

The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

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Where We're Headed

- **The Strategy**
 - What it is, why it's needed, who is doing what
- **Forest Service's Role**
- **Best Management Practices**
- **Your Involvement**

09.05.2009

The Strategy

- **The National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators**
- **Presidential Memorandum June 2014**
 - Research to understand, prevent, and recover from pollinator losses
 - Expanding public education programs and outreach
 - Increasing and improving pollinator habitat
 - Developing public-private partnerships
- **Established Pollinator Health Task Force**

The Strategy

- Well documented and widely described declines
 - Ecosystems and agriculture
- Some of the “Why” and the “Who” of the decline is unknown
- Federal level – especially for agriculture and wild pollinators
 - Federal includes funding and land management

The Strategy



- **Goals**

- Reduce honey bee colony losses to no more than 15% by 2025
- Increase eastern population of monarch to 225 million on ~15 acres in Mexico by 2020
- Restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over next 5 years

The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several pink flowers with many small, pointed petals, growing on green stems with narrow, pointed leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

The Strategy

- Pollinator research action plan
- Agency pollinator action plan
- Best Management Practices
- Federal agencies are identifying priority pollinator plants for grow-out
- National Seed Strategy

Federal Agencies

Includes most federal agencies

– HUD

– Department of State

– NSF

– FEMA

– Department of Education

– Department of Defense

– EPA

– Department of Interior - USGS

– Department of Agriculture – NRCS, FSA, ARS

The Forest Service and Pollinators

- Increase and Improve 300,000 acres of pollinator habitat on FS administered land in both FY 16 and 17
- Pollinator action plan
 - Identifying pollinator suitable species for native plant materials program
- Best Management Practices
- Turning point for the Forest Service

The Dilemma of Bare Soil

- ES dogma is that bare soil after a project is a bad thing
 - Various publications note that as little as 5% bare soil is detrimental – Northern Rockies Tall Forb Community / Rocky Mountain Aspen Communities
 - ~80% of native bees are ground nesting and require bare soil

Best Management Practices

- **Pollinator-Friendly Best Management Practices for Federal Land**
 - Hosted on the Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers website
- **3 Parts**
 - Improve pollinator habitat
 - Protect pollinators while taking management action
 - Protecting specific pollinators

Improve Pollinator Habitat

- **BMPs for 6 commonly managed habitat types – promoting herbaceous growth**
 - Forests
 - Roadsides
 - Arid and semiarid shrublands
 - Grasslands
 - Riparian areas
 - Wildlife openings

Protecting Pollinators



- Minimize risk of pesticides to pollinators
- Prescribed burning
- Livestock grazing
- Prescribed Mowing
- Agricultural practices for wildlife
- Mulching for landscaping
- Managing lawns
- Hayland management
- Row cropping

Pesticides

- Restricting use to only when absolutely necessary
 - Altering timing
 - Having buffers
 - Minimize drift (<10mph)
- 

Prescribed Burning

- Right fire, right place, right time
- Mosaics - Burn only 30%
- Timing
 - Late fall or early spring
 - Early or late in the day

Livestock Grazing



- **Prevent trampling of ground nesting pollinators**
- **Leave 50%**
- **Allow forbs to flower**
- **Rotation to leave areas ungrazed**
- **Avoid grazing when flowers are already scarce**
- **Alter timing to avoid impacts to larvae**

Roadside Mowing

- Mow during non flowering seasons
- Use flushing bar and mow at reduced speeds
- Leave cut high (12-16 inches) or mow in patches



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Your Involvement

- If you care about pollinators tell us about it
- Ask us to prioritize pollinator conservation
- Ask us to implement BMPs

Pollinator Resources

- **Xerces Society**
- **Pollinator.org**
– Website and App
- **Celebrating Wildflowers / Celebrating Pollinators**



Questions



Pollinated by
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