



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 declining. This is capturing the attention of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and peer organizations. 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 reduces the effects of climate change by air filtration, water purification and prevention of soil erosion.

The U.S. Fish and 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:

- Connecting with historically underserved communities to enhance and strengthen relationships that ensure people and wildlife thrive
- Supporting tribes in their efforts to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions while restoring pollinator habitat
- Delivering strong science to multiple audiences for focused planning and action
- Developing a national network of pollinator practitioners
- Facilitating pollinator habitat conservation actions on military installments
- Assisting private landowners to implement pollinator conservation activities on working lands



Students planting a pollinator garden. USFWS.

Driving pollinator conservation

From 2015 through 2018, the Service's national conservation efforts with the monarch butterfly honed the bureau's ability to coordinate and effectively address conservation issues across geographic scales. Building on this experience, a National Pollinator Team with representatives from multiple regions and programs was formed in 2019.

The team is focused on implementing three initial objectives:

- No pollinator species threatened with extinction
- New wildlife stewards taking action to re-wild spaces for pollinators
- Maximize pollination services of pollinators in grasslands

To support the implementation of Service-wide efforts, the National Pollinator Team focuses on policy, planning, partnerships and science, with executive leadership from the Great Lakes Regional Director and Assistant Director for Science Applications.



Elk herd in a blooming grassland. USFWS.

Proactive conservation

With 21st century conservation challenges increasing with complexity and scale, the Service is poised to serve as a leader to make a positive impact in addressing pollinator conservation issues. Proactively working to conserve pollinators and their habitats is a gateway to promote broader conservation. This is done through community engagement, collaboration, education and implementation of strategies which resonate with the American public.

Aligning and expanding expertise with others across the conservation community, as well as engaging new audiences into conservation, the Service is learning alternative ways to do business while pursuing pollinator conservation outcomes. Additionally, there is an increasing trend of Endangered Species Act actions requiring attention to address pollinator species.



Field of sand verbenas and desert gold flowers. USFWS.

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