Habitat in Action:
Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

September 9, 2019

Thank you to our project sponsors!

Purpose of the Pollinator Scorecard

❖ Provide a common language to talk about habitat on energy and transportation lands and facilitate industry learning and collaboration

❖ Establish a consistent valuation method across ROW sectors that aligns with existing habitat assessments and reporting

❖ Provide a flexible, multi-tiered approach that encourages improved monitoring over time

❖ Support shared reporting of habitat metrics across industry

What is Pollinator Habitat?

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

- May be **remnant natural habitat**, **habitat enhanced through management**, or **newly created habitat**
- Flowering plants provide **nectar** and **pollen**
- A greater diversity of (or dominance by) **native plants** provides a greater diversity of floral resources, host plants, and nesting sites
- We manage for native plants, because they provide **other ecosystem services**
- Aim for **3 or more native plant species** throughout the spring, summer, and fall

Primary Uses
to achieve vision of success

❖ **Assess Pollinator Habitat Quality**

- Inventory the availability of pollinator habitat on rights-of-way

- Identify areas of high quality habitat

- Evaluate habitat quality in relation to management actions or threats from within or adjacent to rights-of-way

Primary Uses
to achieve vision of success

❖ **Inform Management Decisions**

- Identify opportunities for pollinator habitat enhancement or creation

- Determine the effectiveness of management actions to address key threats to pollinator habitat

- Complement other protocols to acquire a spectrum of information and data that supports management for pollinator habitat
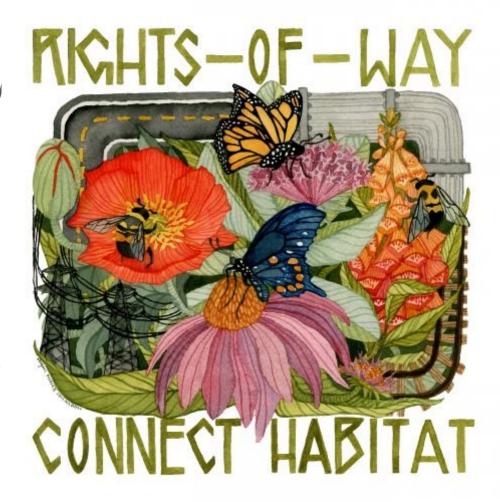
MONARCH JOINT VENTURE   Environmental Incentives   PennState   Cardno Shaping the Future   WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL®   UIC   ROW HWG

Primary Uses

to achieve vision of success

❖ **Support Communication and Learning**

- Compare habitat qualities across a ROW system, company, region, or peer exchange

- Metrics are a common language among ROWHWG members, regardless of their industry sector

- Inform the broader ROWHWG of habitat status, helping to identify management a information needs

RIGHTS-OF-WAY CONNECT HABITAT

Who uses the pollinator scorecard?

Wingtips

Examples: Environmental Compliance Manager, CSR Manager

Steel Toes

Examples: Vegetation Manager, Vegetation Management Crew

Tevas

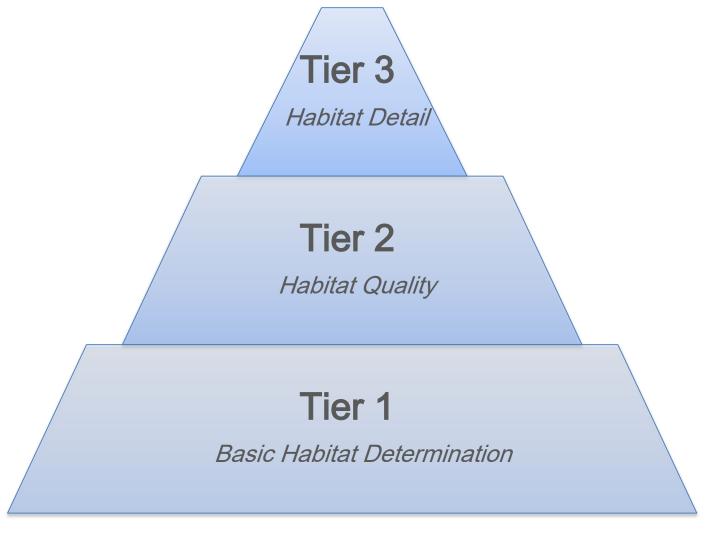*Examples: Natural Resources Manager, Staff Botanist, Student Interns*

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Pollinator Assessment Tiered Approach

❖ Each tier increases:
  ○ information gained
  ○ experience level needed
  ○ cumulative time needed

Tier 3
Habitat Detail

Tier 2
Habitat Quality

Tier 1
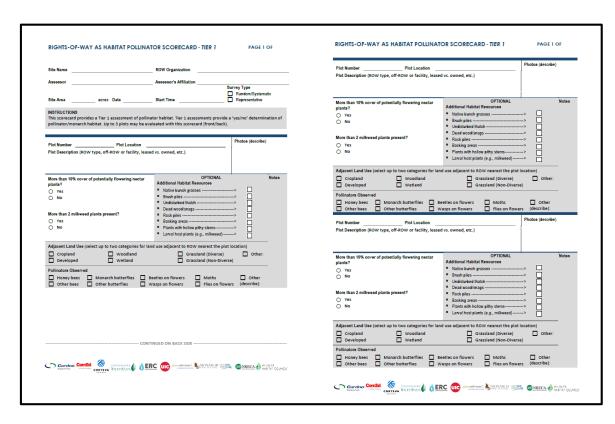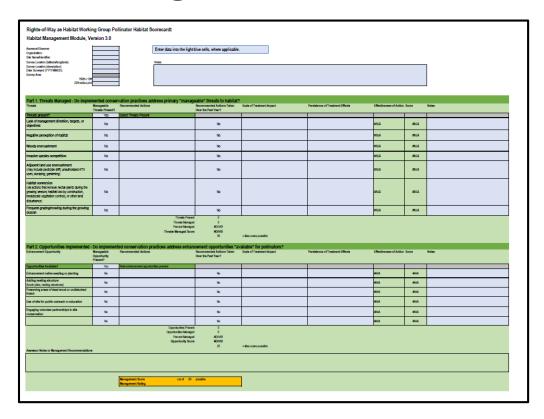*Basic Habitat Determination*

What is the Pollinator Scorecard?

Pollinator Assessment
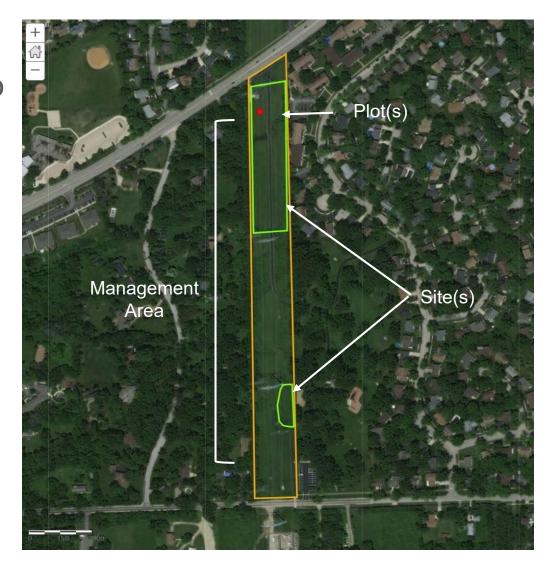
Management Module

Where Can the Scorecard Be Used?

❖ Anywhere land managers wish to describe habitat along rights-of-way or other energy or transportation lands

❖ Specialized scorecards, such as state solar pollinator habitat scorecards, may be more appropriate in certain cases

❖ The more plots used, the greater the 'resolution' of data

When Should the Scorecard Be Used?

❖ Scorecard assessment is performed in single visit

❖ Recommend using scorecard during peak blooming season

❖ Information collected for all 'Potentially Flowering Nectar Plants'

Potentially Flowering Nectar Plants are plants that exhibit signs that they are currently blooming, have recently bloomed, or will soon bloom.

Vision of Success

❖ The use of the Pollinator Habitat Scorecard results in:

- Vegetation managers adopting best management practices that improve pollinator habitat on rights-of-way
- Increased collaboration and meaningful communication among ROW managers and other organizations on pollinator habitat
- Vegetation managers having a greater understanding of pollinator habitat conditions on ROW and the effects of management practices
- Widespread adoption of consistent monitoring practices for pollinator habitat across entities and regions

Looking Forward

❖ **Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)**
  - Tier 1 meets monitoring requirements
  - Using Tier 2 or 3 can count towards supplemental monitoring activity

❖ **Geospatial Habitat Database**
  - Survey123 app available now!

❖ **2020: Collecting Data and Improvements**
  - Spring: Training; Metrics & Targets Taskforce meeting
  - Fall: Results and shared learning