



Collections, GS-Info <gs-info_collections@usgs.gov>

[EXTERNAL] USA-NPN public comment 1028-0103

Katrina E Amaral <ked39@wildcats.unh.edu>

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To: "gs-info_collections@usgs.gov" <gs-info_collections@usgs.gov>

Hello,

I am commenting in support of the USA-NPN. The Phenology Network is an important tool for understanding plant and animal ecology in a changing climate. Phenology affects 1) agriculture, through timing of pollinator activity, changes in temperature patterns, and pest outbreaks; 2) recreation, particularly winter sports; 3) timber harvests, via pest outbreaks, weather effects on logging conditions, and tree health; 4) wildlife, through migration and breeding season changes; and 5) water quality, via changes in snowmelt and precipitation events. Understanding these changes are important for wildlife and people and directly relates to the mission and functions of the USGS. The USA-NPN particularly relates to USGS's mission areas of ecosystems, environmental health, and land and water resources.

As a science educator and land protection specialist, I believe that the collected data are being processed in a timely manner. I use the available data to back up what landowners and members of the public are already noticing; the USA-NPN allows me to provide people with a wonderfully accessible resource. I find the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be quite good. The visualization tool is fantastic, particularly the gridded layers. The visualizations are excellent for when you know which data have been collected at a specific location. All of this information is valuable for farmers and private landowners when making decisions on how to manage their land for the future.

Overall, this program provides critical data on changes in seasonality and plant and animal patterns. Phenology is incredibly important to understand – for people, wildlife, and industry – and the USA-NPN is the best resource for compiling, analyzing, and distributing this information. The monetary burden to the American public is a perfectly reasonable amount for such a useful and informative program.

Thank you,

Katrina Amaral