WALLA WALLA BASIN PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP (PSP) 2024 SUMMARY

The **Walla Walla Basin Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP)** works to protect water quality through local collaboration and voluntary stewardship. Pesticides from agriculture, urban areas, and roadsides can impact stream health. To address this, the **Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC)** leads surface water monitoring focused on current-use pesticides and promotes best management practices, such as integrated pest management, careful application timing, and the use of less toxic products, to reduce pesticide runoff and safeguard aquatic life.

Figure 1: Total Number of Pesticide Detections in the Walla Walla PSP (2010-2025)
This bar chart shows that pesticide detections in the Walla Walla Basin dropped from 144 in 2010 to just 24 in 2024. This big improvement, 83% decrease over 15 years, suggests that local outreach efforts, better application practices, and using less harmful products have helped keep pesticides out of rivers and streams.

Figure 2: Total Number of Pesticide Benchmark Exceedances (2010-2025)
This graph shows how often pesticide levels in local streams were high enough to be unsafe for fish and other aquatic life. The number was highest in 2010 but has steadily dropped, with only one or less "exceedance", the level of pesticide that can harm aquatic life, found each year since 2022. This steady progress suggests that local efforts to improve pesticide use are helping protect our rivers and the wildlife that depend on them.

Figure 3 – Diuron Concentrations: Avg. and Maximum (2010–2022)
This graph shows the average and highest levels of diuron, a commonly used herbicide, in local streams from 2010 to 2022. In the early years, some levels were high enough to pose a risk to fish and other aquatic life. Since then, those levels have steadily gone down, and there have been no exceedances of the aquatic life benchmark in recent years. This encouraging trend shows how local landowners are making a difference by voluntarily switching to less harmful products and applying them responsibly.

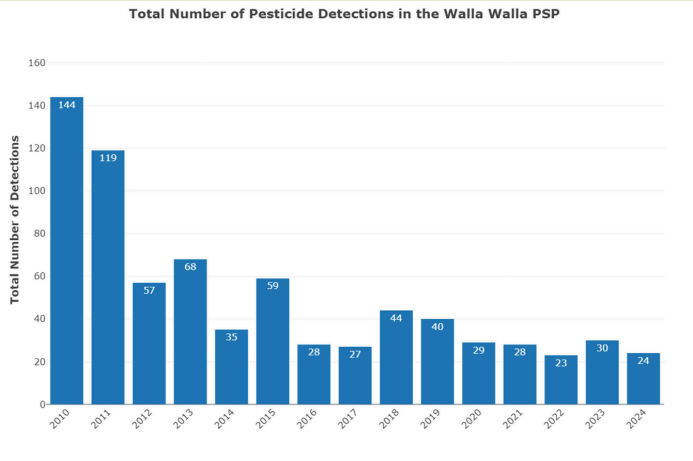

FIGURE 1

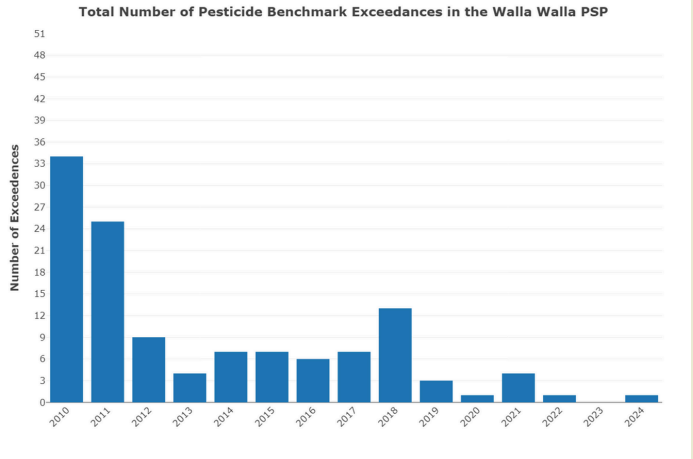

FIGURE 2

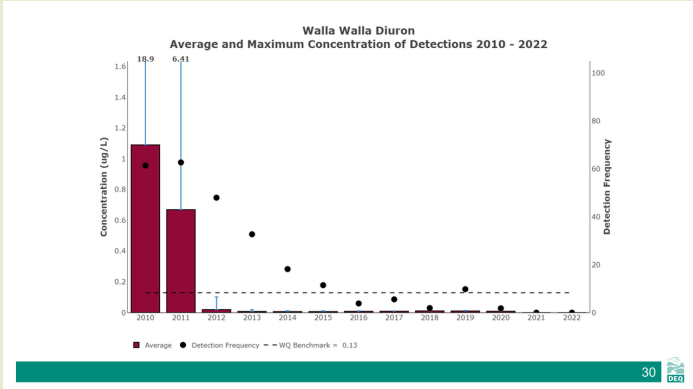

FIGURE 3

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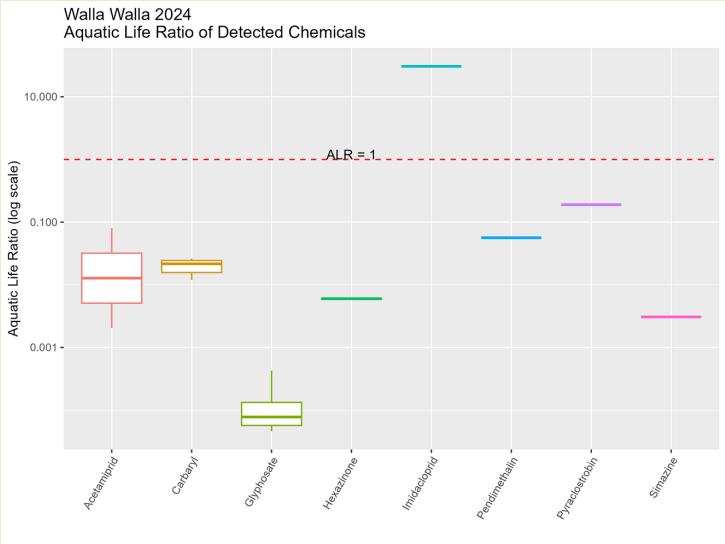
2024 DETECTION DETAILS



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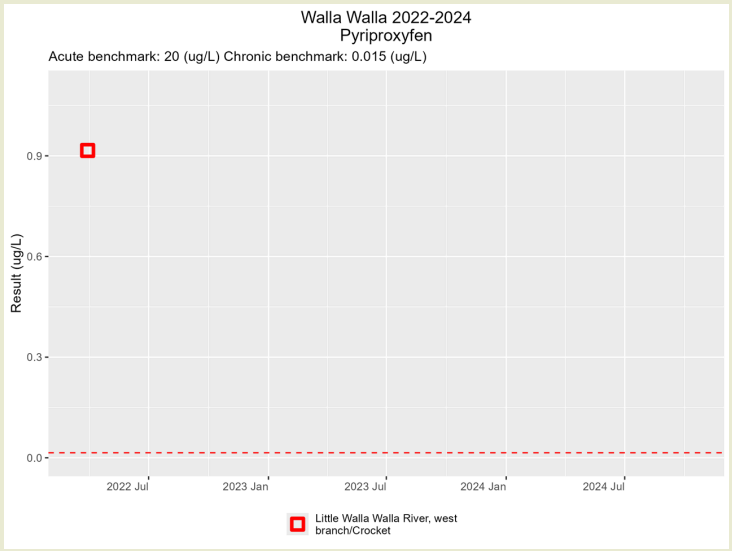

FIGURE 5

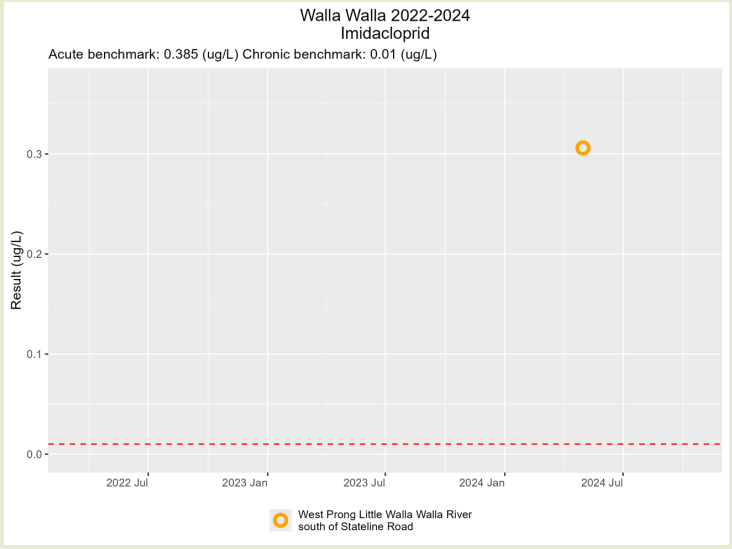

FIGURE 6

Figure 4 – Aquatic Life Ratio (ALR) of Detected Chemicals in 2024

This chart shows the Aquatic Life Ratio (ALR) for pesticides detected in 2024, comparing each concentration to safety limits, or aquatic life benchmark, for fish and other aquatic life. Most pesticides, like glyphosate, were well below the risk threshold. However, one detection of imidacloprid exceeded the benchmark, signaling potential harm. Although it was only found once, its high toxicity means ongoing monitoring is essential to catch emerging risks early and guide future outreach.

Figure 5 – Pyriproxyfen Concentrations (2022–2024)

This chart shows pyriproxyfen levels in local streams from 2022 to 2024. In 2024, it was detected once at the west branch of the Little Walla Walla River near Crocket Road. The amount was below the EPA acute benchmark, which signals immediate harm, but above the chronic benchmark, which indicates possible long-term effects on aquatic life. Even though it was found in just one of 187 samples, its potential to impact fish and other organisms makes it a pesticide of moderate concern.

Figure 6 – Imidacloprid Concentration (2022–2024)

This chart shows imidacloprid levels in local streams from 2022 to 2024. It was found just once, in May 2024 at the West Prong Little Walla Walla River near Stateline Road, but the amount was above the acute aquatic life benchmark. Even though it was only detected once out of 187 samples, imidacloprid is highly toxic to aquatic life, even at low levels. Because of this, it's a top priority for improved pesticide practices and continued community outreach.

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) can help landowners and farmers find funding and support to adopt safer pesticide practices. If you're interested in cost-share programs or need technical support, contact the WWBWC team. We are here to answer your questions and support your efforts.

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