



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### Development of a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan in Washington

Update – March 4, 2015

Research has shown that there are multiple stressors that can adversely affect bee health, including exposure to pesticides. The EPA has significantly updated their guidance on risk assessment for pollinators to address the major routes of exposure to pesticides. In addition, a recent Presidential Memorandum has directed the EPA to engage with state and tribal agencies in the development of pollinator protection plans. The State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) is developing guidance for state lead agencies that intend to develop Managed Pollinator Protection Plans (MP3), with input from the EPA. (The draft guidance document is available for review.)

WSDA believes it would be appropriate for a broad coalition of stakeholders to develop a MP3 for the state of Washington. *Input from industry stakeholders, beekeepers, researchers, and other experts will be critical to MP3 development.* The process will be facilitated by WSDA's Pesticide Management Division, with input from the Plant Protection Division and the Natural Resources Assessment Section. The primary WSDA contact for MP3 development will be Erik Johansen. Erik is the agency expert on pesticide risk mitigation for pollinators.

*WSDA has received feedback from a variety of stakeholders on our proposal to develop an initial MP3 for Washington that is focused on pome fruits and stone fruits.*

- Commenters were generally supportive of developing a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3) for Washington.
- Some commenters agreed with the concept of developing an initial MP3 for a few crops and expanding the MP3 over time, while others felt that the MP3 should be more comprehensive from the beginning.
- Several representatives from the tree fruit industry have indicated that they would prefer to work on the MP3 in late 2015, and that another crop might be more appropriate for developing an initial MP3.
- Representatives from the alfalfa seed industry have expressed willingness to work with the WSDA to develop an initial MP3.

*Therefore, WSDA proposes to develop an initial MP3 for Washington, working with the alfalfa seed industry, beekeepers, researchers, and other experts. Additional pollinated crops (such as berries and tree fruits) will be included in the MP3 as soon as possible. Our ultimate goal remains the development of a comprehensive MP3 for all crops grown in Washington.*

*Please continue to send any comments or suggestions regarding the development of a MP3 in Washington to Erik Johansen (360-902-2078, [ejohansen@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ejohansen@agr.wa.gov)).*