



Pesticide Use Proposals

One Step Toward Protecting Trust Resources

What are Pesticide Use Proposals?

A Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) is information required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) before application of a pesticide on Service property. It is a protective measure to ensure the proper use of pesticides on Service lands. The form asks for a variety of information including where the pesticide will be applied, what pesticide will be used, what species will be managed with the pesticide, and whether or not there are any endangered species in the pesticide application area.

What are the relevant authorities for PUPs?

Many authorities relate to pesticides and PUPs. Some of them include the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act; Endangered Species Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Department of Interior, Pesticide Use Policy (517 DM 1); Service Pest Management Policy and Responsibilities (30 AM 12); and National Wildlife Refuge System Pest Control Policy (7 RM 14).

Who approves PUPs?

PUPs are usually approved by the Service Environmental Contaminant or National Wildlife Refuge staff at the field, regional, and national levels, depending on the pesticide being proposed for use.

With Rachel Carson as part of our legacy, pesticide use proposals are one critical step we can take to ensure proper pesticide use on Service lands. Pesticides play a role in resource management, but they must be used with proper precautions.



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*In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote the bestselling book, *Silent Spring*, which warned about the dangers of pesticide use and misuse.*

What benefits do the Service gain from PUPs?

Pesticide Use Proposals help ensure:

- ◆ Pesticides are used safely
- ◆ Pesticides are used effectively
- ◆ The lowest risk products are selected
- ◆ Pesticide label instructions are followed
- ◆ The best products are selected for the target pests
- ◆ Adequate pesticide application buffers are maintained
- ◆ Protection of groundwater and surface water
- ◆ Compliance with the Endangered Species Act and other applicable laws and regulations
- ◆ Reductions or eliminations of unnecessary pesticide use.

How many PUPs are submitted each year?

At the field and regional levels, over 1,000 PUPs are reviewed each year. In 2004, the Washington Office reviewed over 440 PUPs.

Why does the Service use pesticides?

The Service uses pesticides as one tool in an integrated pest management approach in managing pest species that interfere with resource management objectives. Most of the pesticides the Service uses are on National Wildlife Refuges for the management of non-native invasive species, such as Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), johnson grass (*Sorghum halapense*), and phragmites (*Phragmites australis*). These species out compete the native species, which is detrimental for native ecosystems. Pesticides play a role in resource management, but they must be used wisely along with other measures to manage and/or eliminate pest species.



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Pesticide use proposals help ensure pesticide affects to non-target organisms, like these wood ducks, are eliminated.

Contact Information:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

Division of Environmental Quality
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 322
Arlington, VA 22203
703/358 2148
<http://contaminants@fws.gov>

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