Rogue Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, 2025 Data Summary

Introduction

The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) was established by the Department of Environmental Quality in the early 2000s and has since expanded to eight locations statewide. It is co-managed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Rogue PSP, established in 2014, is led by Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District. Each year, the team collects water samples that are analyzed by the Department of Environmental Quality, with grant funding provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The Rogue PSP uses monitoring results to identify pesticides of concern, assess their use, and guide outreach and education efforts related to water quality and pesticide practices. Stakeholders include agricultural applicators, government agencies, irrigation districts, landscape contractors, forestry managers, urban and residential communities, industrial and commercial operations, and municipalities. The program's goal is to keep pesticides on target and out of local rivers and streams.

Monitoring

In 2025, the Rogue PSP conducted water sampling in two tributaries of the Bear Creek Watershed: Jackson Creek in Central Point (with limited sampling) and Lone Pine Creek in Medford. Additional samples were collected across the Little Butte Creek Watershed and its tributaries to provide broader coverage of regional water quality conditions. Sampling in the Eagle Point area marks a 2025 expansion of the Rogue PSP, driven by local water quality priorities and the need to better understand pesticide presence in that portion of the watershed.

Results & Interpretation

During the 2025 sampling season, there were several pesticide detections, but only one pesticide exceeded their aquatic life benchmark: Imidacloprid.

Imidacloprid, an insecticide, remains the primary pesticide of concern in the Rogue PSP, with seven exceedances of the aquatic life benchmark, all detected in Lone Pine Creek. These exceedances reflect an ongoing pattern at this location. The Rogue PSP continues targeted sampling in Lone Pine Creek to better understand the presence of this pesticide and is working with local partners to identify and implement mitigation strategies.

Metsulfuron-methyl, an herbicide, remains a high pesticide of concern with high detection frequency, but there were no exceedances in 2025. It was detected at one Litte Butte Creek sampling site, and all Lone Pine sites.

Bifenthrin, an insecticide, is a new pesticide of high concern. This wasn't detected from water samples, but from sediment samples from 2024 in Jackon Creek and Lone Pine Creek sites.

Glyphosate, an herbicide, and its breakdown product Aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), remain pesticides of moderate concern. They are detected at moderate frequencies but have never had an aquatic life benchmark exceedance in the history of the Rogue PSP.

Tebuthiuron, an herbicide, is a new pesticide of moderate concern due to its frequency of detections, although it had no exceedances in 2025. It was detected at multiple Lone Pine Creek sites.

Active Ingredient	Pesticide Type	Selected Trade Names	Number of Detections	Aquatic Life Benchmark Exceedances
Metsulfuron-methyl	Herbicide	Ally, Escort, Osprey	17	0
Imidacloprid	Insecticide	Merit, Admire, Gaucho	7	7
Bifenthrin	Insecticide	Bigrade, Capture, Talstar	0	0

Table 1. 2025 Rogue PSP Pesticides of High Concern.

Conclusion & Next Steps

The Rogue PSP monitors pesticide residues in local streams to identify chemicals of concern and guide targeted outreach and education. This work supports stream health by promoting responsible pesticide use. Through direct engagement, the program encourages practices that reduce off-target movement and provides clear, practical communication materials to support these efforts.

Monitoring results guide the program's next steps. The Rogue PSP will continue sampling in Lone Pine Creek and the Little Butte Creek watershed while expanding education and technical assistance focused on best management practices to reduce pesticide runoff.

The program also plans to host additional community events to strengthen local engagement and awareness. In summer 2026, the Rogue PSP will begin updating its Strategic Plan to ensure sampling locations, outreach priorities, and communication strategies remain current, data-driven, and responsive to evolving water quality needs.

Key Terms to Know

Aquatic Life Benchmark: The concentration below which the pesticide is not expected to represent a risk of concern for aquatic life. The aquatic life benchmarks used are developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (https://bit.ly/EPAaqualife).

Pesticide of Concern: The States of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho use the same methodology for identifying pesticides of concern based on sampling data. Pesticides that have been detected at high rates over the last three calendar years and/or at concentrations that approach or exceed aquatic life benchmark. MSRP prioritizes outreach and education on the pesticides detected most frequently and at concentrations that have the potential to harm aquatic communities.

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Rogue PSP Website

https://www.jswcd.org/rogue-pesticide-stewardship-partnership