



IOWA CHAPTER

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2013

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Lawsuit Filed to Protect Midwest Wildlife Refuges

A lawsuit was recently filed against the U.S. Department of Interior and its Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to protect wildlife refuges FWS manages in the Midwest against the planting of genetically engineered seeds and the blanket application of pesticides. The litigation is intended to halt these practices until FWS undertakes rigorous analyses of their environmental impacts.

Iowa's Wetland Management District (WMD), covering 35 counties and 3541 acres of cropland, provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife and is included for protection in the lawsuit.

"We really don't know what these genetically engineered seeds and pesticides can do to our wildlife and waterfowl, much less the impacts they could have on humans," said Deborah Neustadt, Sierra Club Iowa Chapter Chair.

Sierra Club, along with the Center for Food Safety (CFS), Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and Beyond Pesticides, filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. It charges that FWS unlawfully entered into farming contracts on five refuges in four Midwestern states (IL, IA, MN and MO).

Sierra Club advocates for regulatory reform to protect the natural environment and human health from the threats posed by the release of novel GE organisms. The Club's concerns about pesticides include endangered species, habitat protection, pollution, genetic engineering and industrial agriculture, including the use of pesticides. The practice of using pesticides and the potential impacts on endangered species, amphibians, pollinators and wildlife habitat are of particular concern to Sierra Club's Iowa members.

See the complaint at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/iowaWMDLawsuit.pdf>

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