Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program

2025 Ravalli County Summary

FLATHEAD LAKE BIO STATION
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Pesticide Detections in Rivers and Streams

	Ambrose Creek	Bitterroot River	South Burnt Fork Creek	Sweathouse Creek	Ditches and Canals
2,4-D	✓		✓	✓	✓
Aminopyralid		✓	✓	✓	✓
Fipronil		✓			
Imazapyr					✓
Metsulfuron methyl	✓				✓
Prometon					✓
Simazine		✓	✓		✓
Triclopyr		✓			

A "✓" indicates that the given analyte has been detected at least once in the given waterbody. Please review the reverse side of this document for guidance on interpreting this summary and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Contact Information

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PSPP Website

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What is MT PSPP?

- The **Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program** (MT PSPP) is a collaborative network in Western Montana working to reduce pesticide pollution in our waters through sustainable best practices. MT PSPP supports water quality monitoring, community education and engagement, and activities to improve water quality. In 2025, PSPP collected 600+ surface water samples that were analyzed for pesticides.

What is a pesticide?

- The EPA defines a **pesticide**, under pesticide law, to be any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. A "pesticide" is an umbrella term that can include herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and more. Contrary to popular thought, the term "pesticide" is not exclusive to insect pests- it encompasses all of the "-cides".

What is an analyte?

- An **analyte** is a pesticide compound or a degradate of a pesticide compound. MT PSPP lab partners test each water sample for up to 102 analytes, though there are potentially many more pesticides present in our waterways that are not in this suite. Only 39 of the total 102 analytes have been confirmed as present in Montana waters by our 2025 monitoring efforts. Analytes in this report refer to the chemical name (active ingredient), rather than the brand or product name.

Where does MT PSPP monitor for pesticides?

- We collect surface water samples in rivers and streams in the Columbia River Basin portion of Montana, which spans across twelve counties in the northwest. Some counties, such as Flathead County, are sampled more frequently at a wider variety of locations. Other counties are only partially located within the Columbia River Basin, with very few samples collected there. **The frequency of sampling in each county can affect the likelihood of detections.** No detections for a particular analyte in a particular county does not mean the analyte is not present in that county. **PSPP does not sample frequently in Ravalli County; therefore, our data are limited, and many rivers and streams are unrepresented.**

Why are analyte concentrations not included in this Monitoring Summary?

- The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the presence of confirmed pesticides in Montana's surface waters, organized by county. Please contact PSPP Staff if you have further questions or concerns, would like to learn more about the data, or would like to get involved by volunteering with us.
- **No analytes detected by MT PSPP have exceeded the available human health standards and aquatic life benchmarks.** The PSPP team and Malison Lab at FLBS are exploring the effect these contaminants may have on aquatic life, with a focus on how chronic exposure to multiple stressors may impact the health of aquatic ecosystems.

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