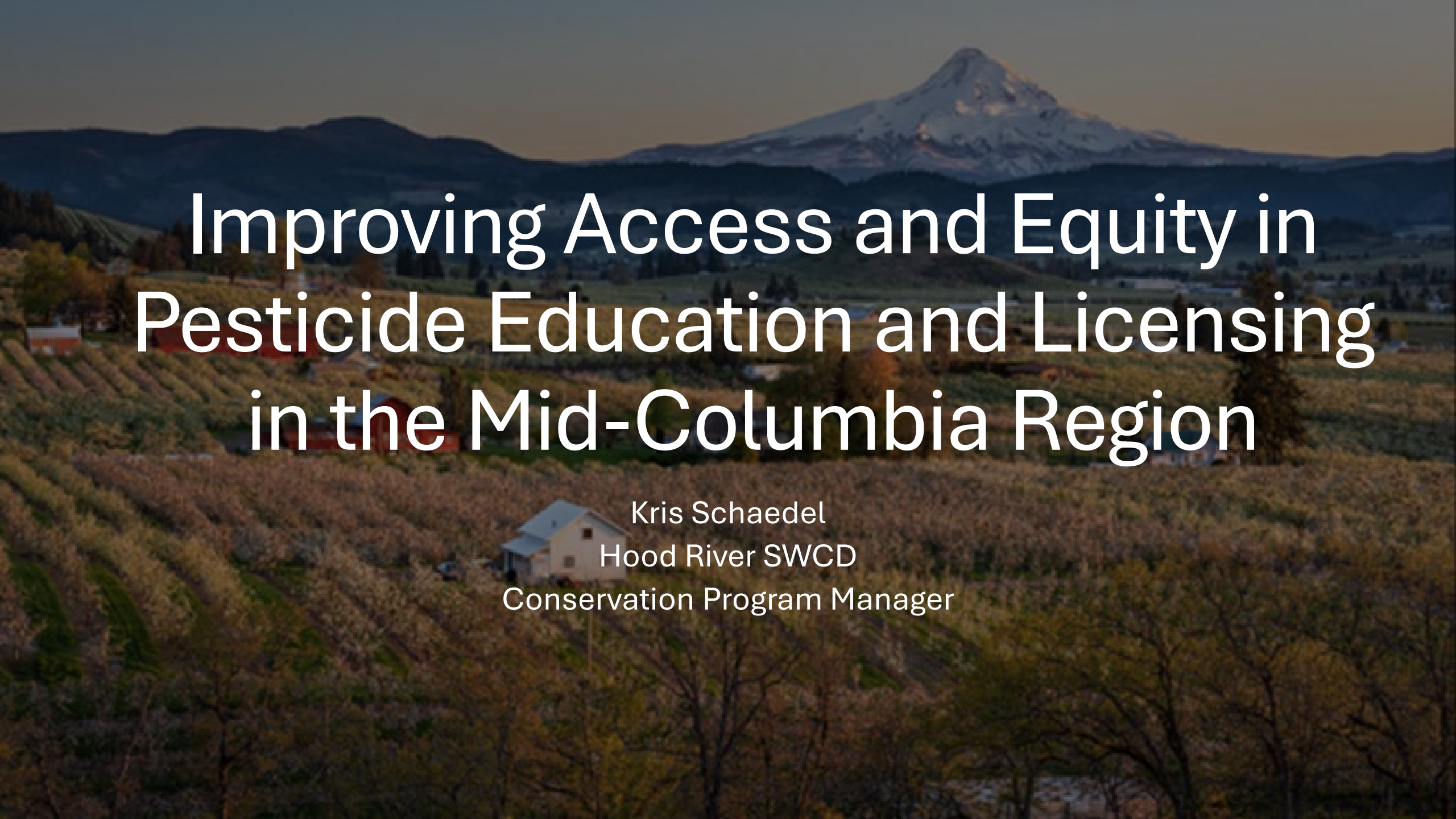
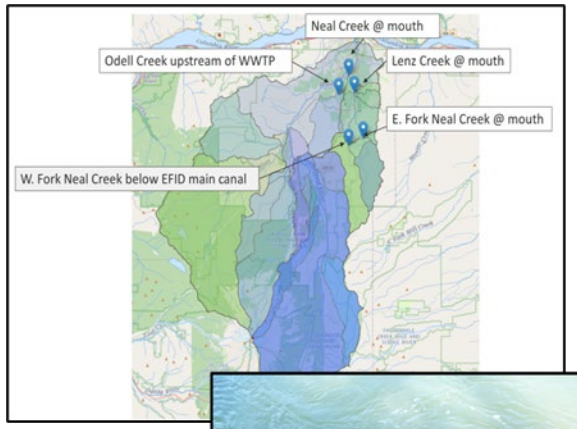


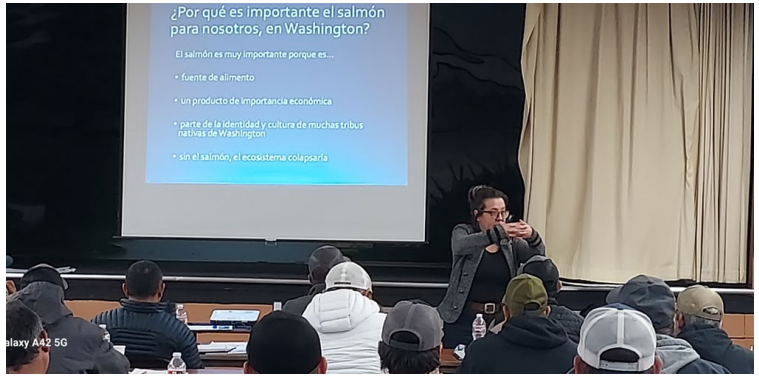
Improving Access and Equity in Pesticide Education and Licensing in the Mid-Columbia Region

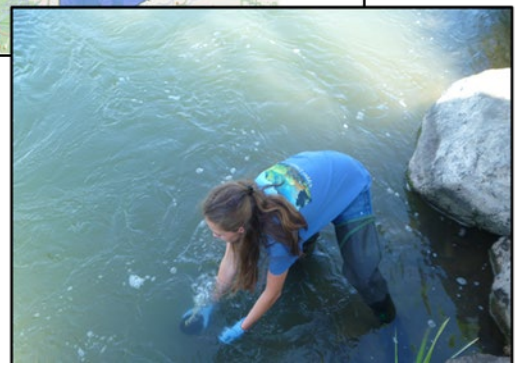
Kris Schaedel
Hood River SWCD
Conservation Program Manager

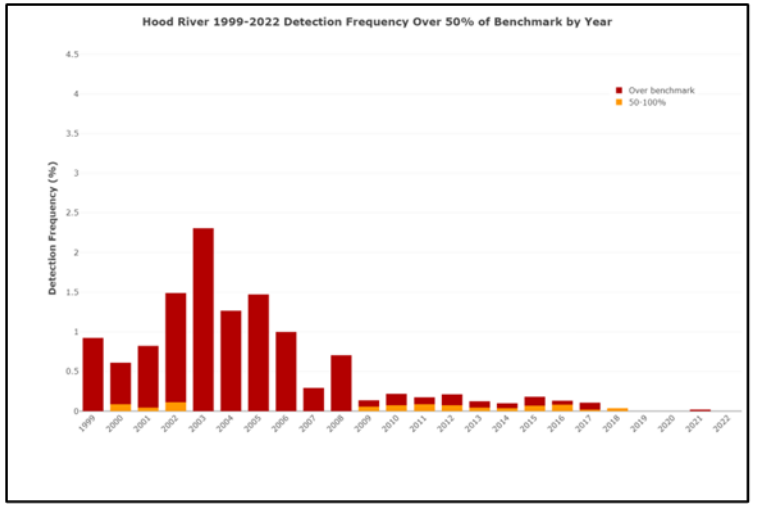
Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program

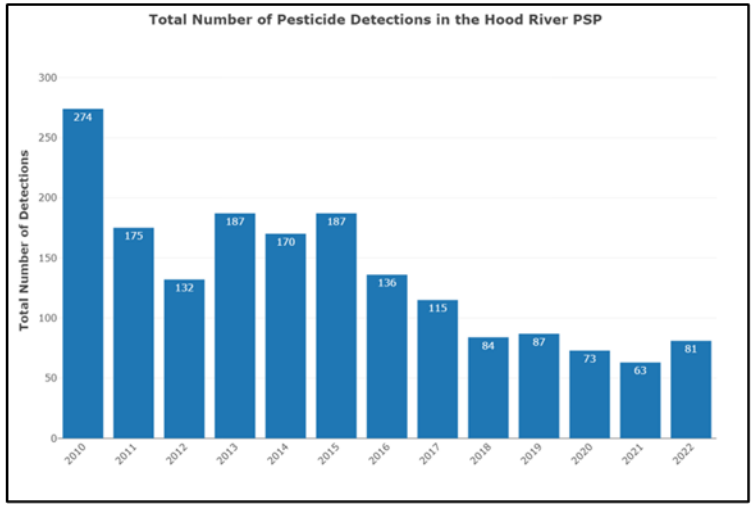
- Voluntary approach to mitigating pesticides in waterways
- Piloted in Hood River Valley
- Combines monitoring, targeted education & outreach, and review and evaluation
- Focuses resources on serving pesticide applicators and shared goals







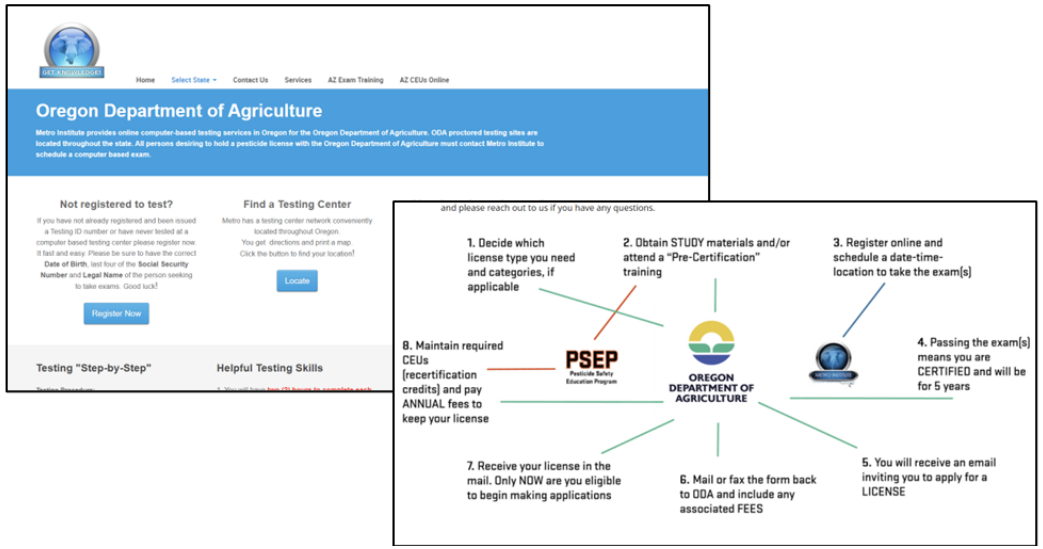




Workshops and Trainings
.....building the program

Exam Preparation, Access, and Administration in Oregon

- Testing centers-at community colleges or universities
- No bilingual: registration or capacity at testing centers no translation of practice test or instructions
- Hood River/The Dalles 100-140 mile commute to Gresham
  - CGCC Test was offered 1 x week, twice a day on 3 computers with no bilingual support. A class of 50 would take 2 1/2 months for one chance at the exam.
- Available only on a computer and registration is through a third party
- The test is 100 questions and default time is 2 hours



Assessment of Exam Performance in Oregon

	# Passed Exams					
Exam	2017 (through 8/30/17)	2016 (Calendar Year)	2015 (Calendar Year)	2014 (Calendar Year)	2013 (Calendar Year)	Number of active licenses with these categories (excluding CPOs)
Aerial	43	48	N/A	N/A	N/A	74
Consultant	51	63	53	68	45	720 (369 with D&R)
Private Applicator (English)	235	259	272	291	308	4288
Private Applicator (Spanish)	2	2	1	2	0	
Laws and Safety (English)	1045	1241	1162	1059	1029	N/A
Laws and Safety (Spanish)	18	35	24	17	20	N/A
Ag Herbicide	92	127	84	102	103	962
Ag Insecticide/Fungicide	87	80	78	80	85	668

- In a five-year period, 7 people obtained their license in Oregon
  - Compared to over 1,300 people obtained their license through the English exam
- 2020-2023: 10-30 people attempt the exam annually with pass rates between single digits-20%
  - Compared to 250-300 people attempting the English exam with a 70-78% pass rate

WSDA Testing and Licensing Program

- Reciprocity in Oregon
- Paper and can be proctored on-site in a bilingual capacity
- 60 questions 3 hours

Test has been reviewed with educators and industry to utilize plain language and remove trickiness or confusing terminology

Washington State Private Applicator License Data

January to December 2022

4

Totals			Pre-License			Non Pre-License		
Spanish (SPA)			Spanish PL (SPA)			Spanish (SPA)		
Attempted	Passed	Pass rate	Attempted	Passed	Pass rate	Attempted	Passed	Pass rate
673	309	45.91%	326	172	52.76%	347	137	39.48%
English (PA)			English PL (PA)			English (PA)		
Attempted	Passed	Pass rate	Attempted	Passed	Pass rate	Attempted	Passed	Pass rate
498	310	62.25%	33	27	81.82%	465	283	60.86%
1171	619	52.86%						

Washington State Department of Agriculture

Moving forward into 2025 and beyond …

<u>HB 3010 would:</u>

- mandate the Sate of Oregon to provide Spanish language pesticide education to farmworkers and pesticide applicators
- allocate state general funds to the OSU PSEP to support 2 FTE bilingual pesticide educators focusing on **<u>in-person, culturally appropriate, Spanish language, pesticide education</u>** focusing on Worker Protection Standards

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

Oregon Farm Bureau

NW Agricultural Cooperative Council

OWRC Oregon Water Resources Congress

Oregonians for Food & Shelter

Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

Oregon Association of Nurseries

Oregon Wheat

Weyerhaeuser

Oregon Forest Industries Council

Manulife Investment Management
Manulife Timberland & Agriculture

Oregon Seed Council

Hood River County Farm Bureau · Oregon · Willamette Riverkeeper · 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area · Oregon Food Bank · Gorge Grown Food Network · WIN Western Invasives Network · Friends of Family Farmers · mosaic · Umpqua Native Plant Partnership · JLM · Network of Oregon Watershed Councils · NWJP Northwest Workers' Justice Project · Columbia Gorge · Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District · Wheeler · Jefferson SWCD · Upper Willamette · Linn-Benton Soil & Water Conservation District · West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District · Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District · Umpqua Soil & Water Conservation District · Polk Soil & Water Conservation District · Benton Soil & Water Conservation District · Marion

Thank you & Acknowledgements

- The Orchardists of the Mid-Columbia Region
- Oregon State University Extension Hood River & Wasco County
- Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Association
- Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program
- Washington State Department of Agriculture Technical Services and Education Program
- Washington State Department of Agriculture Licensing and Recertification Program
- Oregon State University Pesticide Safety Education Program
- Leo Garcia Next Step, Wenatchee WA
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- The Metro Institute,, Radcomp Technological Services, Google, GS Long, Onsite Irrigation Supply House, One Community Health

Questions?