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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for considering this comment,

I am writing to ask that Forest Service managers exclude commercial honey bee apiaries from public lands. Honey bees are not native to North American. They are often grown by companies that hire the bees out to large farms to pollinate seasonal crops. After significant exposure to crop pesticides, the bees need a break, and are moved to a cleaner habitat during part of the year. Often to public lands.

Manti-La Sal National Forest in Utah has received multiple requests for permits to park as many as 4900 hives in a single location. Each hive can have 30-50,000 bees. The problem is that the invasion overwhelms native bees, out-competes them for wildflower pollen, and exposes the local bees to diseases that proliferate in the apiaries. And if the native bees disappear, then many of the plants which they pollenate, and which are ignored by honey bees, disappear as well. The apiaries can seriously disrupt the habitat.

My request is that the forest plan be free of honey bee apiaries. I urge that action is taken to protect the imperiled Western Bumblebee as a Manti-La Sal NF Species of Conservation Concern. And finally I would like the Manti-La Sal NF to fully analyze the Conservation Alternative as one of several alternatives in the Summer 2022.

Sincerely,

Stena Troyer