

Habitat in Action: Pollinator Habitat Scorecard

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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 right-of-way
- Identify areas of high quality habitat
- Evaluate habitat quality in relation to management actions or threats from within or adjacent to right-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



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 and information needs



Who uses the pollinator scorecard?



Wingtips

Examples: Environmental Compliance Manager, CSR Manager



Steel Toes

Examples: Vegetation Manager, Vegetation Management Crew

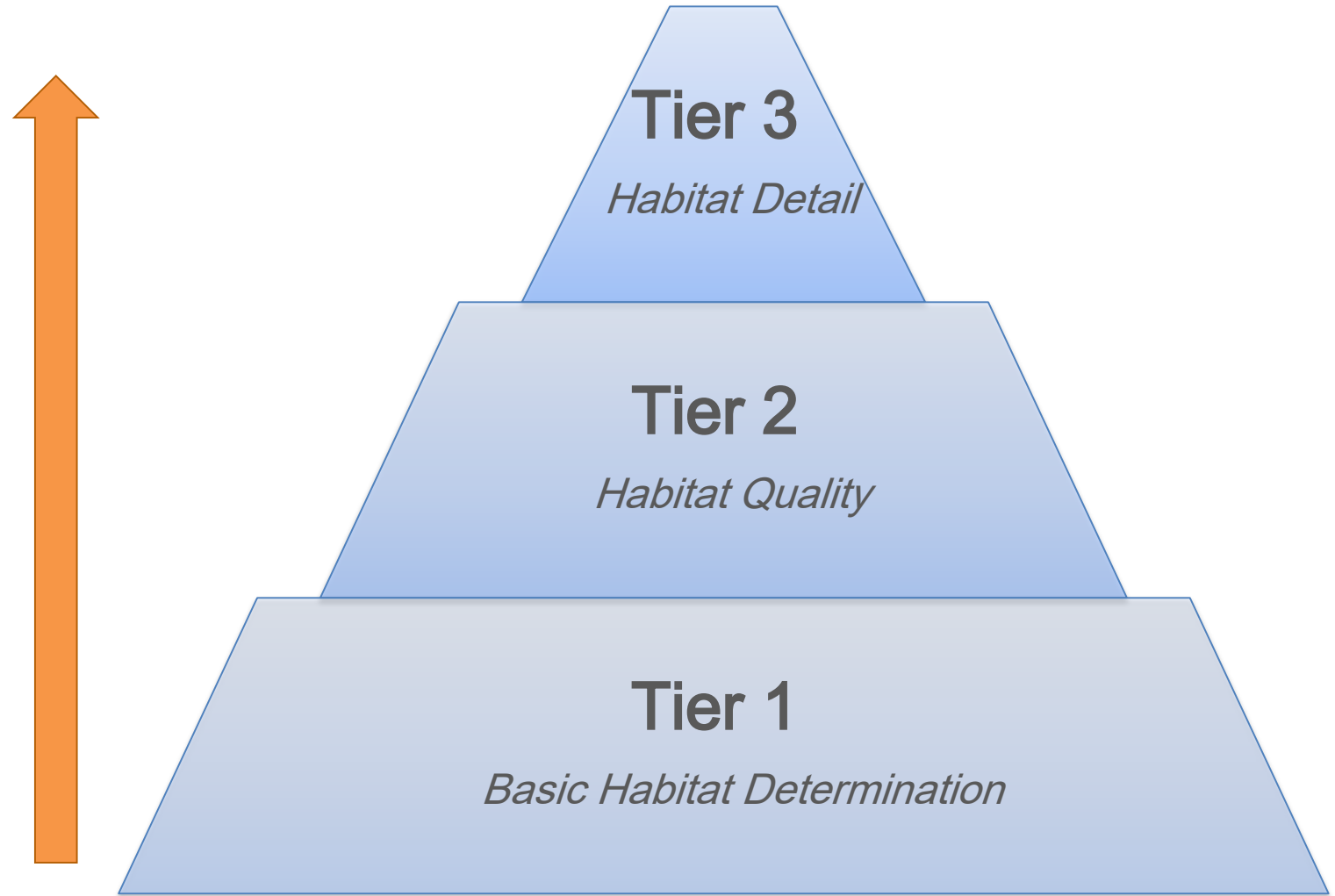


Tevas

Examples: Natural Resources Manager, Staff Botanist, Student Interns

Pollinator Assessment Tiered Approach

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



What is the Pollinator Scorecard?

Pollinator Assessment

Management Module

RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS HABITAT POLLINATOR SCORECARD - TIER 1 PAGE 1 OF 1

Site Name _____ ROW Organization _____
 Assessor _____ Assessor's Affiliation _____
 Site Area _____ acres Date _____ Start Time _____
 Survey Type ☐ Random/Systematic ☐ Representative

INSTRUCTIONS
 This scorecard provides a Tier 1 assessment of pollinator habitat. Tier 1 assessments provide a 'yes/no' determination of pollinator/monarch habitat. Up to 3 plots may be evaluated with this scorecard (front/back).

Plot Number _____ Plot Location _____ Photos (describe) _____
 Plot Description (ROW type, off-ROW or facility, leased vs. owned, etc.) _____

More than 10% cover of potentially flowering nectar plants?
☐ Yes ☐ No

More than 2 milkweed plants present?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Habitat Resources
☐ Native bunch grasses ☐ ☐
☐ Brush piles ☐ ☐
☐ Undisturbed thatch ☐ ☐
☐ Dead wood/snags ☐ ☐
☐ Rock piles ☐ ☐
☐ Basking areas ☐ ☐
☐ Plants with hollow pithy stems ☐ ☐
☐ Larval host plants (e.g., milkweed) ☐ ☐

Adjacent Land Use (select up to two categories for land use adjacent to ROW nearest the plot location)
☐ Cropland ☐ Woodland ☐ Grassland (Diverse) ☐ Other: _____
☐ Developed ☐ Wetland ☐ Grassland (Non-Diverse)

Pollinators Observed
☐ Honey bees ☐ Monarch butterflies ☐ Beetles on flowers ☐ Moths ☐ Other: _____
☐ Other bees ☐ Other butterflies ☐ Wasps on flowers ☐ Flies on flowers (describe): _____

Notes _____

CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE

Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group Pollinator Habitat Scorecard: Habitat Management Module, Version 3.0

Assessor/Owner: _____
 Organization: _____
 Site Name/Identifier: _____
 Survey Location (Latitude/Longitude): _____
 Survey Location (Description): _____
 Date Surveyed (YYYYMMDD): _____
 Survey Area: _____
 100 ft x 100 ft 228 million sq ft

Enter data into the light blue cells, where applicable.

Notes: _____

Part 1. Threats Managed - Do implemented conservation practices address primary "manageable" threats to habitat?

Threats	Manageable Threats Present?	Recommended Actions	Recommended Actions Taken Over the Past Year?	Scale of Treatment Impact	Persistence of Treatment Effects	Effectiveness of Action	Score	Notes
Threats present?	Yes	Identify Threats Present						
Lack of management direction, targets, or objectives	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Negative perception of habitat	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Woody encroachment	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Invasive species competition	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Adjacent land use encroachment (only include pesticide drift, unauthorized ATV use, dumping, parking)	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Habitat conversion (all actions that remove nectar plants during the growing season; include tree removal, construction, broadcast vegetation control, or other land disturbance)	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Frequent grading/mowing during the growing season	No		No			0/10	0/10	
			Threats Present: 0 Threats Managed: 0 Percent Managed: 0/100 Threats Managed Score: 0/25					• Max score possible

Part 2. Opportunities Implemented - Do implemented conservation practices address enhancement opportunities "available" for pollinators?

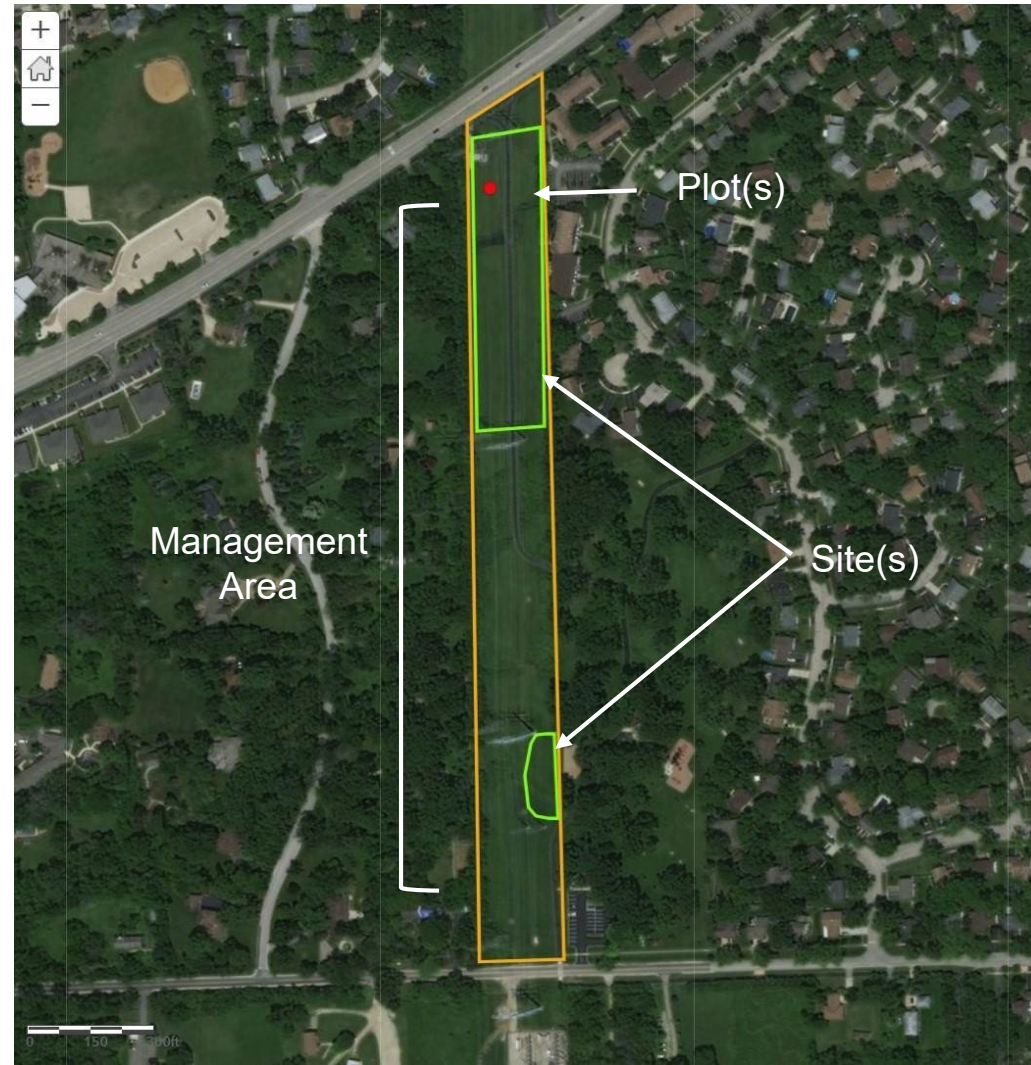
Enhancement Opportunity	Manageable Opportunity Present?	Recommended Actions	Recommended Actions Taken Over the Past Year?	Scale of Treatment Impact	Persistence of Treatment Effects	Effectiveness of Action	Score	Notes
Opportunities Available	Yes	Identify enhancement opportunities present						
Enhancement rather than seedling or planting	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Establishment window (seedling, seedling, seedling)	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Preserving areas of dead wood or undisturbed thatch	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Use of site for public outreach or education	No		No			0/10	0/10	
Engaging volunteer participation in site conservation	No		No			0/10	0/10	
			Opportunities Present: 0 Opportunities Managed: 0 Percent Managed: 0/100 Opportunity Score: 0/25					• Max score possible

Assessor Notes or Management Recommendations: _____

Management Score: _____ out of 40 possible

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