

**WSDA, Natural Resources Assessment Section  
Surface Water Pesticide Monitoring Program  
April 6, 2017**



**Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) plans to monitor pesticides in Woodland Creek in Thurston County**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will monitor pesticides in surface waters in Woodland Creek in Thurston County starting in spring, 2017. The larger study is designed to address pesticide presence in Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed, salmon bearing streams (statewide) during typical pesticide use periods (spring and summer).

Samples are analyzed for over 140 pesticide compounds including insecticides (neonicotinoids, pyrethroids, organochlorines, organophosphates, carbamates, etc), herbicides, fungicides, wood preservatives, as well as historical use pesticides and breakdown products. Conventional parameters including total suspended solids (TSS) stream flow, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and continuous air and water temperature measurements are also collected at all monitoring locations during site visits.

The data collected allow WSDA, EPA, and National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) Fisheries to refine exposure assessments for pesticides registered for use in Washington State. When our 2017 sampling of Woodland Creek and data analysis is complete, we will compare our sampling to other urban creeks data and provide summaries of our findings. More information and reports from other areas can be found on the WSDA website: <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/natresources/SWM/>.

Preventing contamination to surface water is critical to protecting aquatic systems and fish. This is helped by encouraging homeowners and landscapers to use pesticides according to their label instructions and any environmental hazard and precautionary label statements. Pesticide applications should be carefully planned and take account of the site where applying: presence of backyard drains, sprinkler timing, applications to sidewalks, drift, and any potential for runoff.