



Background

The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office's (VFWO) Connecting People with Nature program has three core priorities: Climate Change, Let's Go Outside and Who We Are—USFWS. Our phenology program is an educational and interactive way to implement our Climate Change priority.

We have planted phenology gardens and Schoolyard Habitat projects for students and the public to learn about native plants, animals, ecology, environmental stewardship and biological cycles. Citizen scientists track biological cycles in gardens, Schoolyard Habitats and natural areas in order to submit the data to phenology networks like Nature's Notebook and Project Budburst. The data is used by scientists to study biological responses to climate change.



Where We've Been

- 12 Stand-alone gardens planted at schools and other facilities for phenology education
- 9 Schoolyard Habitat projects planted with the VFWO where phenology was introduced
- 9 Phenology hikes scheduled for Title-1 schools in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
- 4 Phenology and climate change workshops held to train local educators
- 1 Phenology video produced with the help of students
- Phenology materials developed, including a phenology science handout and VFWO lessons learned
- Local phenology partners: the National Park Service, California State University Channel Islands, University of California Santa Barbara, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and various schools and school districts

Where We're Going

- Develop phenology webpage for the VFWO's website in order to share program materials, multimedia and link to other resources and partners
- New phenology-related hikes are in development at local State Park units, military facilities, and along the natural areas of school properties for students, youth programs and the public
- Link into phenology monitoring and education opportunities at National Wildlife Refuges
- Continue to provide phenology program support to existing gardens
- Seek opportunities to establish new phenology gardens
- Introduce phenology to all Schoolyard Habitat projects as an outdoor learning activity

