

# Endangered Species Program Discussed

Golf courses in urban and suburban areas provide much-needed sanctuaries for wildlife, including several endangered species.

To enhance this special role in providing wildlife habitats, senior golf industry officials and government representatives met recently to discuss how golf can support efforts to implement an endangered species program.

The forum, held in Arlington, Va., brought leaders from golf's professional associations into a discussion with regulatory and congressional officials on subjects ranging from pesticide use to wetlands management. The forum was sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Larry Turner, Ph.D., project manager for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Endangered Species Program, outlined the final draft of the agency's long-delayed program. The new program will rely on county bulletins that feature maps showing areas where an endangered species is present and outline restrictions on chemical use in and around those areas.

Chemical labels will instruct applicators to consult the county bulletins and to abide by their restrictions. The bulletins, which will be available through county extension services, regional EPA offices and associations like GCSAA, were developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1988, the United States began to develop and implement an endangered species protection program with a goal of managing federally registered pesticides in a way that would avoid harming these species. In 1989, the EPA submitted a proposal to carry out the Endangered Species Act. The program has been implemented on an interim, voluntary basis since 1988.

GCSAA Director Charles T. Passios, CGCS, said, "We've heard about this regulation for some time and are very interested in its goals. We (superintendents) need to stay alert and look for information about the new listings of species that may occur in a local area

while continuing our current participation in preservation and protection."

A number of states already have begun "state-initiated plans" to localize the endangered species regulatory process. According to Turner, these states include Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, **Minnesota**, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Carolina.

He said that although EPA cannot turn over complete authority to the states, the agency has given them the leeway to enter into "landowner agreements" with sites like golf courses. These negotiated agreements allow the landowner to work

## **Pesticide Application, Storage Are Key Elements Aired at Environmental Forum**

The requirements for the application and storage of pesticides will be more stringent in the near future.

That's the message that came back from a recent environmental forum hosted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Arty Williams, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Field Operations Division, said the requirements for people who apply restricted-use pesticides (RUPS)—especially certified applicators—will be getting tougher.

The proposed recommendations are based on a 1985 task report on the certification and training of RUP applicators. These recommendations reflect the need to address several areas of concern including groundwater protection, worker protection, endangered species protection, chronic toxicity of RUPs and waste and container disposal.

The federal law that covers pesticide application is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). FIFRA's Section 3 requires that any pesticide classified by the EPA for restricted use "shall be applied only by or under the direct supervision of a certified applicator."

Section 4 gives each state an opportunity to implement its own pesticide applicator program. Virtually every state has its own version of this program.

The new rules will require certified ap-

out an ongoing management plan that would not require contacting the extension service before each chemical application. The agreements might also allow special exceptions to the restrictions in some situations.

Turner also noted that in states without initiated plans, the EPA may help landowners to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to reach similar types of agreements.

He said that although implementation of the act has been slow and that the EPA still has "a lot of ground to make up," the act should be fully in force by 1993.

applicators to keep records of site-specific training, as well as to show competency of non-certified applicators who are applying RUPs. In addition, recertification will be required at least every five years for all certified applicators. Some states already have regulations similar to these. Williams said the final rule should be "on the streets" in 1992.

GCSAA Director Randall P. Zidik, CGCS, said, "A recent survey has shown that over 95 percent of all golf course superintendents have at least one certified applicator on staff. Many courses have more than one. Although these new requirements will be tougher, they shouldn't place more of a demand on the superintendent because many of them already have these record-keeping elements in place."

Dennis Howard of EPA's Environmental Effects and Fate Division next addressed the forum on pesticide storage. Regulations concerning pesticide storage and mixing/loading are still under development, Howard said, and are not expected to be effective until 1993 and 1994, respectively.

The storage requirements are not expected to affect the majority of golf course superintendents because they would apply only to facilities that store 11,000 pounds or more of pesticide product.

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