn more about the PWC. We do not know enough about the PWC to determine whether it would be a useful tool for our use as a SLA regulating pesticide use.
- **ISDA:** Idaho would be interested.
- **ODA:** Yes
- **WSDA:**
 - WSDA's Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS) group conducts ground and surface water monitoring in the state. The agency's Pesticide Compliance program collaborates with NRAS to address pesticides of concern and would appreciate any opportunity for training related to aquatic modeling.
 - NRAS provided some context on their programs use of SEAWAVE-QEX modeling that the surface water team has done in the past- which is focused on trends. SEAWAVE-QEX is a way to correlate pesticide concentrations with other things that are easier/cheaper to measure (like discharge and tss). It seems to work best with soluble compounds. It's useful for seeing trends, but the coding knowledge to run it is a barrier.

2. **Pesticide Treated Seed**

Q: Do SLAs have any current regulatory issues or investigations involving treated seed?

- **ADEC:** We do not have any current regulatory issues or investigations involving treated seed at this time.
- **ISDA:** Not a current issue and no relevant investigations.
- **ODA:** ODA does not have any current investigations but has had some in the past.

Examples of issues encountered in the state of Oregon:

In the latter part of 2018, ODA received a complaint about treated seed being dumped in a pasture with cows that were foraging in the pile of dumped seed. There was also concern about the proximity to a nearby creek. The material was sampled, and the fungicide metalaxyl-M was measured in the samples (composite sample measured 34.0 ppm). The pile was found to be about 143 feet long and one end was located about 137 feet from the nearest creek. After contact with the landowner and lessee, the cows were removed from the field and the parties worked closely with the Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on site clean-up.

In 2022 ODA received a complaint regarding coloured foam in a creek adjacent to a seed treatment facility. After a joint inspection with ODA and Oregon DEQ, it was determined that the coloured foam was from a cleanout process of a tote containing only dye. However, upon inspection of the site, a large area on and adjacent to the railroad tracks, a substantial amount of a coloured material was found on the ground. The facility indicated that this was where they transferred treated seed material for disposal and that it likely also contained pesticides. A composite sample of the material on the ground was collected and 0.61 ppm mefenoxam was measured. The product label stated, "Wastes resulting from the use of this product may be disposed of onsite or at an approved waste disposal facility."

In 2023, during an ODA Pesticides Program marketplace inspection, treated seed was found in bins for customers to scoop out in the retail area. This area was accessible to members of the public. The nine bins of seeds were coloured and included, various varieties of peas, corn, and beans. According to seed tag labels present, pesticides

included, but were not limited to, metalaxyl-m, captan, carboxin, thiamethoxan, difenoconazole, and thiram.

- **WSDA:** We do not have any current regulatory issues or investigations involving treated seed.

3. Expiration Dates on SLNs

Q: Does this policy change affect how states will handle 24(c) registrations? Do SLAs know who to contact to get questions answered about 24(c) registrations?

- **ADEC:** The use of Special Local Need registrations is not common in Alaska. We do not believe the policy change will impact our work substantially.
- **ISDA:** We like change #1. We will have our own internal review period consistent with the previous five-year period. We contact registrants after a five-year period to request renewal. If they decline it is canceled.
 - Yes it will impact us. Flexibility in renewing SLNs with expiration will be a continued need. We have a large number of registrations and feel that its' prohibitive work.
 - We know who to contact.
- **ODA:** Oregon is among the states with the most, if not among the most, 24(c) registrations, with more than 240 currently active. Given the number of 24(c) registrations and the need to maintain control of updated label changes and revisions, Oregon will continue including expiration dates on all 24(c) labels. The program sees exclusion of expiration dates as problematic when tracking label versions and for enforcement purposes, where applicators and enforcement staff alike would have greater difficulty identifying whether a label with no expiration date is the most recent or another version supersedes it. If EPA maintains the stance that expired SLNs cannot be amended and a new SLN number will be required, ODA will attempt to work with registrants to ensure timely updates before each label expiration date. ODA knows who to contact.
- **WSDA:**
 - Change #1 – EPA no longer recommending states put expiration dates on SLN labels.
 - Washington has not yet fully evaluated this change and currently is still putting an expiration date on each SLN label.
 - We have not determined whether we will alter this practice, or to what extent we will alter it. We have used the expiration dates to periodically review SLNs to help ensure the SLNs are still needed and to meet current EPA and WSDA labeling requirements/guidance. The dates have also helped to distinguish between versions of SLN labels.
 - Change #2 – expired SLNs cannot be amended.
 - Yes, this impacts Washington's SLN process. This is a big change for WSDA (plus growers, supporters, and registrants).
 - Washington currently has 123 active SLN registrations, with roughly 15-35 SLN labels expiring each year.
 - Registrants are often late in applying for SLN renewals (our requested submission date is October 31), and Washington receives some "renewal" requests after the SLN labels expired (December 31). As a result of this announcement, Washington has been issuing replacement (new) SLN registrations for requests that we didn't receive in time to complete by December 31. This means two actions for every expiring or expired SLN (issuance of a replacement SLN registration and cancellation of the expired SLN) instead of one (renewal).
 - This year, WSDA will likely send out at least two notifications to registrants (and supporters) informing them of this change and the need for earlier renewal submissions. If we don't receive earlier submissions for processing requests as renewals, then we will continue the replace-and-cancel process.

Do SLAs know who to contact to get questions answered about 24(c) registrations?

Yes; we work with the EPA Section 24(c) team and other states.

4. **New World Screwworm**

Q: Are any SLAs taking any actions to prepare for the occurrence and response to NWS in their state?

- **ADEC:** New world screwworm is not considered to be a threat to Alaska, given our geographic location. We are not taking any actions at this time.
- **ISDA:** Currently our animal industries division is aligning with the USDA-NWS response playbook. Right now, the focus is education. If/when there is confirmation of NWS regionally, movement restrictions would go into place with the associated state. ISDA also works with sister states (Western Regional Group). We have been in contact with Aphs regarding emergency exemption products.
We don't have a process for nationwide section 18's (we don't require registration).
- **ODA:** ODA's Animal Health Program has taken proactive steps to develop an immediate response plan and has developed an initial draft of a multi-agency state NWS playbook to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response, should NWS be detected in Oregon. A tabletop exercise lead by ODA's Animal Health Program will be planned Summer 2026 and ODA's Pesticides Program will attend and participate. ODA's Animal Health program has additional info at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/animal-health-feeds-livestock-id/animal-diseases/new-world-screwworm/pages/default.aspx>
- **WSDA:** WSDA Animal Health Program has educational/outreach link [New World Screwworm | Washington State Department of Agriculture](#)
 - Animal Health staff were provided an opportunity to add additional information but nothing was received by May 27.

Pesticide registration/labeling comments:

- Florida has mentioned Section 18s and Section 2(ee) use recommendations as examples of past/current preparation topics.
- Section 18 emergency exemptions –
 - WSDA has not received any requests/inquiries for a Washington-specific Section 18.
 - USDA contacted our pesticide registration program to determine what WSDA requires for “nationwide” Section 18 emergency exemptions that EPA issues directly to USDA.
 - WSDA doesn't have a registration/review/approval process for nationwide Section 18s, but we asked to receive courtesy notifications (in general, not just for New World Screwworm).
 - If a specific product that is registered with EPA under FIFRA Section 3 is authorized for use under a nationwide Section 18, state registration of the Section 3 product would be required for distribution in Washington. Washington doesn't have a process for unregistered pesticides (including formulated products or generic active ingredients) that are authorized under a nationwide Section 18.
- FIFRA Section 2(ee) use recommendations –
 - WSDA does not require registration or approval of such recommendations

5. **Label Complexity of OTT Dicamba products registered in February 2026**

Q: What questions are you receiving in your state regarding these registrations and the label language for these products?

Are SLAs conducting investigations related to drift for these products and, if so, how will these be conducted ?

How are SLAs interpreting the label requirements for mandatory down wind buffers and the options for reducing these buffers?

Compliance with label directions for use depends on weather data in many cases.

- What are SLAs using for documenting weather data for determining compliance?
 - How do states utilize/treat/review handheld equipment for weather data collection?
 - Where/what URLs/sites do SLAs use for weather data and why?
 - How does your SLA address situations where applicator information doesn't match the weather data collected by the SLA?
- **ADEC:** OTT Dicamba use does not occur in Alaska.
 - **ISDA:** we are not receiving questions regarding renewal. We don't have cotton and limited soybean. Out of the three 2026 OTT products renewed by EPA, Idaho has none registered. Not much need for OTT products. We are aware of Dicamba use but it is extremely limited and not encountered in Idaho.
 - **ODA:** ODA has not received any questions regarding these products. ODA does not currently have any major open investigations relating to this topic.
 - **WSDA:** In 2025, Washington mapped a total of 446 acres of soybeans in 5 counties. No cotton was mapped. OTT dicamba is a non-issue.
 - Though classified as federal general use, dicamba and phenoxy-hormone-type herbicides have been classified as state-restricted-use-pesticide (state RUPs) in Washington for years. Distribution of quantities exceeding 1 gallon require both the purchaser, and distributor, to be licensed. Washington also has specific county use restrictions that limit use of dicamba in sensitive areas, during certain times of year and during certain weather events.

6. Resources for Implementation of ESA Strategies

Q: Are there other resources that you are aware of that could be useful for assisting implementation of ESA strategies?

- **ISDA:** Agsense.org has a repository of resource links. Croplife America has several videos and fact sheets that would be useful for education.
- **ODA:** Outside of EPA resources and the ones listed above the one additional resource that we are aware of is from Cultivate Northwest: <https://cultivatnorthwest.com/community-engagement/>
“Cultivate Northwest is excited to announce the launch of Bulletin Navigator, a new tool developed with support from an Oregon Specialty Crop Block Grant to help growers and applicators navigate complex Endangered Species Act pesticide labeling requirements. Users download their required Bulletin PDF from [Bulletins Live! Two](#) and upload it to [Bulletin Navigator](#), where the tool reformats the document into a more searchable and readable format without changing the enforceability or meaning of the language. Users can search or filter by product name or active ingredient, and free account holders can save Bulletins for future reference and recordkeeping needs, including application audits and compliance checks.”
Available at: <https://bulletinnavigator.org>

New and Ongoing Issues

The draft/final inspector guidance from the PIRT training a week ago would be greatly appreciated. There is a priority set on this already but the sooner we have this the better. Consistency in implementation across the country is key. The ESA hand-off to the SLAs was poorly planned since some state's rule language is stronger to support this type of compliance effort than others.