



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Development of a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan in Washington

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Research has shown that there are multiple stressors that can adversely affect bee health, including exposure to pesticides. The EPA has significantly updated their guidance on risk assessment for pollinators to address the major routes of exposure to pesticides. In addition, a recent Presidential Memorandum has directed the EPA to engage with state and tribal agencies in the development of pollinator protection plans. The State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) is developing guidance for state lead agencies that intend to develop managed pollinator protection plans (MP3), with input from the EPA. (The draft guidance document is available for review.)

WSDA believes it would be appropriate for a broad coalition of stakeholders to develop a MP3 for the state of Washington. *Input from industry stakeholders, beekeepers, researchers, and other experts will be critical to MP3 development.* The process will be facilitated by WSDA's Pesticide Management Division, with input from the Plant Protection Division and the Natural Resources Assessment Section. The primary WSDA contact for MP3 development will be Erik Johansen. Erik is the agency expert on pesticide risk mitigation for pollinators.

One approach would be to develop an initial MP3 that is limited to a few specific crops (or crop groups) that are pollinated by bees (or are attractive to bees), and expand the MP3 to include additional crops as needed. *It may be expedient to focus an initial MP3 on pome fruit (e.g. apple, pear) and stone fruit (e.g. apricot, cherry, peach), which are pollinated by honey bees (and mason bees).*

Another approach would be to develop a comprehensive MP3 to address all potential crops (or sites) where managed pollinators could be exposed to pesticides in Washington. This approach would probably require more meetings with a larger group of stakeholders, and may be a longer process. There are over 300 crops grown in Washington, and many of them are pollinated by bees or are attractive to bees. EPA would like to see the MP3 finalized in 2015, but they recognize that many MP3 may not be finalized until 2016.

WSDA would appreciate your feedback on our proposal to develop an initial MP3 for Washington that is focused on pome fruits and stone fruits. Please send your comments to Erik Johansen (360-902-2078, ejohansen@agr.wa.gov) by January 23, 2015.