



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Pollinator Conservation and Education

*Supporting pollinator conservation and education is important to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) because we are entrusted to protect certain pollinators and plants that rely on animal pollination. Additionally, pollinator conservation and education are critical components of the Service priorities.*

## **National Wildlife Refuge System: Conserving our lands and resources.**

One of the mandates of the Refuge System Improvement Act is to ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the system are maintained. Pollinators are vital to the ecological integrity of ecosystems and serve as indicators of environmental conditions. Therefore, fulfilling our statutory mandate requires that we recognize and incorporate the needs of pollinators into planning and management of refuges.

## **Threatened and Endangered Species: Achieving recovery and preventing extinction.**

At least 34 animals federally listed as endangered or threatened play a role in pollination. Currently, 713 species of flowering plants are federally listed as endangered or threatened. While we do not fully understand their pollinator relationships, more than 75 percent of all flowering plants are animal pollinated. Recovery may depend on ensuring the health of their pollinator partners because of the critical role these animals play in flowering plant reproduction. The Service is also responsible for wildlife trade control for several pollinators that are internationally traded, including certain bats, butterflies and hummingbirds.

## **Migratory Birds: Conservation and management.**

Among the migratory birds that the Service is responsible for protecting, hummingbirds are well-known pollinators. Furthermore, many migratory birds feed on fruits, berries and seeds that come from animal pollinated plants.

## **Connecting People with Nature: Ensuring the future of conservation.**

Pollinators capture the interest of the public, especially children, because many are attractive and familiar, particularly those found in suburban backyards and urban gardens. They are vitally important to the human food supply, with estimates that pollinators contribute to one in every three bites of food we eat. Promoting an interest in pollinators helps connect people with nature. A greater understanding of pollinators, their plant partners, and the importance of healthy habitats to their survival increases the public's appreciation for the resources the Service is responsible for conserving.



Leopoldo Miranda/USFWS

## **Landscape Conservation: Working with others.**

Habitat loss is believed to be responsible for the decline of many pollinators. To address these and other threats to pollinators, the Service partners with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC). NAPPC is an international collaboration of people from over 100 private, government, university and nonprofit organizations working together to encourage the health of resident and migratory pollinating animals in North America. The Service has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Coevolution Institute, the nonprofit administrator of NAPPC. NAPPC task forces and partners prepare many tools (e.g., posters, fact sheets, brochures, activities) that the Service can use in education and outreach programs.

## **Who is the Service Pollinator Work Group?**

The Service Pollinator Work Group is a cross-programmatic group of designated staff who work to integrate pollinator conservation into Service activities using existing authorities. Some examples include:

- ◆ Make education and outreach materials about pollinators available.
- ◆ Promote use of pollinator-friendly native plants in habitat restoration plantings.
- ◆ Work with others to protect migration corridors used by migratory pollinators, such as bats and hummingbirds.
- ◆ Provide expertise on power line and wind tower placements to minimize impacts to pollinators.
- ◆ Advocate for reduced pesticide use by using an integrated pest management approach.

**For more information, please contact:**  
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