

Water Quality Report Card

Pesticides in Smith River Plain

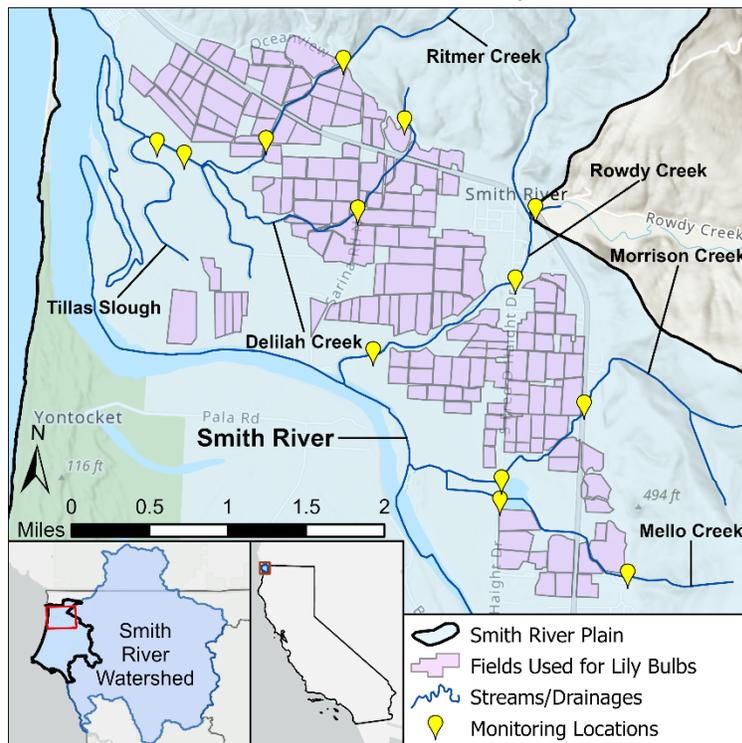
Regional Water Board:	North Coast, Region 1
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COLD, RARE
Implemented Through:	Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan (SRPWQMP)
Effective Date:	November 30, 2021
Attainment Date:	not declared

STATUS	Conditions Improving
Pollutant Type:	Nonpoint Source
Pollutant Source:	Irrigated Crop Production Non-Point Source Runoff

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Smith River Watershed encompasses 762 square miles in the northwest corner of California and southwest corner of Oregon with much of the watershed located in the Klamath and Siskiyou Mountains. The lower watershed in the Smith River Plain is broadly used for lily bulb cultivation. Pesticide runoff from these operations has been a concern for beneficial uses, particularly aquatic species living in cold water habitats (COLD) and rare and endangered (RARE) species. To address these concerns, the Regional Water Board developed the [Smith River Plain Water Quality Management Plan \(SRPWQMP\)](#) in consultation with landowners, lily bulb farmers, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Smith River Alliance, and federal and state resource agencies. Approved on November 30, 2021, the SRPWQMP describes the current water quality issues, recommends best-management practices, outlines a monitoring plan to assess improvements over time, and provides thresholds for pollutant concentrations based on benchmarks established by US EPA with respect to harm of aquatic life. Organic pesticides data were collected in accordance with the SRPWQMP monitoring plan. Ongoing implementation of the SRPWQMP will inform the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) currently under development to control agricultural runoff.

Smith River Plain Map



Water Quality Outcomes

- Monitoring data from 2020 through 2022 show only two pesticides with detectable concentrations (diuron and imidacloprid)
- Detected diuron and imidacloprid concentrations are all below the chronic toxicity thresholds established by U.S. EPA

Pesticide Concentrations by Station (2020-2022)

