Water Quality Report Card

Diazinon in Foss Creek

Regional Water Board: North Coast, Region 1

Beneficial Uses Affected: Cold Freshwater Habitat (COLD)

STATUS Conditions Improving

Implemented Through: Regulatory action

Pollutant Type: Legacy

Effective Date: August 31, 2004

Pollutant Source: Unknown

Attainment Date: May 1, 2032

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

Foss Creek flows through the City of Healdsburg in the Russian River HU, Middle Russian River HA, Geyserville HSA waterbody. The creek is 303(d) listed as impaired by diazinon due to unknown sources. Diazinon is an organophosphate insecticide that was historically used as general pest control. It was banned for residential use in 2004 because of human health risks. Diazinon is also toxic to aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, and fish.

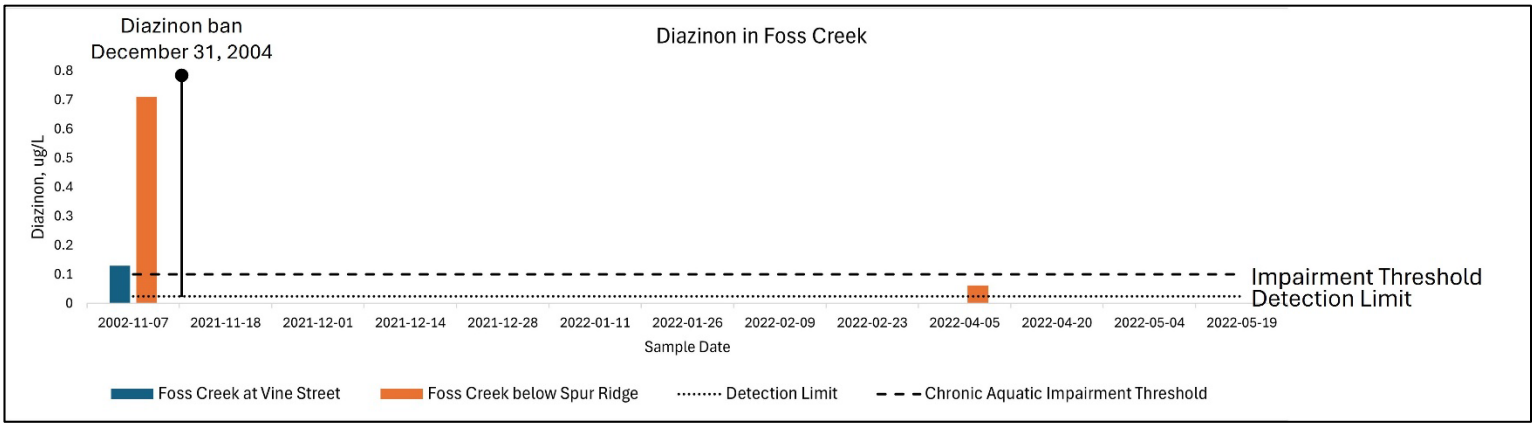
Water Quality Outcomes

Diazinon concentrations in Foss Creek were analyzed in 2002, prior to the federal ban by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in 2004. This resulted in diazinon in Foss Creek being added to the 303(d) list in the 2010 Integrated Report. A sampling plan was developed in 2021 to determine if diazinon concentrations in Foss Creek were still elevated. A total of 23 samples were collected. Twenty-two sample results were below detection. Only one sample result in 2022 was above detectable limits for diazinon; however, that result was under the chronic impairment threshold for the protection of aquatic organisms. The 303(d) Listing Policy allows for waterbody-pollutant pairs to be delisted if management strategies change. Due to the residential ban by USEPA, and the associated significant percentage of non-detect samples, Foss Creek will be delisted for diazinon in the 2032 Integrated Report, which is the next comprehensive water quality assessment for the region and when the 303(d) list will be updated.

Watershed Map



Water Quality



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