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Science Policy News

News from the intersection of entomology and public policy

February 2023

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ESA in DC

ESA Science Policy Fellows Applications Open March 1

Are you interested in helping legislators make better policy? Have you considered applying to become an ESA Science Policy Fellow? [ESA Science Policy Fellows](#) learn the skills and gain the experience needed to build relationships with elected officials and policymakers as well as to see how science informs policy and vice versa.



Active training in the two-year program includes participating in Washington, DC-based meetings and events for hands-on experience with legislators, staff, and agency leaders; assisting in the development of policy statements; and more. [Applications](#) open **March 1** and are due **April 17**. [Learn more](#) and [apply to be an ESA Science Policy Fellow](#).

ESA Submits Input on National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) continues to grow its efforts around biotechnology and the bioeconomy following an [executive order](#) announced in September launching the National Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Initiative. In December, OSTP shared a [request for information](#), calling for input to harness biotechnology

and biomanufacturing research and development to further societal goals as well as to advance biosafety and biosecurity. ESA [responded to the RFI](#), highlighting ways ESA's top priorities align with opportunities to support the domestic bioeconomy.

Nature Conservancy, ESA Host Workshop on ISPM-15 Standards for Wood Packaging

Building on findings from the September [workshop](#) at the Society of American Foresters conference hosted by the ESA [Grand Challenges Agenda for Entomology](#) and the Nature Conservancy's [Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects and Diseases](#), the two groups hosted a workshop following the U.S. Department of Agriculture [Interagency Forum on Invasive Species](#) in Annapolis, Maryland, on January 13.

The group brought together federal agency representatives, academic researchers, Canadian government representatives, and non-governmental agencies to discuss the current standards for heat treatment of wood products through [ISPM-15](#) and whether they are sufficient to eliminate all invasive wood-boring pests at the current standards. The lack of consensus among the stakeholders over the standards and other potential contributors to the periodic detection of new invasive pests at domestic ports of entry, such as fraud or operational failures, indicates further research may be needed.

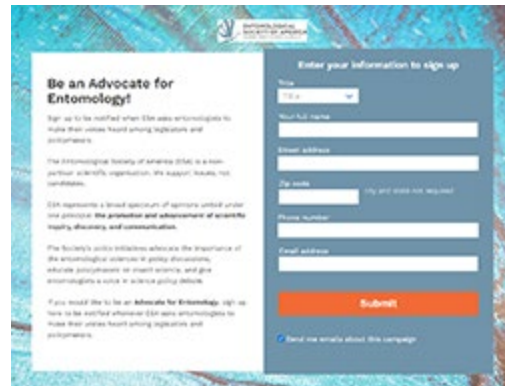
ESA Meets With Weed Science Society to Discuss EPA Workplan for Endangered Species

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency currently has a proposed work plan on its efforts to improve compliance with the Endangered Species Act [available for public comment](#) until February 14. The new regulations will apply to the use of pesticides, particularly by farmers. The [Weed Science Society of America](#) invited ESA to join a workshop hosted in conjunction with its annual meeting on January 31 in Arlington, Virginia, to examine the issue and potential implications for WSSA members, and to discuss concerns about the proposed work plan with the EPA, USDA, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services representatives in attendance. ESA will continue to work with these agencies to identify effective ways to communicate what ESA members need to know regarding changes to existing regulations.

Advocate for Entomology!

Sign Up for ESA Action Alerts

Be an advocate for entomology! Periodically, ESA issues new topic-specific advocacy alerts, enabling ESA members to easily connect with legislators and offer timely subject-matter expertise. [Sign up now to receive ESA science-policy action alerts.](#)

A screenshot of a web form titled "Be an Advocate for Entomology". The form is set against a background of a blue and green map. On the left, there is introductory text about the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and its mission. On the right, there is a registration form with fields for "First name", "Last name", "Email address", "City and state (or country)", "Phone number", and "Email address". A "Submit" button is located at the bottom right of the form. A checkbox at the bottom left of the form is checked and labeled "Send me emails about this campaign".

Or, act now to contact your legislators through one of our three current Action Alerts:

- [Help Pass the PREVENT Pandemics Act](#)
- [Tell Congress About the Threat of Invasive Species](#)
- [Encourage Congress to Help Save Coffee and Promote IPM](#)

Congressional Updates

House, Senate Committees Select New Leadership for 118th Congress

The House and Senate have begun announcing [committee assignments](#) for the new Congress, and several committees that oversee priority topics for ESA will see changes, most notably in the House following its shift to a Republican majority. Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) will now lead the House Natural Resources Committee, and he will likely prioritize energy permitting, pushing back on the Biden administration's policy on fossil fuels, and forestry issues. Former Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, G.T. Thompson (R-PA) will now serve as committee chair and will oversee the Farm Bill reauthorization this year.

The House Appropriations Subcommittees also saw significant changes to its leadership, with [new chairs](#) for the Interior-Environment and Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittees in Reps. Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Hal Rogers (R-KY) respectively. These subcommittees control funding for environmental research agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency. Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) will serve as chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee, which oversees funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, taking over for Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), who is a longtime champion for increased NIH funding but reached his term limit on the subcommittee. Now that

committee makeup is largely determined, both chambers are expected to start tackling emerging legislative priorities including fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations and the Farm Bill.

Federal Agency and Administration Updates

White House, Commerce Release Strategy on Natural Capital Accounting

On January 19, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Commerce [announced](#) a new [National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental Economic Decisions](#). This document is intended to enable a national approach to capture the value of natural capital as a part of measuring economic progress to inform business and policy decision-making. Other countries, such as China, have already begun to capture the value of natural capital as a part of their "gross ecosystem product," which is tracked along with other traditional growth metrics like gross domestic product.

In addition to providing background information on natural capital accounting and the use of environmental statistics to track the value of nature in long-term economic forecasts, the strategy includes guidelines to assist the U.S. government to operationalize recommendations. Of interest to the research community, the strategy reviews interdisciplinary data and research needs that may lead to a broader adoption of this strategy into the future, including topics in environmental and agricultural economics, statistics, biological sciences, and environmental sciences.

Monarez Named ARPA-H Deputy Director, Agency Funding Opportunity Expected Soon

On January 6, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) [announced](#) that Susan Monarez, Ph.D., who previously led strategy, analysis, and risk management efforts for the new agency, will serve as its deputy director. Monarez served as the founding director of the Center for Innovation at the Health Resources and Services Administration. She has also served in leadership positions at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Department of Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the Department of Health and Human Services Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.

In her role, Monarez will assist ARPA-H director Renee Wegrzyn, Ph.D., as the agency recruits and hires program managers and prepares to release its first agency-wide broad agency announcement in the first six months of 2023. Federal agencies use such announcements to solicit proposals that are responsive to problems and challenges aligned with program-specific areas of research and development. Broad agency announcements are used by other federal agencies focused on advanced research to communicate their main funding opportunity, most notably by the Defense Research Projects Agency. DARPA is expected to have a close relationship with ARPA-H due to its similar structure and Wegrzyn's prior experience serving in leadership at the agency. ESA will continue to monitor updates on ARPA-H as the agency increases activity ahead of its first broad agency announcement.

Funding and Engagement Opportunities

USDA Seeks Nominations for NAREEE Advisory Board

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a [call for nominations](#) to the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics \(NAREEE\) Advisory Board](#) at large, as well as its Citrus Disease Subcommittee, National Genetic Resource Advisory Council, Specialty Crop Committee, and Pollinator Subcommittee. The NAREEE Advisory Board advises the USDA secretary and land-grant universities on priorities in food and agriculture to ensure impactful federal agriculture research and education programming. Nominations to fill expiring terms must be submitted by **May 31**, but applications will be accepted continuously until December 29.

EPA Requests Applications for Student Research Training Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development has released a [request for applications](#) for an entity to support a research training program for students at the EPA's research facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. The program would aim to train at least 10 students per year at both the undergraduate and graduate levels across numerous disciplines including chemistry, engineering, biology, computer science, physical science, life science, ecology, and urban planning. The EPA intends to fund a single award of up to \$2.5 million over five years. Applications must be submitted by **March 9**.

NIEHS Releases New Data Standards Funding Call

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) at the National Institute of Health has released a new [solicitation](#) for R24 Resource-Related Research Projects focused

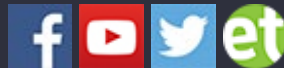
on developing and refining data and metadata standards for use in environmental health sciences research. Potential projects could include resources, infrastructure, tools, or software to address unmet data needs within NIEHS' mission. NIEHS plans to fund 5-7 awards at up to \$400,000 in direct costs per year. Applications are due **May 10**.

Learn More About ESA Science Policy

ESA Science Policy Program Links

- [ESA Science Advocacy Priorities](#)
- [Position Statements](#)
- [Fact Sheets](#)
- [Science Policy Fellows Program](#)
- [Partnerships and Coalitions](#)
- [Advocacy Tools: Get Involved!](#)
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Entomological Society of America (ESA), 3 Park Place, Suite 307, Annapolis, MD 21401-3722 USA
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