



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conserving Pollinators

A vision for creating connections



Rufous hummingbird on rocky mountain beeplant, rusty patched bumble bee on bergamot and monarch butterfly on purple coneflower. USFWS.

Pollinator populations across North America are changing. Many are in decline. Much like the waterfowl crisis of the 1970s and 1980s that resulted in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, this new crisis will require the same level of coordinated effort to make a difference.

Why are pollinators important? Pollinators are responsible for bringing us food and sustaining our ecosystems. They balance landscapes that are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats wildlife, such as waterfowl, deer and songbirds, rely on for food and shelter. They have a critical relationship with plants to diversify, fertilize and improve plant health. Creating and maintaining pollinator habitat also purifies water, prevents soil erosion and filters the air.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is committed to strengthening pollinator health through proactive conservation, supporting federal, state, tribal, municipal, NGO and public efforts. We aim to recover pollinator species currently on the endangered species list and preclude the need to list others.

Ongoing Service actions

Pollinator conservation depends on successful collaboration. We are currently working on:

- Delivering strong science to multiple audiences to inform species status assessments
- Connecting with urban communities to enhance and strengthen relationships that ensure people and wildlife thrive such as through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors Monarch Pledge
- Improving data collection about pollinator habitats using HabiTally, a mobile app, developed with agribusiness and academic partners
- Facilitating pollinator habitat conservation on military lands using the Sikes Act and other opportunities
- Administrating the Monarch Butterfly Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances for rights of way
- Leveraging our investments through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund
- Supporting Tribal Alliance for Pollinators in its efforts to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions while restoring pollinator habitat
- Assisting private landowners in pollinator conservation activities through successful collaboration on working lands

Whether a land manager, farmer or urban gardener, everyone can help increase local pollinator populations.

Driving pollinator conservation

With the Service's Great Lakes Region providing executive leadership, additional regions and programs have joined to develop and deliver a unifying pollinator conservation effort. Science Applications is the lead program providing coordination and science support, with an emphasis on at-risk species.

The Pollinator Advisory Team is comprised of Service leadership from across headquarters and the regions. The team provides leadership and operational direction for our employees that staff a number of national technical support teams. Through an all-employee survey, they will gauge existing efforts in delivery of pollinator conservation across our agency.

Technical teams support the goals of Advisory Team and responsibilities outlined in a strategic plan. Initially teams will focus on communications, science, partnerships, policy and strategic planning, data management and a community of practice.



Elk herd in a blooming grassland. USFWS.

Pollinator objectives

Our adaptive approach prioritizes and guides landscape scale conservation actions in support of our mission. We will:

- Coordinate with peer organizations including states to leverage resources and co-develop pollinator conservation priorities
- Catalyze conservation actions for at-risk pollinators in order to preclude the need to list and recover listed species under federal protections of the Endangered Species Act
- Assist stakeholder groups to implement voluntary pollinator conservation practices on private lands
- Collaborate on pollinator issues with other federal agencies through a leadership forum
- Use the monarch butterfly as a symbol for pollinator conservation



Field of sand verbena and desert gold flowers. USFWS.

Connect with Science Applications to learn more about pollinator conservation in the Service.

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February 2020