Spring 2021

Ecological Impacts of Apiaries

Lewis University

Ecological Impacts of Apiaries

Spreading awareness of pollinators helps encourage members of Lewis University to gain a greater appreciation for bees and their roles in the environment. The use of apiaries will help in obtaining an appreciation of these pollinators and allow for students to become actively involved in caring for bees. Apiaries are human-made hives that contain sheets of wax and sugar, which encourage bees to gather pollen from their environment and to start the process of honey production. These are vital components to the reproduction and growth of bees which are essential to the local ecosystem. These pollinators will aid in the protection of crops and supply the world with various food sources and plant growth through their colonization.

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Building bee apiaries can have a positive impact on the local ecosystem on and around the Lewis University campus. Honey bees serve as natural pollinators of different flowering plants and can increase the amount of total pollination that can occur in a local ecosystem. Apiaries also support the growth and reproduction of honey bees which can offset the gradual decline of bee populations in the wild.

Building apiaries on Burnham Centennial Nature Trail can greatly impact the surrounding ecosystem and the students. Apiaries will allow colonies of bees to thrive and reproduce. Therefore, the pollination of a variety of plants would occur. Apiaries also provide community members an opportunity for interaction with and knowledge about these important pollinators. Spreading awareness and knowledge of these apiaries could create a higher appreciation for bees and their behaviors, reproduction, and creations.

This project should be chosen to inform people of the importance of these pollinators and the impact they have on the ecosystem. Placement of apiaries on the natural trail will provide a home for bees, increase biodiversity of plants, and inform the community of their importance and aid in the overall visual aesthetic of the trail.