



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

Date: June 29, 2023

TO: Washington State Legislature

FROM: Derek Sandison, Director
Washington State Department of Agriculture

SUBJECT: 2023 Okanogan Soil Remediation Projects Report

Background

The department must report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2023, on the effectiveness of grants provided under this subsection at reducing DDT and DDT remnant contamination.

Outlook

Governor Inslee signed Washington State's budget on May 17th, providing the WSDA with 44 days to allocate and distribute 200,000 dollars to cannabis agricultural producers impacted by legacy DDT contamination in Okanogan County for the purpose of soil reimbursement. WSDA staff created a form for producers to apply for grant funding and distributed that form to the 18 licensees impacted by DDD & DDE contamination via email. By June 26th, WSDA had received three reimbursement request forms from three different licensed cannabis producers in Okanogan. Each of their expenses related to soil remediation exceeded the amount awarded. The WSDA divided the sum equally between each of the three licensees, for a total of \$66,666.66 awarded to each of the three licensees. As it takes between three and eight months to grow a cannabis plant, and then subsequently more time to sample and test that plant, the WSDA does not have any data on the efficacy of the grant money in reducing the levels of soil contamination at this time. However, thus far, the grants have been effective in relieving some of the economic burden experienced by farmers who are currently experimenting with adding soil to reduce contamination levels on their farms.

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this memo, please contact Kelly McLain at (360) 359-8091 or kmclain@agr.wa.gov.

Cc: Jessica Allenton, WSDA
Trecia Ehrlich, WSDA