



**PPC is an organization of food, agriculture, forestry, pest management and related industries that support transparent, fair and science-based regulation of pest management products.**

## **FIFRA REFORM INITIATIVE**

The ongoing conflict between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services) about how best to protect threatened and endangered species when regulating pesticides only hurts growers and provides no additional protections for these species.

### **What is happening (or not happening) now?**

EPA's role: Under the federal pesticide statutes, EPA assesses and registers pesticides if they meet federal human health and environmental safety standards, which includes the safety of threatened and endangered species. EPA approved labels on pesticides list the terms and conditions of use to ensure the impacts to the environment and public health are minimized.

The Services' role: The Services administer the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The EPA is required to work with the Services if a pesticide could affect a threatened or endangered species.

The conflict: EPA and the Services have argued for decades how to regulate pesticides when it comes to endangered species. These differences have been magnified over more than a decade of activist-led lawsuits. Activists are now asking the courts to rescind pesticide registrations – essentially to declare the sale of these products illegal. Companies have spent decades developing products to EPA standards, and are now caught between EPA and the Services, threatened by years more litigation and uncertainty for new and existing products.

The result: EPA and the Services are reviewing the same products using different approaches, delaying new products from reaching growers and other pesticide users and continued litigation impedes Services' efforts to focus on additional species protection.

### **What does this mean to growers and users?**

Ignoring the problems created by this impasse means that lawsuits will continue, threats to new and existing pesticides will grow, and growers could soon have to deal with pests and disease without access to the tools they need.

With farm profits and margins at their slimmest in recent memory, growers do not need the threat of losing access to existing and new pesticides from activist lawsuits and inefficient regulatory process. Proven and new technologies to protect human health are likewise jeopardized.