



ENTOMOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SHARING INSECT SCIENCE GLOBALLY

Report: March 2026
Christian Krupke, PhD

EPA Announcements for ESA Members

Sources: Regulations.gov, epa.gov, and EPA Weekly Digest Bulletin

As EPA continues to assist stakeholders affected by Endangered Species Act compliance guidelines, there is a new qualifying process to allow experts to add growers in reaching their required mitigation guidelines.

These mitigation requirements appear on product labels and bulletins for the pesticide product in the [Bulletins Live! Two System](#). Before applying a pesticide product, growers would need to adopt the mitigation measures selected from [EPA's Mitigation Menu](#) that meet or exceed the number required on the label or bulletins.

Growers can achieve points based on:

- The number and type of runoff or erosion mitigation measures implemented on a treated field.
- Field characteristics or application parameters (for example, being in a county with low runoff vulnerability, having a flat field slope, using micro-sprinklers, or treating only a small portion of the field).
- Participation in a qualified conservation program.

What is new? Here's what EPA is proposing:

- Provide growers credit for implementing mitigation practices (such as vegetative filter strips or field terracing) **under a qualified conservation program** if that program helps growers to achieve at least nine points on their fields.
- Recognize that experts, who are well-versed in advising growers on runoff mitigation, erosion reduction measures and EPA's Strategies, can assess existing field conditions for characteristics that may lead to reduced runoff or erosion. **A technical expert could assess a field for anywhere from zero**

to nine or more points so that a grower would have some form of documentation that could be provided to commercial applicators to know what points are already on the field to ensure a pesticide product is applied in compliance with its labeling (including the designated point value).

- **Conservation programs and technical experts would be able to apply to become “EPA Qualified” through EPA’s website.** Qualifying conservation programs and technical experts represent an additional step the agency is taking to increase protections for endangered species and habitats while also reducing burdens to growers.

EPA is seeking public comment on the proposal above. Comments can be submitted to docket **ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2025-1906** at www.regulations.gov. Upon publication of a Federal Register notice, the agency will extend the current comment period for 30 days until **April 6, 2026**.