

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Primer Course Agenda

September 21-24, 2026

Fort Collins, Colorado

Please note: All times listed on the agenda are in Mountain Time

Monday, September 21st: The Intersection of FIFRA and ESA and the Path Forward

Dress Code: Movie and Music Monday

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| 7:30 am | Check in and Breakfast: <i>French toast, bacon, fried potatoes, and fruit salad</i> |
| 8:00 am | Welcoming Remarks
<i>Ed Messina, Office Director, US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs (US EPA OPP)</i> |
| 8:10 am | Course Overview and Logistics
<i>Cindy Wire, PREP Coordinator, US EPA OPP</i>
<i>Lisa Blecker, PREP Administrator, Colorado State University (CSU)</i> |
| 8:20 am | Icebreaker and Introductory Exercise
<i>Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU</i> |
| 9:30 am | How Did We Get Here: Historical Overview of Pesticide Registration and the ESA
<i>Brian Anderson, Associate Director, Environmental Fate & Effects Division (EFED), US EPA OPP</i> |
| 10:30 am | Break: <i>Coffee, tea, yogurt, granola, and whole fruit</i> |
| 10:45 am | Strategies to Incorporate ESA into the Registration Process
<i>Melissa Bridges, Senior Regulatory Advisor, Registration Division, US EPA OPP</i>
<i>Nicole Zinn, Team Leader, Pesticide Reevaluation Division, US EPA OPP</i> |
| 11:45 pm | Group Photo |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch: <i>Burgers and fries</i> |
| 1:00 pm | Determining Species at Risk and How to Minimize Impact
<i>Irvin Huang, Environmental Toxicologist, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</i> |
| 2:00 pm | Panel: Key Federal and State and Partners and Groups Implementing ESA
<i>Craig Romary, Environmental Programs Specialist, NE Department of Agriculture (NDA)</i>
<i>Harris Walters, Environmental Toxicologist, FL Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS)</i>
<i>Michelle Ranville, Senior Economist, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy</i>
<i>Amy Sullivan, Administrator, Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT)</i> |

- 3:00 pm Break: *Potato chips and mountain trail mix*
- 3:15 pm Panel: Key Industry and Education Partners and Groups Implementing ESA
Dillon Gabbert, Director of State Regulatory Affairs, CropLife America (CLA)
Annie Kruger, Senior Consultant, Compliance Services International (CSI)
Brett Bultemeier, Pesticide Safety Educator, University of Florida (UF), &
President, American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE)
Bill Chism, Committee Chair, Weed Science Society of America
- 4:15 pm Group Discussion: Thoughts and Questions About FIFRA and ESA
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU and Brian Anderson, US EPA OPP
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

Tuesday, September 22nd: Mitigation Measures and Coregulator Considerations

Dress Code: Tie Dye Tuesday

- 7:30 am Breakfast: *Scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, bacon, fruit salad, and pastries*
- 8:00 am Pesticide Labels and ESA: What to Expect
Melissa Bridges, US EPA OPP
- 9:00 am The Role of EPA's Bulletins Live! Two (BLT)
Amy Adams, BLT System Administrator, EFED, US EPA OPP
Stephen Muela, BLT System Administrator, EFED, US EPA OPP
- 10:00 am Break: *Yogurt, granola, and whole fruit*
- 10:15 am Understanding the Mitigation Menu
Natalie Bray, Senior Regulatory Advisory, Pesticide Reevaluation Division, US EPA OPP
- 11:15 am Group Discussion: BLT & Mitigation Menu Q&A
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU and Brian Anderson, US EPA OPP
- 12:00 pm Lunch: *Taco bar with tortilla chips and guacamole*
- 1:00 pm Impacts on the Regulated Community
David Reddel, Agronomy Risk Manager, Wilbur Ellis
Brett Bultemeier, UF & AAPSE
- 2:00 pm Considerations for Co-Regulators
Craig Romary, NDA
Harris Walters, FDACS
Beth Dittman, Environmental Toxicologist, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDACS)
Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, Manager of Pesticide Programs, ME Board of Pesticides Control (ME BPC)
- 3:00 pm Break: *Mini muffins and rice Krispie treats*
- 3:15 pm Educating the Regulated Community: What has Been Done to Date
Dillon Gabbert, CLA
Annie Krueger, CSI
Brett Bultemeier, UF & AAPSE
- 4:00 pm Tribal Perspectives on ESA
Jasmine Courville, Pesticide Program Manager, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
- 4:30 pm Group Discussion: Impacts of Implementing ESA
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

Wednesday, September 23rd: Educational Materials and Tools

Dress Code: Wildlife Wednesday

- 7:30 am Breakfast: *Bagel bar with smoked salmon*
- 8:00 am Panel: Tools to Help Achieve Compliance
Natalie Bray, US EPA OPP
Annie Krueger, CSI
- 9:00 am Panel: What States Have Done to Date
Kathryn Rifenburg, Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Coordinator, OR Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Beth Dittman, NCDACS
Nathan Desjarlais, Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Department of Pesticide Regulation
- 10:00 am Break: *Yogurt, granola, and whole fruit*
- 10:15 am Breakout Groups: What Additional Materials and Compliance Tools Are Needed?
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU
- 11:45 am Field Trip Information and Instructions
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU
- 12:00 pm Lunch: *Assorted Deli Sandwiches*
- 1:00 pm Field Trip: CSU Agricultural Water Quality Program & CSU Biology Teaching Collection
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

Thursday, September 24th: Enforcement and Compliance Considerations

Dress Code: Thrifty Thursday

- 7:30 am Breakfast: *Breakfast tacos with chorizo*
- 8:00 am Current Efforts to Develop an Inspector Guidance
Kevin Kern, Pesticide Section Manager, MI Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)
- 8:45 am Planned Inspector Training
Cary Giguere, Associate Director, NASDA Foundation Programs
- 9:30 am How ESA Work Fits Within the Cooperative Agreement
Michael Bauman, FIFRA Inspector, Office of Compliance US EPA Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA)
Royan Teter, Senior Advisor, US EPA OECA
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am ESA and Enforcement Considerations
Neal Kittleson, Research Scientist, MN Department of Agriculture
Mira McBroome, Certification & Training Manager, CO Department of Agriculture
Otto Oemig, Pesticide Programs Unit Supervisor, WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- 11:15 am Issues and Considerations for Conducting Compliance Monitoring and Documenting Violations
Michael Bauman, US EPA OECA
Royan Teter, Senior Advisor, US EPA OECA
- 12:00 pm Lunch: *Sesame chicken with fried rice, ginger coleslaw, and fortune cookies*
- 1:00 pm How Inspectors Will Determine Compliance
Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, ME BPC
Rob Hofstetter, Program Manager, MD Department of Agriculture
Mia Bianchi, Pesticide Initiatives Program Coordinator, MO Department of Agriculture
- 2:00 pm Group Discussion: Strategies for Organizing a Pesticide Program to Effectively Implement Important Aspects of ESA
Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU
Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Pesticide & Fertilizer Program Manager, KS Department of Agriculture
Steven Dwinell, Director, Division of Plant Industry, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Kathryn Rifenburg, ODA
Harris Walters, FDACS

3:15 pm	Break: <i>Tortilla chips with salsa and potato chips with onion dip</i>
3:30 pm	Group Activity: Species and Spaces <i>Facilitator: Lisa Blecker, CSU</i>
4:15 pm	Travel <i>Lisa Blecker, CSU</i>
4:30 pm	Action Items and Wrap Up <i>Cindy Wire, EPA OPP</i>
4:40 pm	Final Thoughts and Acknowledgments <i>Lisa Blecker, CSU</i>
5:00 pm	Adjourn
6:00 pm	Group Dinner at Agave Underground