

Director Action Item (NOT passed)

Resolution in Support of Discontinuing the Use of Neonicotinoids on State Managed Lands

The Midwest Wildlife and Fish Health Committee at its annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on April 7-8, 2015 discussed and propose the following resolution in support of discontinuing use of neonicotinoids on seeds and plants on state managed lands.

SUPPORT FOR DISCONTINUING USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS ON STATE MANAGED LANDS

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides, including but not limited to imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, and clothianidin, are insecticides that are applied seed treatments, in foliar sprays, applied granularly to pastures, and injected into trees;

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid pesticides are increasing in use and wide range application and are considered to be moderately persistent in the environment;

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) states are concerned about the deleterious toxic effects of broad spectrum pesticide use on seeds and plants as it pertains to declining native pollinator populations; and

WHEREAS, native pollinators are defined as but not limited to bees and butterflies (e.g. Poweshiek Skipperling and Dakota Skipper);

WHEREAS, the MAFWA states are concerned that the loss of these pollinators will potentially have wider scale impacts on the loss of essential biodiversity needed to maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations;

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown native bird populations may also be at risk from neonicotinoid treatments;

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have already implemented a program to phase out the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agricultural practices on National Wildlife Refuges by January 2016;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Directors at its annual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota on June 28 – July 1, 2015 support discontinuing use of neonicotinoids on State managed lands.