

Narrator: Hello and thank you for joining us.. I'm Kim Betton reporting for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Program or FHC In program highlights for this week... Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has proclaimed June 18-24, 2012 as National Pollinator Week. This is an exciting time for pollinators and their importance to the health of our ecosystem. Joining me now is the program's Assistant Director Bryan Arroyo. Thank you for joining us.

Bryan Arroyo: I think this is an exciting time for pollinators and the Secretary signing the proclamation. It gives additional attention. The Secretary is calling attention to the vital role of pollinators. He recognizes the ongoing work in the Department of the Interior. It's not just the Fish and Wildlife Service, but we work very closely with the other bureaus in the Department to enhance the habitat and the role that pollinators have in this country.

The USFWS, along with Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey within the Dept. of the Interior, are part of a pro-active public-private collaboration – to enhance the conservation of pollinators through the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, focused on education and promoting pollinator-friendly practices across North America.

Narrator: How is the Fish and Wildlife Service helping pollinators?

The Service works on many levels. The Service's National Wildlife Refuge System plays an important role because we own those lands - we can lead by example in providing habitat many pollinators...and working with partnerships. We do a lot of pollinator work. We also have joint efforts like the Monarch Joint Venture to assure monarch butterflies. If you think about monarch butterflies.. those little butterflies go all the way from the United States to Mexico and back. There are pollinators along the way for hundreds and hundreds of miles. They serve the pollinator function and people don't think about those fragile butterflies flying all the way down there and all the way back doing all the pollination along the way.

The Service is working with the Endangered Species program protecting pollinator species like the long nosed bat in the Southwest.

Our international program through Wildlife Without Borders-Mexico Grants Program, the Service has provided about a half million dollars since 2001 to help pollinators species, habitat and communities, harbor and foster pollinator involvement and restoration habitat.

Narrator: How can Americans help out with pollinators this week and beyond?

Bryan Arroyo: You can visit a National Wildlife Refuge and volunteer. You have city and county parks, school yards that could use a garden. I tell you kids will engage and if you volunteer at a local school and talk to the principal and a teacher they'll be willing to do that and talk to volunteers. You can inspire schools to have pollinator gardens. If you go to www.fws.gov/pollinators you'll have all kinds of information available there. There are many resources on the web and you can avail yourself and get that information to volunteer and help direct some of these activities.

I say to everyone engage in this great opportunity. Let's not just do Pollinator Week – let's do everyday and make it a Pollinator Day and you'll see you'll have a lot of enjoyment. If you do a garden you'll enjoy it. If you work in the community you'll enjoy it. You're going to make new connections and establish a network in the local community. But more importantly we're doing something for the right reasons here and pollinators are extremely important not just for nature and ecology which is our mission but also for economic gains for the country and the importance for agriculture and we all depend on these resources that are all inter-connected. So have a wonderful week. I am really honored to kick this week off and I'm really proud of Secretary Salazar for signing the proclamation and proclaiming this week as pollinator week.

Narrator: Thank you very much that was Bryan Arroyo he is the assistant director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Fisheries and Habitat Conservation program. Meanwhile, we want everyone to go

check out more about pollinators by visiting www.fws.gov/pollinators. Thank you very much and we'll check in with you next time.