



U.S. Bee Buffer Project: A Honey Bee Habitat Enhancement Opportunity!

The Pollinator Partnership (P2) is looking to partner with North Carolina farmers, ranchers, foresters, and land managers and owners to participate in a honey bee forage habitat enhancement effort called the U.S. Bee Buffer Project. The U.S. Bee Buffer project has a goal of influencing 6,000 acres positively for of honey bee habitat. A honey bee seed mix will be provided at *no cost* to plant Bee Buffers. The U.S. Bee Buffer Project will create foraging habitat of pollen and nectar sources, essential to honey bee health.

Purpose: Beekeepers struggle to find foraging areas to feed their bees when they are not in a pollination contract. Lack of foraging habitat puts stress on the bees and cropping systems honey bees pollinate. The U.S. Bee Buffer Project will develop a network of honey bee forage habitats in agricultural areas to support honey bee health and our own food systems. **We are looking for cooperators with land they are willing to set aside as Bee Buffers.**

Requirements:

- Active farm, ranch, forest, easement, set-aside, landscape
- Ability to plant 0.25 to 3 acres with the U.S. Bee Buffer seed mix
- Commitment to keep the Bee Buffer in place
- Allow beekeepers and researchers on-site

Benefits to participants:

- Free seeds and planting information
- Supplemental pollination of flowering plants
- Leadership participation in the beginnings of a nation-wide effort to support honey bees
- Potential for enriched soil, reduction in invasive plant species, enhanced wildlife habitat

If you are interested in participating in this nation-wide effort and hosting a Bee Buffer, please visit www.pollinator.org/beebufferapplication to fill out a brief eligibility questionnaire. Please contact Mary Byrne at the Pollinator Partnership at 415-362-1137 or mb@pollinator.org with any questions about the U.S. Bee Buffer Project.



P2 is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization -- the largest organization in the world dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. Unfortunately they are in trouble. Some species have seen a **90% decline** in their populations over the last decade. P2 specializes in research and landscape evaluation, pollinator habitat support and development, conservation plans, and outreach to stakeholders. P2 uses collaborative approaches and partnerships to develop lasting solutions for pollinator conservation across the world.

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