

Recommendation 361
Pollinator Management Plan

Background

Pollinators are vital to sustaining life on our planet. Over 95% of the top one hundred food crops that make up most of the world's food supply are pollinated by bees and other wildlife. Over the past five decades there has been a dramatic and alarming decline in the number of pollinators. This decline can be attributed to many factors:

1. Natural disease and colony collapse.
2. Decreased food supply and destruction of natural habitat.
3. The overuse and improper use of insecticides and herbicides.

There is also some debate as to the effect of electromagnetic fields generated by high voltage power lines on pollinator species - particularly bees, ¹ and further research into the matter is sorely needed.

With an ecosystem as large and diverse as the 310 square miles of The Savannah River Site, steps should be made, not only to protect, but to encourage a healthy pollinator population.

Flowering shrubs could be used for landscape accents around buildings. Pollen-bearing trees, such as the tupelo and poplar, should be encouraged in wetlands.

Recommendation

The SRS CAB suggest that DOE-SR to consider the following for the rejuvenation and enhanced growth and development of pollinators at the site:

1. Plant indigenous pollen-generating flowers, trees, and shrubs throughout the Site, including the Right-Of-Way, and consider exploring the effects of various environmental factors on pollinator species.
2. Develop a management plan in concert with the US Forest Service to protect the pollinators in the areas designated for clearing and/or controlled burning in order to provide alternate native ecological habitats for the healthy growth and development of said pollinators. All activities should be approved by a designated single committee comprising of biologists from SRNL, SREL and Forest Services to ensure the minimization of damage to the ecological environment for the pollinators of the area. This effort could help to reduce the loss of pollinators at the Site and surrounding communities.
3. Designate one single entity, such as an oversight committee, to monitor and approve the application of all insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides that are used on the Site.

¹ <https://ehtrust.org/science/bees-butterflies-wildlife-research-electromagnetic-fields-environment/>,
<http://www.emfs.info/effects/agriculture/bees/>