Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan
Practice Activity Code (146) (No.)

1. Definition

A pollinator habitat enhancement plan is a site-specific conservation plan developed for a client that addresses the improvement, restoration, enhancement, or expansion of flower-rich habitat that supports native and/or managed pollinators.

The pollinator habitat enhancement plan will:

a. Meet NRCS quality criteria for soil erosion control, water quality, soil quality, plant condition, fish and wildlife, rangeland/pasture/grazed woodland health and productivity, and other identified resource concerns.

b. Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.

c. Meet the client's objectives.

2. Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan Technical Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plans.

A. General Criteria: A Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan shall be developed by certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs). In accordance with Section 1240 (A), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program provides funding support through contracts with eligible producers to obtain services of certified TSPs for development of Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plans. The specific TSP criteria required for Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan development is located on the TSP registry (TechReg) web site at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp

B. Background and site information

- Landowner information – name, address, operation, size
- Location and plan map of parcel

C. Identify Client Objectives such as:

1. Improve pollination service provided by wild (unmanaged) bees by:
   a. Increasing floral diversity and ensuring continuous and diverse bloom,
   b. Increasing undisturbed habitat/ground (including the creation of alkali or other ground-nesting bee beds),
   c. Increasing nesting opportunities for tunnel-nesting bees, and
   d. Providing pollinator refugia.
2. Improve pollination service provided by managed bees by:
   a. Increasing floral diversity and ensuring continuous and diverse bloom,
   b. Providing readily accessible clean water
3. Increase diversity and availability of butterfly host plants.

4. Increase abundance of beneficial insects important for pest management.
5. Improve cost efficiency (e.g. removal of marginal crop land from production and/or improvement of produce quality from enhanced pollination).
6. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat.
7. Maintain or improve water quality.
8. Prevent or reduce erosion.
9. Beautify the landscape.
10. Provide pollinator populations with refuge from pesticides.
11. Change or adjust pesticide use to reduce hazards for pollinator populations.

D. Existing Conditions

1. Create the conservation plan map including field boundaries, streams, surface waters, wetlands, fences, and land uses.
2. Acquire a soils map and appropriate soil descriptions for the land use and resource concerns.
3. Identify the number of acres available.
4. Use an appropriate habitat assessment, evaluation, or Habitat Suitability Index model and (when available) the Ecological Site Description to define the existing conditions for wildlife.
5. Document the existing management practices and activities on cropped and non-cropped portions of the property.

E. Desired Future Conditions/Goals

1. The plant species composition benefits a diverse pollinator community (i.e., at least 12 species of flowering plants, three of which are in bloom at any one time during the early, mid, and late periods of the growing season.
   Note: if the planting is designed to support adjacent insect-pollinated agriculture, then:
   - Minimize bloom competition with insect-pollinated crops, and
   - Take care to avoid plants that may serve as crop pest or disease hosts.
2. There is minimal weed competition, but the inclusion, where appropriate, of beneficial "weeds" (e.g., milkweed as Monarch butterfly host plants).
3. Large areas of undisturbed pollinator habitat are available:
   - No tillage in areas appropriate for ground-nesting bees
   - Overgrown bunch grasses for bumble bee nest sites
   - Host plants for butterflies
   - Tree cavities, standing dead trees, exfoliating bark (e.g., in riparian or adjacent land) for wood-nesting bees

4. Record Keeping
    - Dates of first flowering for each of the pollinator-friendly forage plant species
    - Specific pollinators, plants visited, and time-frame (date range) of visits
    - Evidence of ground-nesting and wood-nesting bee activity
    - If providing crop pollination services, record crop yields
5. Monitoring Plan - Identify specific dates and data to be recorded.
6. Operation & Maintenance activities for practices - Ensure that these are followed
7. Adequate clean water source(s) for honey bees

F. Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Planning Documentation

1. Conservation plan map –scale, north arrow, planned and existing boundaries, fields, land use, appropriate map symbols, and, where available, the identification of ecological sites by field.
2. Soils map – legend, appropriate interpretations, and, where available, the ecological site descriptions
3. Resource Concerns addressed by the conservation plan
4. Contingency plans for harsh winter conditions, drought, fire, flooding, and other extraordinary events
5. Conservation plan (record of decisions). Complete Hardcopy of the client's plan (MsWord copy) with the planned conservation practices and the site specific specifications in a NRCS approved job sheet, or separate plan when the following practices are planned:

Code	Practice Name
327	Conservation Cover
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
386	Field Border
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
422	Hedgerow Planting
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

For other planned practices, document the planned practice amount, the fields where the practice is to be applied, and the planned year of application.

3. **Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the plan that includes:**

- Cover page – name, address, phone of client and TSP; Total Acres of the Plan, signature blocks for the TSP, producer, and a signature block for the NRCS acceptance.
- Soils map and appropriate soil descriptions
- Resource assessment results (wind and water erosion, habitat assessments, soil fertility, soil quality, and others that may be needed)
- Conservation plan (record of decisions). Complete Hardcopy of the client's plan (MsWord copy) with the planned conservation practices and the site specific specifications in a NRCS approved job sheet, or separate plan when the following practices are planned:

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4. **Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:**

- Complete Hardcopy and Electronic copy of the client's plan (MsWord copy) and other applicable digital support documents.
- Digital Conservation Plan Map with fields, features, and structural practices located.
- Digital Soils Map.