Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

February 20, 2019

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Metrics & Targets Task Force

Goals

- Define pollinator habitat for the ROW sector
- Create a mechanism for crediting / scoring habitat on ROW
  - Universal ROW habitat scorecard
- Train field teams
  - To have knowledge and resources to conduct habitat assessments

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Definition

Pollinator habitat contains native flowering plants, host plants, and nesting sites, throughout the growing season.

Additional information can be added, depending on the company/organization using the definition and their communication goals and target audiences, such as:

- Pollinator habitat may be remnant natural habitat, habitat enhanced through management, or newly created habitat.
- Flowering plants provide floral resources: nectar and pollen.
- A greater diversity of (or dominance by) native plants provides a greater diversity of floral resources and host plants (such as for butterflies) and nesting sites (such as for native bees).
- While non-native plants may provide some resources for pollinators, we manage for native plants because they provide other ecosystem services including soil stabilization improving water quality, habitat for birds and other wildlife, and are persistent and typically less costly to maintain for long term sustainability.
- A common goal is to provide three or more native plant species to be blooming in each of spring, summer, and fall periods (or throughout the period of time when natural habitats provide floral resources).

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Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

Objectives

- Serve as a **universal standard** for monitoring and reporting pollinator habitat metrics on energy and transportation lands
- Provide a **multi-tiered approach** that is flexible based on an organization's monitoring goals and available resources, and can encourage more advanced monitoring over time;
- Align with **existing habitat assessments**, including monitoring requirements for the monarch butterfly CCAA
- Support **shared reporting** of habitat metrics to the ROW Working Group's geospatial habitat database

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Existing As

- Compared 18 pollin evaluation / scoring
- Identified the most evaluated attributes
- Sought input from S Subgroup
- Proposed a set of fa scoring for 2018

Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group
Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

Name of Assessor/Observer:	**Assessment Date:**
Name of Organization:	**Survey Area:** ❑150 ft x 10 ft ❑Other: Length _____ feet Width _____ feet
Site Name/Description:	
Survey Location (latitude/longitude):	

For administrative purposes

Survey Area Location:

- ❑ On ROW perpendicular to center line
- ❑ On ROW parallel to center line
- ❑ On ROW diagonal to center line
- ❑ Off ROW

Basic Assessment

1. Adjacent Land Use

Land use within 100 ft of site (see definitions on back page)

Check all that apply:

❑CROP ❑NDI ❑WOOD
❑HED ❑IDLE ❑WET
❑DIV ❑DEV ❑Other: _____

2a. Potentially Blooming Nectar Plants (PBN)

Include wildflowers and blooming shrubs that provide floral resources, while excluding grasses and woody species that do not bloom. Floral resources provide nectar and pollen to pollinators.

Indicate total number of PBN species:

❑0 ❑1-4 ❑5-9 ❑10+

Estimate total percent cover of PBN species:

❑< 5% cover ❑26 - 50% cover ❑> 75% cover
❑5 - 25% cover ❑51 - 75% cover

3a. Milkweed

Estimate total number of milkweed plants:

❑Unknown ❑1-10 ❑51-100 ❑500+
❑0 ❑11-50 ❑100-500

4. Additional Habitat Resources

Check all that apply:

❑Native bunch grasses
❑Brush piles
❑Undisturbed thatch
❑Dead wood / snags
❑Undisturbed bare ground
❑Basking areas (no-shade)
❑Plants with hollow, pithy stems
❑Larval host plants
❑Artificial stem bundles/ nesting blocks
❑Available water sources
❑Rock piles

Optional Assessment Elements

2b. Potentially Blooming Nectar Plants (PBN)

Indicate number of ***native*** PBN species:

❑0 ❑1-4 ❑5-9 ❑10+

List known PBN species (mark "**b**" if currently blooming):

List known noxious/invasive species:

Estimate total percent cover of noxious/invasive species:

❑< 5% cover ❑26 - 50% cover ❑> 75% cover
❑5 - 25% cover ❑51 - 75% cover

3b. Milkweed

List milkweed species	Estimate number of milkweed stems by species
	❑0 ❑1-10 ❑11-50 ❑51-100 ❑100-500 ❑500+
	❑0 ❑1-10 ❑11-50 ❑51-100 ❑100-500 ❑500+
	❑0 ❑1-10 ❑11-50 ❑51-100 ❑100-500 ❑500+

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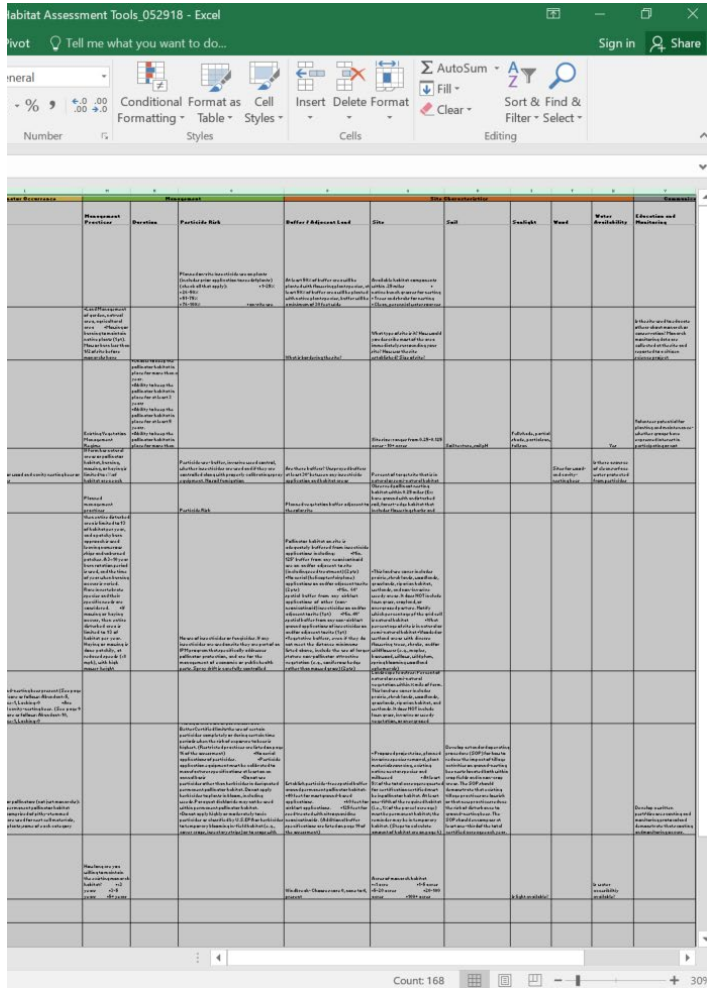
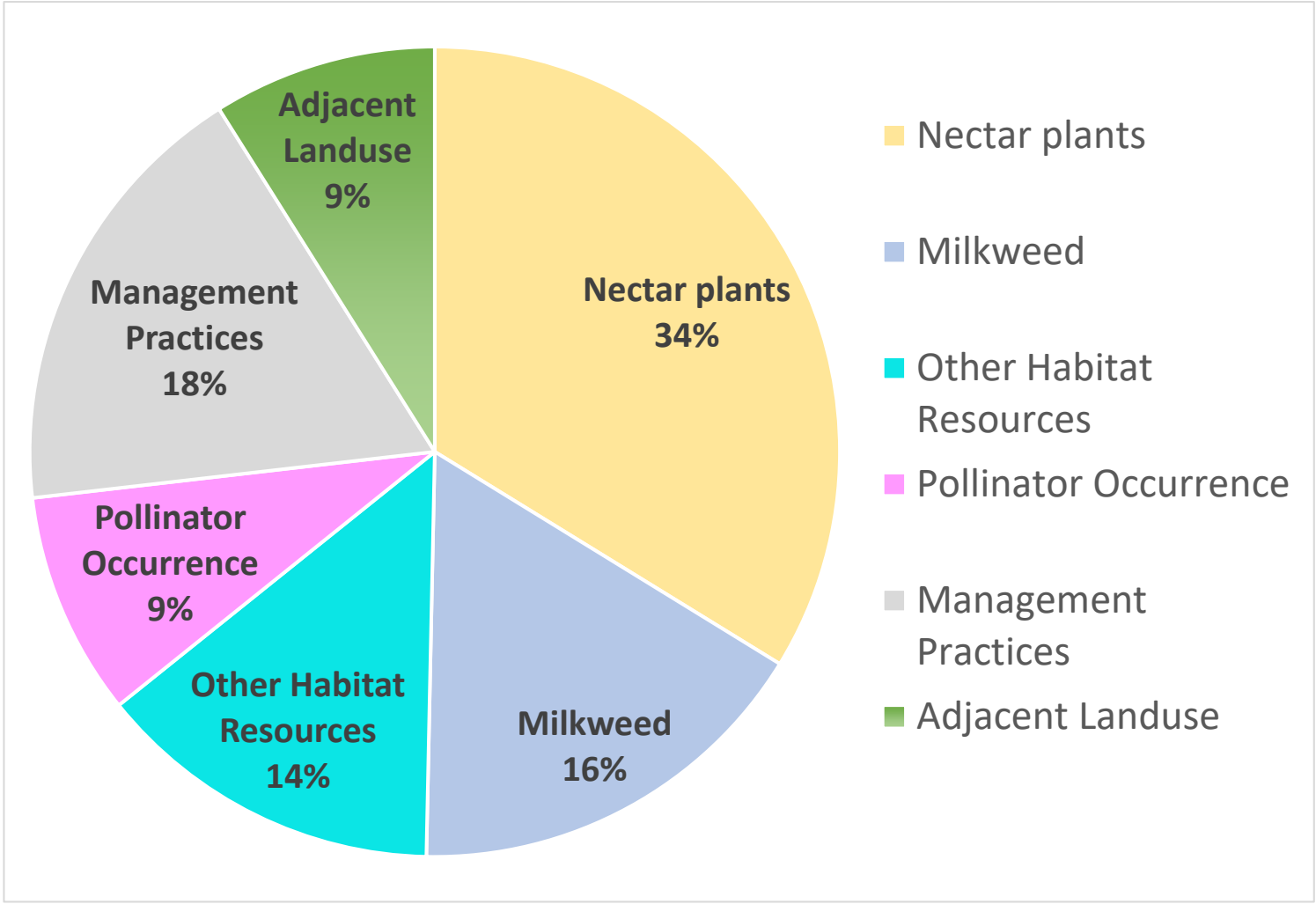


Develop Multi-Tiered Approach

	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
Objective	To generally determine if habitat is present at a site	To generally determine the quality of the habitat at a site	To gather more detailed data to determine the impacts of management actions, where improvements can be made, and/or how the habitat compares to other sites
Survey Methods	➢Most basic ➢Least effort, time, cost, and expertise ➢Easily implemented across many sites ➢5 – 10 minutes to complete	➢Simple to implement by non-technical staff ➢Mid-level effort ➢Implemented across a cross-section of sites ➢10 – 20 minutes to complete	➢Performed by somewhat knowledgeable staff ➢More intense effort ➢Implemented across a sample of sites ➢20+ minutes to complete
Outcome	“Yes / No” habitat determination	Qualitative score: Low / Medium / High Quality Habitat	Quantitative score: 0 - 100

Develop Scoring Methodology



Game Plan

Scope of Work

- Task 1: User Feedback and Research
- Task 2: Final Tier Design
- Task 3: Scoring Methodology
- Task 4: Final Scorecard Design → Late Spring 2019
- Future tasks

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How Can You Help?

- Input on scope of work
- Funding to support completion of scorecard in 2019
- Breakout session on Thursday

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