



**Tribal Pesticide Program Council**

**Summer 2021**

## **Pollinator Protection Plans for Tribal Priorities**

Worldwide, the work of pollinators is crucial for the majority of agricultural production. It is estimated that pollinators are responsible for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants. Protecting these underappreciated species is vitally important for the health and economic future of humans, and for the protection of the environment. In the U.S., pollinators consist of managed species (honey bees primarily) and unmanaged pollinators such as butterflies, native bees, and hummingbirds. Due to an increase of pesticide use, decreased habitat, introduced pests and diseases, and changes in climate, both types of pollinators are in jeopardy and their numbers are declining rapidly. An important step in ensuring that pollinators thrive and continue their job of pollinating is for states and tribes to create and enact Pollinator Protection Plans (P3s).

Tribes have the flexibility to customize the scope of P3s to consider specific pollinator issues in their regions, including both managed bees and wild insect and non-insect pollinators. A Tribal Pollinator Protection Plan (TP3) is designed so that each tribe can work with their stakeholder groups to collaboratively understand and address their unique pollinator protection needs. The components of a TP3 can include your own tribal priorities and ordinances, a timeline and strategy for implementation, and metrics for how success will be measured. The document is encouraged to be flexible, with the ability to be updated periodically with input from essential partners regarding local issues and concerns.



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## Pollinator Protection Plans for Tribal Priorities *cont.*

The primary purpose of a P3 is to reduce pesticide exposure to pollinators by coordination and communication among growers, pesticide applicators, beekeepers, and landowners. For managed pollinators such as honeybees, when pesticide applications have been coordinated with the beekeepers, the potential pesticide exposure and impact on bees is reduced while at the same time allowing for the management of pests in order to protect crops. This dialogue and coordination can include collaboration on what pesticide products are used, a change to the time of day pesticides are applied, or providing early notice to beekeepers allowing them to cover their hives before a pesticide application. Along with protecting pollinators from the adverse effects of pesticides, additional benefits of enacting a P3 include improved habitat and an increase in food resources (flowering plants) for pollinators. Many of the

strategies used to mitigate risk of pesticides to managed pollinators are expected to reduce risk to native bees and other pollinators as well.



The EPA works with various agencies at the state level to develop and implement Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3s) in order to address and reduce potential pesticide exposure to honeybees beyond the application site. MP3s establish clear expectations among key stakeholders when a pesticide application needs to be made near managed pollinators. This open communication can help build relationships, increase mutual understanding, and ensure peaceful co-existence allowing all parties to operate successfully. The same benefits can be

achieved through state and tribal P3s for non-managed pollinators beyond managing honey bees. Numerous resources from partners can help tribes get started: check out information from the State FIFRA Issues, Research and Evaluation Group, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the 'Tribal Pollinator Protection Plan Template for the Pacific Southwest Region.'

Guidance on Pollinator Protection Plans from the State FIFRA Issues, Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) regarding P3s (for both managed and unmanaged pollinators) suggests several critical elements of a successful Pollinator Protection Plan:

1. A process for stakeholder participation.
2. A method for growers and applicators to know if there are managed pollinators near treatment sites.
3. A method for growers and applicators to identify and contact beekeepers prior to application.
4. Inclusion of best management practices (BMPs) to minimize risk of pesticides to both managed and unmanaged pollinators.
5. A clearly defined plan for public outreach.
6. A process to periodically review and modify each plan.
7. A mechanism to measure effectiveness of a state or tribal P3.

While this guidance was developed from the SFIREG perspective, leaders who would like to develop a tribal-specific plan may want to use this document as a resource: <https://aapco.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/sfireg-mp3-guidance-final.pdf>

## Pollinator Protection Plans for Tribal Priorities cont.

### Xerces

Another comprehensive online resource for pollinator protection and the reduction of pesticide use and impact is The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation ([www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)). Their staff collaborates with federal and state agencies, Tribes, universities, and nonprofits, and maintains productive working relationships with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. and state Fish and Wildlife Service agencies.

### Tribal Pollinator Protection Plan Template and Pollinator Protection Plan Builder List

For those interested in creating a state or Tribal P3, two important resources are available that will assist greatly in starting the process. First is the 'Tribal Pollinator Protection Plan Template for the Pacific South-west Region' (<http://tppcwebsite.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Final-Draft-Tribal-Pollinator-Protection-Plan-Template.pdf>). This comprehensive template provides most of the background research and information on pollinator protection, while allowing for Tribes to customize the document so that it best responds to pollinator issues in their regions.

The second is a 'Pollinator Protection Plan Builder List' from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in New York (<https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/environment/pollinator-protection>). This builder list provides a portal with links to resources that can assist Tribal managers in putting together a TP3 that incorporates key elements such as protection, habitat, potential funding sources, survey tools and pollinator plants.

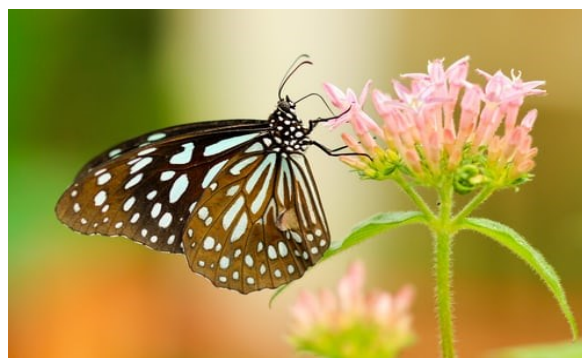
### Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) Pollinator Protection Working Group

The TPPC and EPA established the TPPC Pollinator Protection Working Group (WG) between January 2016 and February 2019 to discuss pollinator protection priorities for tribes, and this group has now been reactivated. The group meets once per month via teleconference or webinar. WG meetings will focus on learning about ways Tribes can: enhance pollinator habitat, grow more native pollinator-attractive plants, develop TP3's, identify native pollinators, enhance youth education around pollinators, assess their land resources relative to pollinator habitat, and more. Guest speakers include pollinator experts from around the country including tribes sharing experiences and successes. The WG is intended to serve as a support network for tribes working to take actions to protect pollinators; to develop a template for a tribal pollinator protection plan; and to raise the visibility of the challenges tribes face as they work to protect pollinators. The WG also maintained a [web page](#) with a large number of educational resources as well as pollinator project funding sources for Tribes working on pollinator protection. (Note: the WG is currently updating the website). Tribes are welcome to attend workgroup meetings on the first Monday of the month.



### Additional Reference:

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





## Updates and Announcements

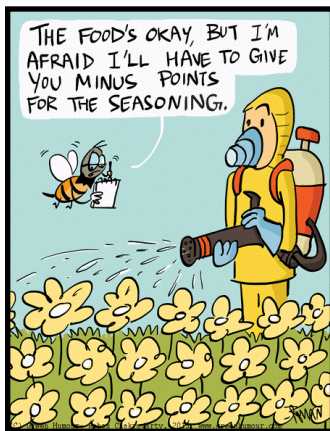
### Conferences

#### Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: A Virtual Gathering

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals will be hosting its annual Forum virtually again this year from **August 16-19**. For more information about the conference please visit [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef).

#### North American Pollinator Protection Campaign Annual Conference

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) will hold its annual conference virtually from **October 19-21**. For more information or to register visit <https://www.pollinator.org/nappc/conference>.



### Trainings & Courses

#### Laboratory Issues PREP

The PREP Network will provide a virtual course on laboratory issues **August 23-26**. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

#### Pesticides and Water Quality PREP

The PREP Network will provide a course on pesticides and water quality **September 27-30**, either virtually or in Davis, CA. For more information on the PREP Network visit <https://prep.ipm.ucanr.edu/>.

#### Tribal PIRT

The Muscogee Nation will host a Tribal Pesticide Inspector Residential Training, tentatively scheduled for May 17-19, 2022, at the River Spirit Resort & Casino in Tulsa, OK. For more information visit <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/pesticide-inspector-residential-training-pirt>

### Meetings

#### NASDA Annual Meeting

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) will hold their annual meeting **September 19-22** in Louisville, KY. For more information visit <https://www.nasda.org/event/2021-nasda-annual-meeting>.

#### SFIREG Joint Working Committee Meeting

The State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Joint Working Committee (JWC) will hold their Fall meeting on **September 20-21**, either virtual or in person. For more information visit <https://aapco.org/2015/07/29/working->

### Tribal Consultation Opportunities

#### Potential Revisions to the Federal Water Quality Standards Regulations to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights (ends **September 13, 2021**)

EPA is currently undergoing tribal consultation for proposed changes to the federal water quality standards regulations to explicitly and sustainably protect tribal reserved rights in state waters (outside of tribal reservations). A listening session was held July 19, and another will be held near the end of the consultation period in late August or early September. To comment or request individual government-to-government consultation with EPA contact Jennifer Brundage at [Brundage.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Brundage.Jennifer@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1265.

#### Potential Promulgation of Tribal Baseline Water Quality Standards Under the Clean Water Act (ends **September 13, 2021**)

EPA is currently undergoing tribal consultation on a forthcoming rulemaking that would establish tribal baseline water quality standards (WQS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for waters on Indian reservations that currently do not have EPA-approved WQS in place. A listening session was held July 8, and another will be held near the end of the consultation period in late August or early September. To comment or request individual government-to-government consultation with EPA contact Mary Lou Soscia at [soscia.marylou@epa.gov](mailto:soscia.marylou@epa.gov) or (503) 381-3840.

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At-Large Representative

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The TPPC is a member-based organization with more than 66 members and 44 Tribes and tribal organizations as of September 2020, whose activities are funded by a cooperative agreement with the EPA. The Council serves as a tribal technical resource, and provides a forum for dialogue between Tribes and the EPA on program and policy development relating to pesticides issues and concerns. Assistance provided to Tribes includes support in building tribal pesticide programs and conducting pesticide education and training, and the preparation of resources for Tribes interested in specialized issues such as Integrated Pest Management and pollinators. Through its interaction with the EPA, the TPPC keeps Tribes informed of developments in the regulation of pesticides and pesticide use, and provides feedback to the EPA on such matters from a tribal perspective (though it is important to note that communication between the EPA and the TPPC does not substitute for direct government-to-government consultation).

**For information about how to join the TPPC, contact Mark Daniels at [mark.daniels@nau.edu](mailto:mark.daniels@nau.edu) or (928) 523-8897.**

