

EPA's Support for Managed Pollinator Protection Plans



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Outline

- National Pollinator Health Strategy
- EPA's Proposal to Mitigate Acute Risk to Bees
- Engagement with States and Tribes on MP3s
- Support for Pollinator Protection Plans
- Next Steps

Presidential Directive to Improve Pollinator Health

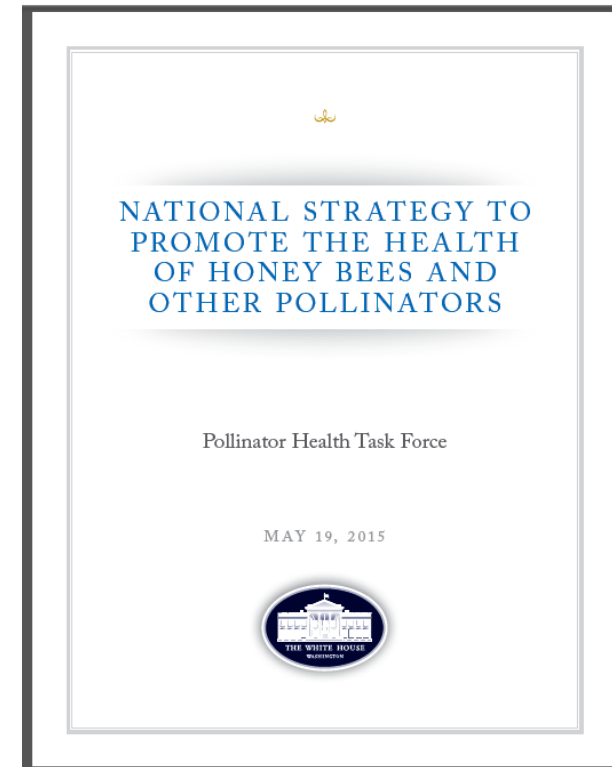
- On June 20, 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum calling on Federal agencies to increase and coordinate their efforts to improve bee health by developing an integrated strategy
- Also EPA shall engage State and tribal environmental, agricultural, and wildlife agencies in the development of State and tribal pollinator protection plans

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

The strategy was released on May 19, 2015 and incorporates and identifies:

1. Commitments from each Federal agency to promote health of honey bees and other pollinators
2. Pollinator Research Action Plan (PRAP)
3. Public Education Plan
4. Public/Private Partnerships

<http://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/federal-pollinator-health-task-force-epas-role>



EPA Commitments

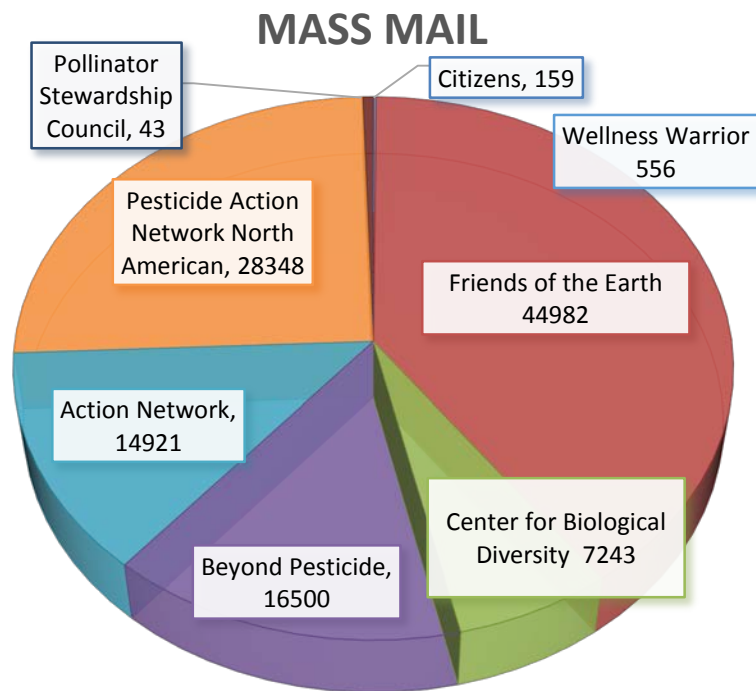
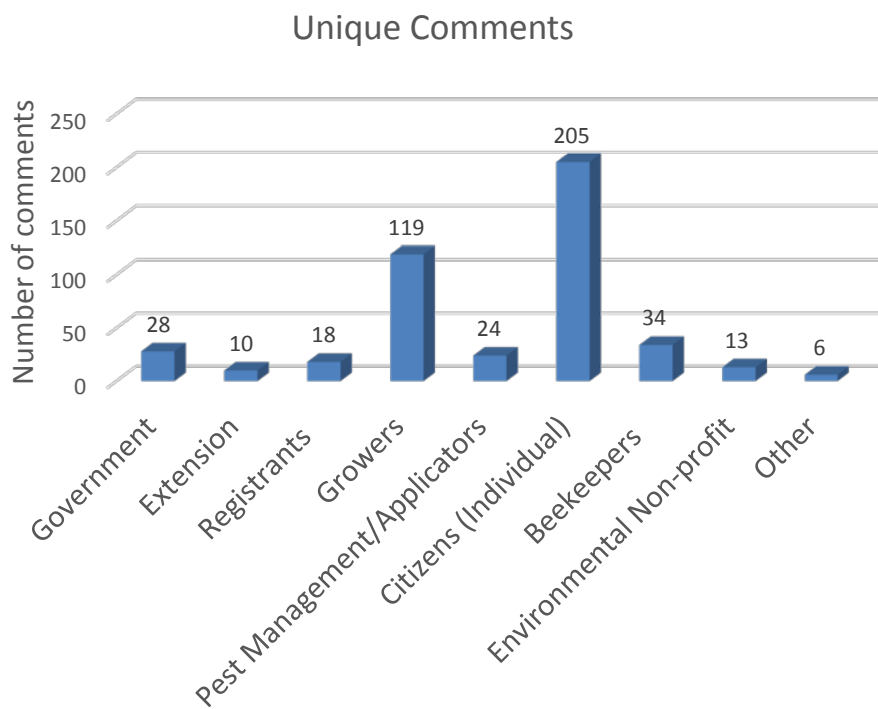
- Assess the effect of pesticides on bees and other pollinators
- **Restrict the use of products toxic to bees in crops with commercial pollination**
- **Engage State and tribal partners in the development of managed pollinator protection plans**
- Expedite review of registration applications for new products targeting pests (*e.g.*, mites) harmful to pollinators
- Encourage the incorporation of pollinator protection and habitat planting activities into green infrastructure and Superfund projects
- Enhance pollinator habitat at Federal facilities

EPA Proposal to Mitigate Acute Risk to Bees

- Addresses acute contact exposure to foliar pesticide applications
- Two Mitigation Strategies
 1. Label Restrictions for Contract Pollination Services
 2. State and Tribal Managed Pollinator Protection Plans for Bee Colonies Not under Contract Pollination Services
- EPA's Proposal was released for public comment in May 2015

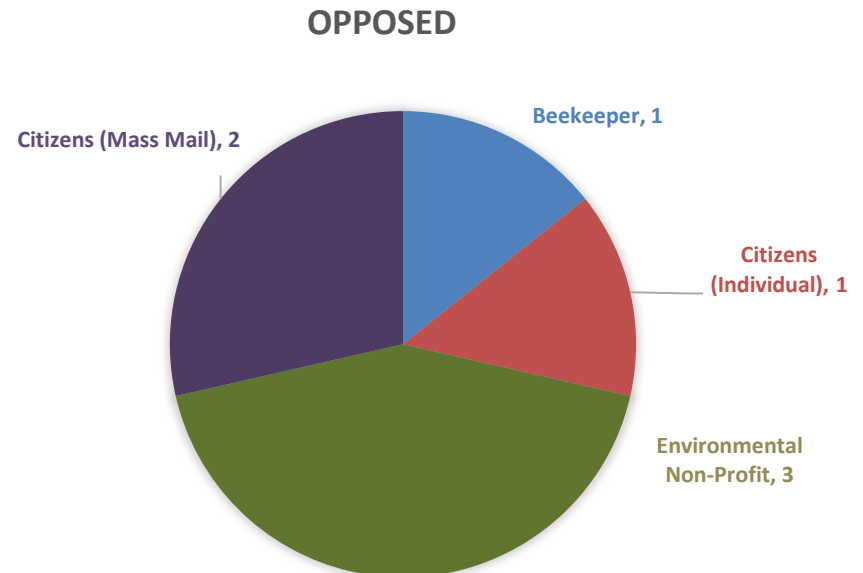
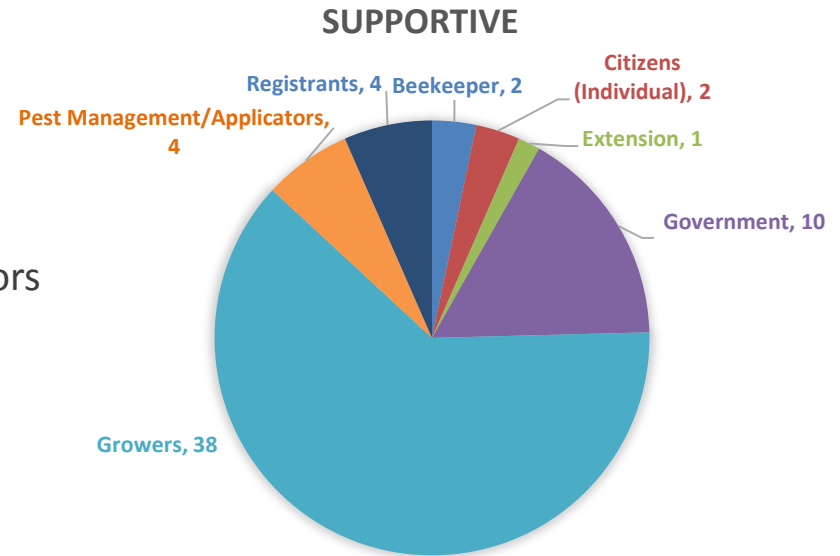
Overview of Comments on EPA Mitigation Proposal

- 113,209 comments received
 - 457 unique comments
 - 112,752 comments from mass mail campaigns



Comments on MP3s

- ▶ 63 Comments in favor:
 - ▶ Provides flexibility
 - ▶ Includes protection for non-contract pollinators
 - ▶ Allows for use of proven-effective BMPs
- ▶ 7 Comments opposed:
 - ▶ Prefer a unified federal strategy
 - ▶ Relies too heavily on voluntary mitigation
 - ▶ Beekeepers may deal with varying conditions when crossing state lines
- ▶ Other concerns
 - ▶ How will evaluations occur
 - ▶ Funding



MP3s Scope and Flexibility

- EPA is promoting MP3s generally to mitigate exposure to managed bees from acutely toxic pesticides not under contract for pollination services
- States and tribes have flexibility:
 - no requirement to develop a plan
 - adopting a regulatory or voluntary approach
 - plan may be expanded to address other pesticide-related issues (e.g., dust off from planting treated seed)
 - may expand scope to address wild bees and other pollinators
 - plan may include other factors impacting pollinator health such as access to quality foraging habitat
- EPA is not proposing to approve MP3s and encourages states and tribes to implement quickly

MP3 Symposium

- EPA, USDA, NASDA and Honey Bee Health Coalition sponsored a symposium in March 2016 to bring together stakeholders to share the tools, insights and relationships to develop MP3 plans
 - Approximately 130 participants including EPA, USDA, states, tribes, pesticide manufacturers, beekeepers, and agricultural organizations
- Sessions included MP3 objectives and lessons learned; MP3 development primer; evaluating the effectiveness of MP3s; engaging stakeholders; developing best management practices; identifying and using tools for tracking/mapping; and forage and native pollinators
- Key messages:
 - Majority of states have implemented, are developing or planning to develop an MP3
 - Should plans focus on managed bees and pesticides or broader scope on native pollinators and other health stressors
 - How shall MP3s be evaluated

Engaging State and Tribal Partners on MP3s

- EPA sent letters in August 2014 to Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO) President, State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) chair, Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) chair expressing interest working with these groups
- SFIREG guidance to states on the development of MP3s in June 2015
<https://aapco.org/2015/07/20/current-topics/>
- Discussions with TPPC focused on options for developing pollinator protection plans and resources for Tribes

Measuring the Success of MP3s

- EPA working with AAPCO and SFIREG to develop measures for evaluating the success of MP3s
- SFIREG issued guidance on measures in Dec. 2015
 - Improved communication, change in behavior, reduced exposure/risk, and overall pollinator health
- <https://aapco.org/2015/07/20/current-topics/>
- AAPCO also developing guidance on measures
- EPA is also forming a workgroup under the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) to provide recommendations on MP3 metrics
- EPA will monitor the success of these plans in reducing pesticide exposure to bees

State and Tribal Plans

- MP3s can be effective instruments to promote communication and collaboration among stakeholders (growers, applicators and beekeepers) at the local level
 - Raise awareness of pollinator health concerns specific to region
 - Offers flexibility of design and implementation to address issue
 - Encourages stakeholder involvement and buy-in
- Many states/tribes are working through this issue and developing pollinator protection plans – AAPCO website <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/master-mp3-inventory-june-2016-master-update-may-2016.pdf>
- EPA is encouraged with progress made states and tribes in committing to and/or developing plans
 - Many states/tribes are at different stages of the process

Next Steps

- EPA is reviewing the ~113,000 comments on the Acute Mitigation Proposal
 - Expect decision later this year
- Continue to work with states and tribes on MP3s and monitor progress
- EPA interested on feedback on how it can better support and evaluate MP3s

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For more information on EPA's pollinator protection efforts, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>