Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/20/2021 4:12:02 PM
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Organization:
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Comments: I believe that apiaries sited on public lands, especially commercial operations, will have a harmful impact on the surrounding habitat. Honey bees are not native. They are bred in artificial hives that are prone to arthropod disease. They facilitate huge numbers of bees, greatly in excess of what you would find in a natural ecosystem. The introduction of apiaries will strip resources that native bees and other critters may rely on for survival. They are likely to introduce diseases that can decimate wild populations of native bees, and other insects.

Survival of plants that enjoy an obligate pollination relationship with native bees will, in turn, be jeopardized. The loss of diversity makes the habitat more fragile, which we cannot afford in a time of climate change.

I encourage you to adopt a forest plan that excludes apiaries. That designates the western bumblebee as a species of conservation concern. And most certainly, please include the Conservation Alternative for consideration in your plans.

thank you, Bruce Hoeft