U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Year One Progress Report

Pollinator Action Plan

Five-year plan, 2025-2030

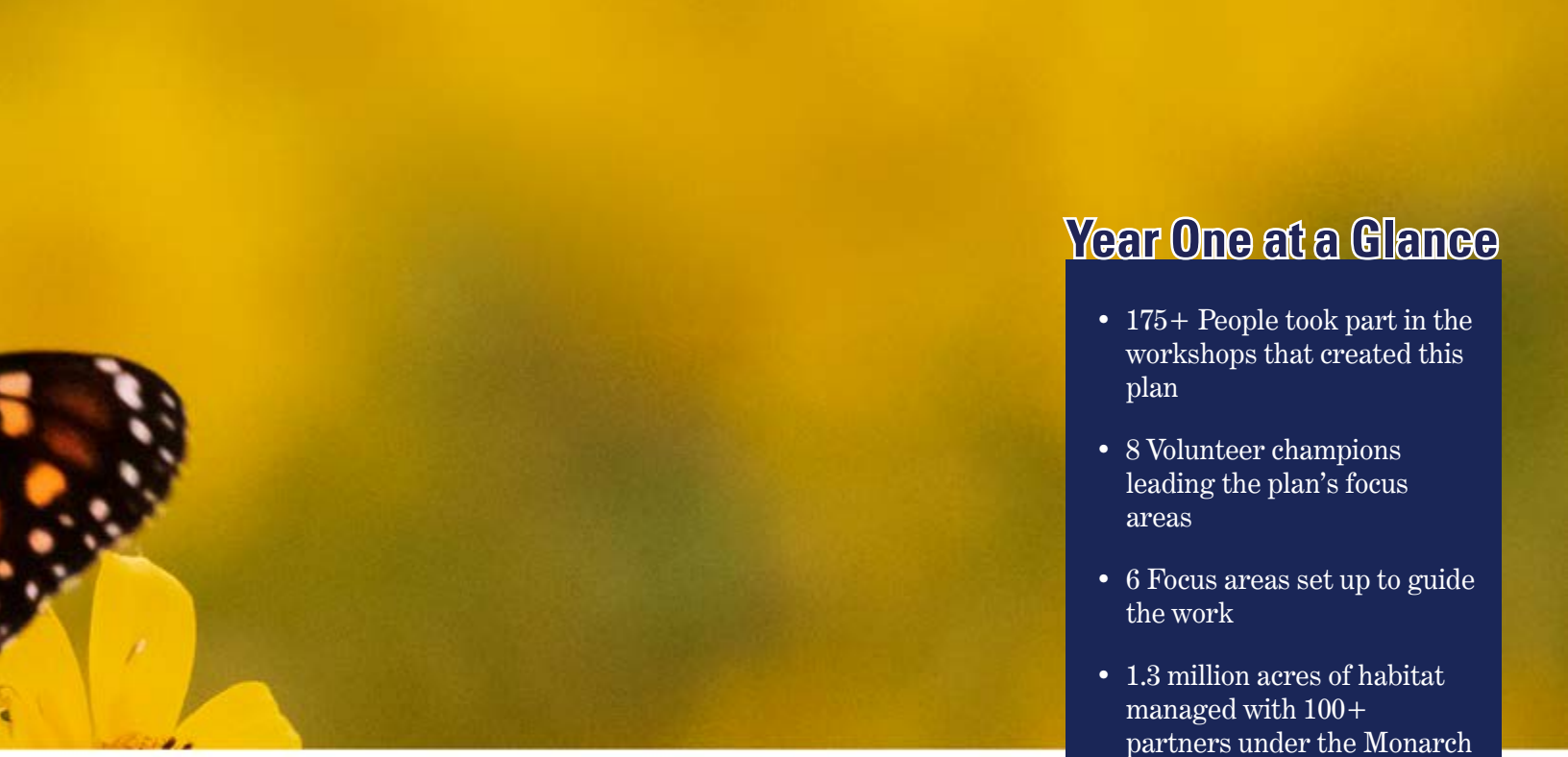




This report summarizes progress during the first year of the Pollinator Action Plan. It highlights early results, current work and the next steps identified by champions and volunteers.

Message from Center for Pollinator Conservation

The Pollinator Action Plan has one goal: help people work together to grow habitat and solve shared problems. This collaborative approach is not just aspirational; it's happening now. The plan's six focus areas reinforce relationships and partnerships, strengthening the foundation for pollinator conservation. Early successes, such as collaborative seed efforts in California and national agreements that gave land managers more certainty, showcase the power of collective action.



Year One at a Glance

- 175+ People took part in the workshops that created this plan
- 8 Volunteer champions leading the plan's focus areas
- 6 Focus areas set up to guide the work
- 1.3 million acres of habitat managed with 100+ partners under the Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances
- 47 states with habitat managed under the monarch and bumble bee conservation agreements
- 40%+ response rate so far on the Pollinator Conservation Social Network Analysis being conducted by the Center for Pollinator Conservation.
- 87% Lower cost on a bulk native seed order in the San Joaquin Valley in California

[Read the full Pollinator Action Plan.]

About the Action Plan
There are many organizations, agencies and institutions working for pollinator conservation. To find shared priorities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Center for Pollinator Conservation hosted a series of virtual action planning workshops. More than 175 people joined to collectively find common ground in the pollinator conservation community for building a pollinator conservation action plan to increase pollinator habitat for the next two to five years, 2025-2030. The Center's intent was to create connection and community and to identify and begin to address the most immediate and difficult challenges the pollinator community collectively faces in leading pollinator conservation.

Together, participants identified six focus areas to address barriers and add habitat:

1. Cultivating Public and Private Support
1. Expanding Availability of Native Seeds and Plants
2. Improving Access to and Addressing Limitations in Available Data
3. Increasing Resources and Building Capacity
4. Streamlining Regulatory Challenges for Pollinator Habitat
5. Strengthening Coordination Among Partners and Initiatives

The Pollinator Action Plan outlines each focus area, led by volunteers, called champions. It represents the pollinator community. As such, the plan can change and evolve as the group learn what works to achieve the identified tasks and actions.

The Pollinator Action Plan is a living document. The Center updates to ensure that it remains relevant and adaptive to the ongoing input from the champions and volunteers. Readers interested in volunteering or becoming a champion are encouraged to reach out to the Center for Pollinator Conservation.

How to read the rest of this report
Each focus area starts with a short progress summary. Action and task lists show work in the plan. They do not mean every task is complete.

Focus Areas

The six focus areas came from the planning workshops. Volunteer champions help guide the work. The sections below separate year-one progress from work that remains in the plan.

Cultivating Public and Private Support

Year-one progress: The action plan builds support by linking current campaigns and groups. It does not depend on one central program.

The implementation of the action plan is fundamentally designed to build strength and sustain both public and private support for conservation. Rather than relying on a single central leader, the action plan recognizes the strength and diversity of existing campaigns, partnerships and organizations. Initiatives such as the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors for Monarchs and Pollinator Partnership's Pollinator Week exemplify how established groups already coordinate messaging and action effectively across the country.

By leveraging these networks, the action plan encourages leadership to emerge organically wherever it is needed. This decentralized approach allows for flexibility and responsiveness, ensuring that support can be cultivated in a way the best fits local contexts and needs.

Ultimately, the action plan's approach to cultivating support is rooted in inclusivity, adaptability and the recognition that effective conservation is a shared endeavor. By connecting existing efforts, encouraging leadership at all levels and providing a framework for collaboration, the Action Plan builds a robust foundation for public and private support that are essential for the long-term pollinator conservation success.

Expanding Availability of Native Seeds and Plants

Year-one progress: Partners in California are planning native seeds together. They are also growing supply and cutting costs in the San Joaquin Valley.

Action 1: Improving Coordination with Existing Efforts to Increase Native Seed and Plant Availability

Tasks in the action:

- Review Current Case Studies and Success Stories
- Identify What Resources Are Needed
- Reach Out to Native Seed and Plant Growers and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Aligning with the National Seed Strategy

Action 2: Promote the Coordination Effort for Native Seeds and Plants

The San Joaquin Valley Monarch Collaborative in California is taking a regional coordinated approach to address challenges such as limited availability

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of native plant materials and reduced capacity for voluntary habitat improvement and post-fire restoration. The collaborative's work is intended to serve as a model for voluntary conservation and demonstrate practical, effective actions that benefit landowners, agricultural producers, seed suppliers and land managers. By jointly identifying plant material needs for upcoming projects, collaborative members are expanding species collections, increasing seed production for use across the region and substantially lowering costs. In July 2026, one bulk seed order cut costs by more than 87%, enabling significant savings for expansion of planned efforts in 2027.

Improving Access to and Addressing Limitations in Available Data

Year-one progress: Partners are making data easier to find, combine and use. Work includes monarch databases, shared data rules and possible links among large data systems.

Action 1: Develop Language to Motivate Data Sharing

Action 2: Enhance Pollinator Data Access and Coordination

Tasks in the action:

- Identify Barriers and Solutions to Accessing and Utilizing Pollinator Data
- Create a Pollinator Data Management Working Group
- Guidance on management activities for at-risk pollinator species

This group convened to identify the main barriers to data access and consolidation within the pollinator conservation community. Members are combining several monarch databases. Partners in the U.S., Canada and Mexico wrote a paper that uses this combined data to describe monarch summer breeding patterns. This paper is intended to introduce the consolidated dataset to the broader community and encourage its adoption by other researchers and practitioners. Group members are also engaging with Project Monarch, an initiative led by Cape May Point Arts and Science Center. The team is establishing standards for collecting and sharing data associated with Bluetooth-tagged monarch releases.

Looking ahead, the group is considering opportunities to explore synergies between U.S. Geological Survey's forthcoming Grassland Ecosystems Database and existing resources such as the Monarch Conservation Database.

Increasing Resources and Building Capacity

Current need: This focus area needs a dedicated champion to lead and coordinate work.

This focus area is pivotal for bridging gaps between research, management and conservation planning. It aims to create a streamlined, real-time resource that connects practitioners, researchers and contributors with opportunities and priorities for pollinator conservation based on increasing habitat. Champions and volunteers will be empowered to lead actions, track progress and celebrate successes.

Action 1: Develop a Streamlined Resource for Research and Management Action Opportunities

Tasks in the action:

- Develop a Current List of Contributing Sources
- Establish a Consortium of Experts
- Create a Repository of Pollinator Research and Management Priorities

Streamlining Regulatory Challenges for Pollinator Habitat

Year-one progress: National agreements and partner projects are giving land managers clearer paths for habitat work and their operations.

Action 1: Convening Thought Leaders

Tasks in the action:

- Establishing a Work Group
- Convene the Work Group
- Discuss ideas with policy-makers

On May 1, 2026, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service approved the Bumble Bee Conservation Benefit Agreement. This national agreement reduces permitting uncertainty for energy and transportation land managers by providing a unified framework and regulatory assurances. As a result, it encourages voluntary habitat restoration, and the permit applies if covered bumble bee species are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, approved by U.S Fish and Wildlife Service in April 2020, has expanded into one of the largest voluntary conservation programs in the country. Recent progress includes more than 100 energy and transportation partners and roughly 1.3 million acres of habitat managed across 47 states. The agreement gives land managers a set of pre-approved conservation actions and regulatory assurances. This allows land managers to enhance and maintain habitat while continuing routine infrastructure operations without added Endangered Species Act restrictions.

The Energy Wildlife Conservation Initiative brings together several partners: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Petroleum Institute, Electric and Power Resources Initiative and the University of Illinois, Chicago. The partners are exploring and piloting national approaches that link habitat tools with energy infrastructure work. The goal is to reduce regulatory uncertainty and support voluntary pollinator habitat pathways for projects on working lands.

Action 2: Compile or Create Model Ordinance Examples for Pollinators

The University of Illinois, Chicago has engaged with researchers working on municipal ordinances for pollinator habitat and other land management concerns. As their research develops, insights may be available to guide and share future model ordinances. In the meantime, the university has identified two recent resources available for individuals interested in model ordinances:

North Dakota State University Extension – "Pollinators, Policies and Property" (2026). This publication explains how local governments can support pollinator gardens, bee lawns and prairie plantings through local codes.

Pollinator Pathway – Municipal Ordinances and Resolutions. This resource compiles examples from municipal ordinances and policies such as pesticide restrictions and pollinator-friendly landscaping rules.

Strengthening Coordination Among Partners and Initiatives

Year-one progress: State surveys are helping partners find gaps and build ties. A wider North American network study can help with long-term planning.

Action 1: Assessing the Current Status of State Coordination

Tasks in this action:

- Identify the Existing Networks
- Assess the Network Needs
- Develop a Strategy for State Network Development

To assess the current status of state-level coordination, the champions compiled a comprehensive directory of state wildlife agencies and pollinator collaboratives across the country. Using this directory, they distributed the State Wildlife Agency and Pollinator Collaborative Coordination Survey to identify existing coordination networks, understand gaps in information or collaboration and determine what methods or resources would best support state-level pollinator conservation efforts.

Results from the State Wildlife Agency and Pollinator Collaborative Coordination Survey confirmed a need for stronger coordination. Respondents identified challenges such as a limited interagency communication, the absence of a central coordinating entity and disconnected research and field efforts. These findings are helping the champions move from assessing existing networks and needs to developing practical strategies for strengthening state-level coordination. As an initial step, the champions are working to formalize the contact directory as an official, accessible resource for long-term coordination while identifying additional actions based on the survey findings. Also, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has started hosting quarterly Invertebrate Conservation Agency Virtual Meet-Up sessions to build stronger connections and awareness across state agencies Read more on the survey results from their presentation slides.

The North American Pollinator Conservation Social Network Analysis, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Center for Pollinator Conservation in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin, can complement these state-level findings by providing a broader, data-driven picture of collaborative relationships, information pathways and gaps across the pollinator conservation community. Launched in January 2026, the network analysis survey has received responses from across the United States, Canada and Mexico with a response rate of more than 40%. Respondents and collaborators include representatives from non-profit and non-governmental organizations, state and provincial agencies, federal agencies, academic institutions, local agencies, private sector groups and Tribal organizations.

Preliminary findings from the North American Pollinator Conservation Social Network Analysis indicate that much of the collaboration around pollinator conservation occurs locally, although many respondents work across multiple scales, including nationally and internationally. Federal agencies and large non-governmental organizations are emerging as central hubs in the broader pollinator conservation network, meaning they are frequently identified by others as collaborators.

Together, these two efforts answer different questions. The state survey identifies specific coordination needs and priorities among state-level partners, while the social network analysis can show how those partners are situated within the broader conservation network. Network analysis findings could help identify missing or underrepresented organizations, reveal connections among state, regional and national partners, identify central organizations that could support convening or information sharing and highlight under-connected regions where additional capacity or relationship building may be valuable. These insights can also be used to iteratively refine the state-level contact directory and inform a longer-term state network plan.



Conclusion

In year one, this community moved from planning to action. They cut seed costs, expanded voluntary habitat tools and made data easier to use. The next phase will build on these early results. The action plan will change as partners test ideas, fill gaps and take on new roles. Progress will continue to depend on shared work, useful solutions and strong partnerships. Together, we're not just protecting pollinators, we're reimagining what conservation can look like when a community comes together.

Get involved
Want to volunteer or serve as a champion?

Contact the Center for Pollinator Conservation.





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