



Cultivate NORTHWEST

See what's new with Cultivate Northwest

Summer 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cultivate Northwest newsletter. In this issue, you'll find updates on recent projects, community engagement efforts, upcoming events, and key milestones. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to sharing the progress and impact being made throughout Northwest communities.

Improving EPA's Understanding of Forestry Pesticide Use



One area that Cultivate Northwest has focused on recently has been ensuring that federal regulators have accurate, practical information about how pesticides and other crop production tools are used in Pacific Northwest production systems. As EPA continues to work on Endangered Species Act (ESA) mitigation approaches for pesticides, they are now evaluating pesticide use in non-agricultural settings, including commercial forestry.



Accurate information is critical to developing realistic risk assessments. When EPA relies on incomplete or inaccurate assumptions about how pesticides are used, it can lead to mitigation measures that are difficult to implement and/or provide little additional conservation benefit. Many of EPA's current risk assessments rely on limited national data that do not accurately reflect forestry practices in Oregon and Washington.

To help address this gap, Cultivate Northwest convened a forestry workgroup on June 5 in Vancouver, Washington. Participants included forestry professionals,

representatives from the Oregon and Washington Departments of Agriculture, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Oregon State University, and other technical experts.

The group discussed pesticide use patterns in commercial forestry, including application frequency, vegetation management practices, and existing environmental protections such as streamside buffers, forest road management, and other practices that reduce movement of soil and pesticides into waterways.

The information gathered from workshop participants has been shared with EPA, as well as USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy, which supports EPA's ESA implementation efforts, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). By providing regionally relevant information early in the consultation process, Cultivate Northwest is helping ensure that future ESA risk assessments and mitigation measures are informed by realistic, on-the-ground forestry practices, leading to more feasible and practical requirements for applicators.

Training Future Pesticide Inspectors on ESA Label Changes

In July, Cultivate Northwest partnered with Oregon State University to provide Endangered Species Act training during the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Pesticide Inspector Residential Training (PIRT) workshop in Corvallis.

Oregonians for Food and Shelter Policy & Stewardship Director Dani Lightle and Oregon State University Pesticide Safety Education Program Director Kaci Buhl presented on new ESA-related pesticide label requirements, explaining how the updated label language is being implemented and the practical challenges pesticide users and regulators are encountering. The training helped prepare pesticide investigators and inspectors from across the country to better understand these evolving requirements while recognizing the realities of pesticide use in the field.



Invest in Impact

Cultivate Northwest's work, ranging from hands-on education for applicators and regulators to science-based mapping, relies on the support of **partners who value practical, science-based education to sustain working lands**. Contributions directly fund efforts to improve ESA implementation, expand training opportunities, advance data-driven tools that benefit producers, and more. Your investment ensures this work continues to move forward with credibility, relevance, and measurable impact.

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Welcome to the next chapter: Cultivate Northwest

Since the 1990s, OFS has partnered with the Northwest Food and Forest Education Foundation to provide education and resources for agriculture, forestry, and natural resource communities. Today, with a refreshed mission and vision, the Foundation launches under a new name: Cultivate Northwest. Backed by the expertise of OFS staff and leadership from the Cultivate Northwest Board, we are cultivating stewardship and innovation focused projects to stakeholders across the Pacific Northwest.



Educate. Steward. Cultivate Northwest.

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