

Promoting Pollinator Health Stakeholder Listening Session



Arlington, Virginia

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Call-in Number: 1-866-299-3188

Conference Code: 703-308-8200

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Presidential Memorandum: Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

On June 20, 2014, President Obama issued a memorandum calling on Federal agencies to increase and coordinate their efforts to improve bee health.

The Memo is broken into 3 main sections:

1. Identification of the Task Force.
2. Mission of the Task Force.
3. Actions to increase and improve pollinator habitat.



Photo courtesy of ARS

Section 1. The Task Force

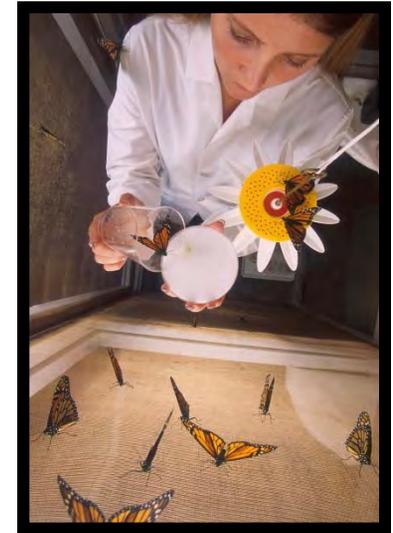


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Section 2. The Mission and Function of the Task Force

- a) The Research Action Plan
 - i. Studies of factors that affect the health of managed and native bees.
 - ii. Data and technology sharing to track status and trends in managed hives.
 - iii. Assessments of native pollinators and modeling of their habitats.
 - iv. Strategies and guidance for affordable, pollinator-friendly seed mixes.
 - v. Methods to reduce exposure to pesticides.
 - vi. Prioritizing projects for habitat restoration.



Photos courtesy of ARS

Section 2. The Mission and Function of the Task Force

- b) Public Education Plan
 - i. Steps individuals and businesses can take to address losses of pollinators.
 - ii. Recommendations for coordinated education campaign.
- c) Public-Private Partnerships
 - i. To encourage protection of pollinators.
 - ii. To increase the quality and quantity of habitat.



Photo courtesy of NRCS



Section 3. Improving and Increasing Pollinator Habitat

- a) Enhance habitat on federal lands and facilities.
- b) Enhance habitat on rights-of-way and easements.
- c) Incorporate pollinator health in future Federal restoration and reclamation projects.
- d) Revise Federal guidance on facilities management to improve habitat.
- e) Develop best management practices for public lands.
- f) Establish a reserve of pollinator-friendly seed mixes for re-vegetation.
- g) Increase acreage and forage value of pollinator habitat in Federal conservation programs and provide technical assistance to landowners in pollinator-friendly practices.

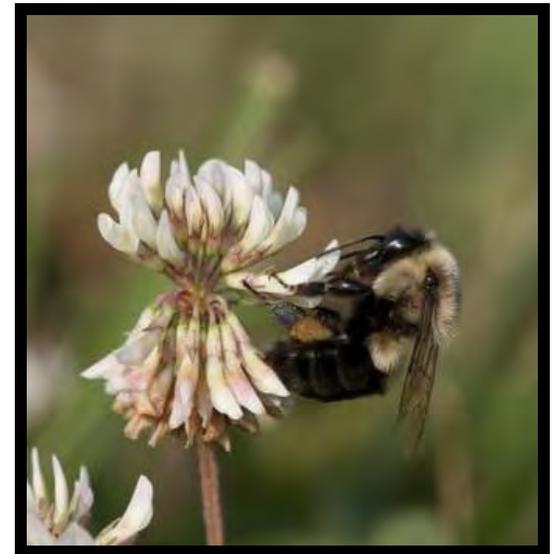


Photo courtesy of NRCS

Section 3. Improving and Increasing Pollinator Habitat (cont.)

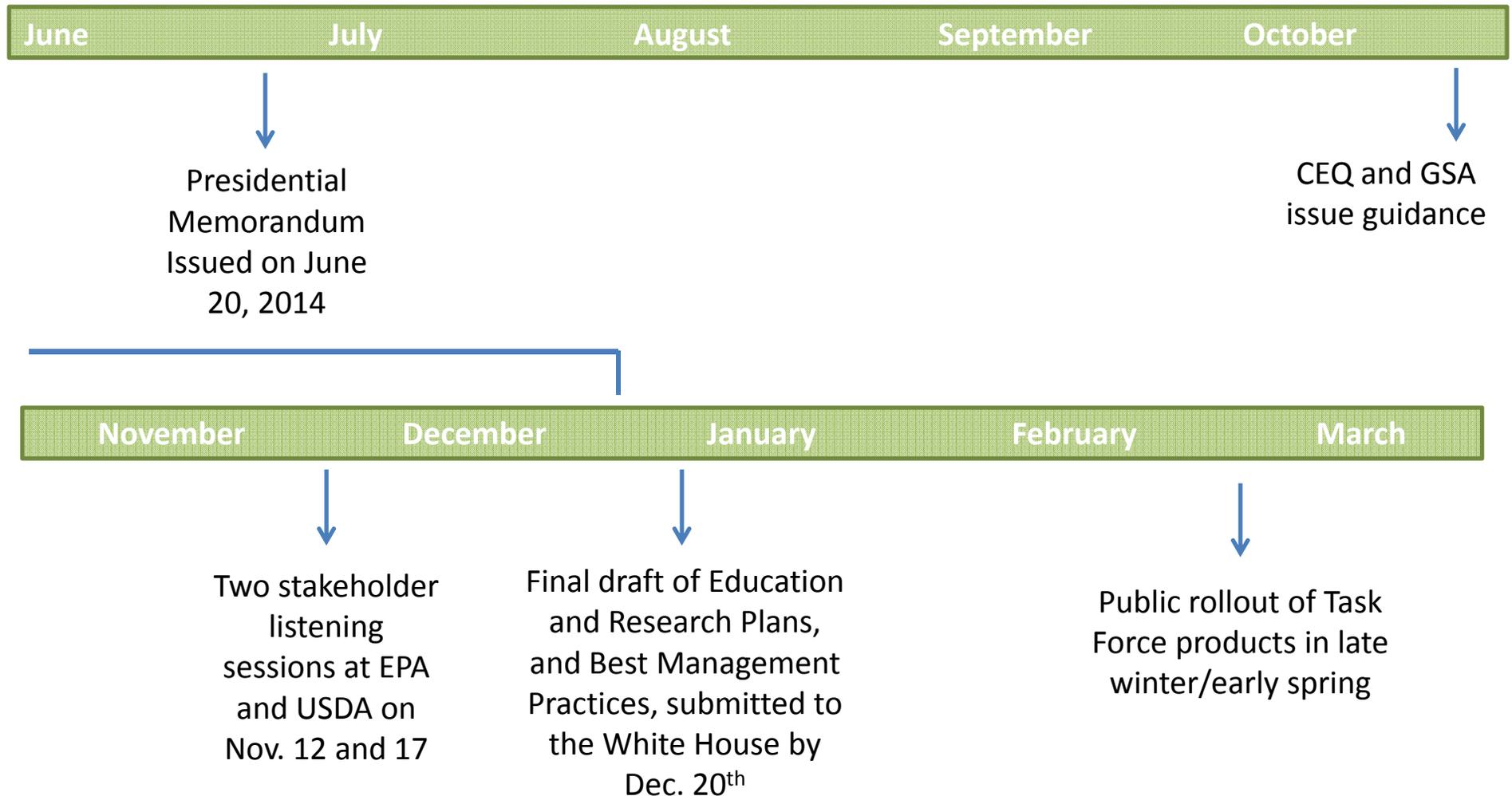
- h) Assist States and State wildlife organizations in identifying and implementing pollinator conservation projects.
- i) Increase pollinator habitat along Federal and State roadways.
- j) Increase pollinator habitat on military property.
- k) Increase pollinator habitat on land and water resource development projects.
- l) Assess the effects of pesticides on pollinators and expedite review of new products targeting pests to pollinators.
- m) Take immediate action to support pollinators in the 2014 growing season and thereafter.



Photo courtesy of USDA

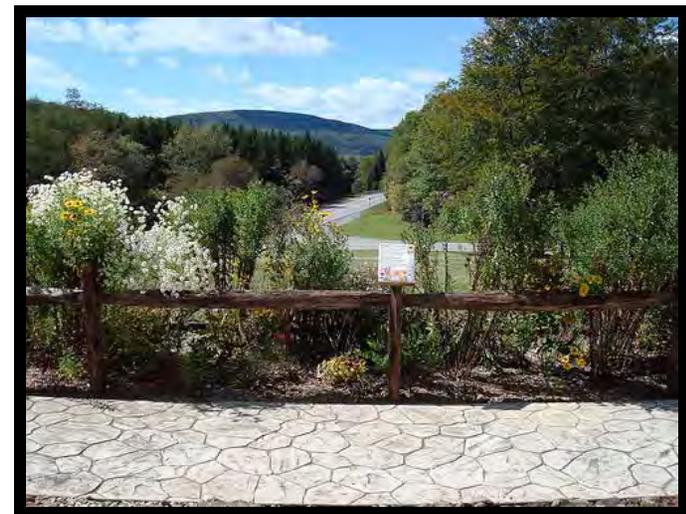
Timeline

Monthly meetings of Agency principals,
Bi-weekly meetings of Agency Points of Contact



Progress to Date

- **Federal Facility and Land Guidance:**
In October 2014, the Council on Environmental Quality released an addendum to its Guidance for Federal Agencies on Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes to promote pollinator habitat creation and maintenance. The General Services Administration has also prepared and is implementing pollinator habitat guidance in Federal building construction, which will be published in the general update of the P100 standard.



Photos courtesy of CEQ and USDA

Progress to Date

- **Forage and Nutrition Summit:** In October 2014, USDA hosted a Bee Forage and Nutrition Summit in Virginia. Day 1 consisted of presentations, and Day 2 followed with working groups. Beekeepers, commodity groups, retailers, professional societies, agrochemical companies, NGO's, and Federal and State representatives attended.



Photo courtesy of ARS

Why a Listening Session?

- Pollinators are important players in natural and managed ecosystems on public and private lands.
- Pollinator habitat spans public and private lands.
- Private and public research can be complementary in addressing pollinator health.
- Private entities have a nationwide, diverse stakeholder network with the capacity to deliver information locally.



Photo courtesy of NRCS

Goals for This Listening Session

Solicit Feedback on:

- Best management practices
- Pesticide risk mitigation
- Research
- Education opportunities
- Pollinator habitat improvements
- Public-private partnerships



The Importance of Partnerships

How can the Federal government catalyze and coordinate partnerships for pollinator health?

- What existing partnerships are out there? What is their function, how big are they impact-wise, and can they be scaled?
- What has made existing partnerships successful and what has been challenging?
- What other partnerships would be helpful?



Photo courtesy of ARS

Format For Listening Session

- Wait to be called on by facilitator.
- Use microphone.
- Limit your comments to no more than 5 minutes at a time.
- If possible, submit your comments in written form as well.
- Comments may be submitted online at www.regulations.gov, EPA docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0806. Please submit your comments by November 24, 2014.