

# Public Lands and Pollinators

“TO KEEP EVERY COG AND WHEEL IS THE FIRST  
PRECAUTION OF INTELLIGENT TINKERING.”

Aldo Leopold, *Round River*

## Perfect Partners Investing in Flora, Fauna, and Our Future



Photo Sheila Colla

## Public Lands: Floral Treasuries

About thirty-six percent of the land area of the United States may be described as “public”. This refers to lands owned by federal, state, county, or city governments as well as lands used by the public, including national forests, state parks, wildlife refuges, university campuses, city gardens, and private lands open to the public. American Indian lands comprise an additional two and a half percent of the land mass. The collective potential of these lands to directly impact pollinator habitat is significant.

Public lands, when managed with pollinators in mind, can provide the nation with the botanical treasures needed to provide critical safe havens for pollinating species. Future generations of people, plants, and animals, will enjoy the long-term benefits of inclusive resource management.

“WE NEED WHOLE  
ECOSYSTEMS, WHOLE RANGES,  
WHOLE WATERSHEDS.”

John McPhee,  
*Coming into the Country*

Prepared by the Public Lands Task Force of the  
North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)

Photo Marguerite Meyer

## Pollinator Habitat: Long Term Investments

Pollinators – bees, butterflies, bats, hummingbirds, and others – are in decline across North America. Public lands of any size may do their part through locally appropriate pollinator habitat management actions. Efforts may be large-scale (invasive plant removal and native vegetation restoration) or small-scale (establishing butterfly and rain gardens). Actions which promote native perennials, provide pollinator friendly shelter, and embrace responsible pesticide use are valuable investments toward sustainable ecosystems.

Wise investments made today in pollinator habitats will pay multiple dividends tomorrow by saving taxpayer funds, sustaining and

beautifying our landscapes, and increasing wildlife food availability. Pollinators serve an important role for many agricultural plants and enhance our own food supply.



NAPPC

**POLLINATOR  
PARTNERSHIP**



Visit [www.pollinator.org/brochures.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/brochures.htm) to order copies of this brochure.

# Value of Pollinators

Pollinators are often unnoticed, but their benefits are numerous and obvious:

- Sustain and enhance a diversity of wildlife food sources, including seeds, fruits, and berries.
- Sustain and beautify landscapes and vistas. Nearly 75% of the world's flowering plants depend on pollinators for reproduction.
- Provide a rich food source for insect-eating wildlife. Insects are especially important for the development of young birds.
- Promote nutrient cycling through their intermediate location in the food web.
- Help regulate climate and control erosion by sustaining vegetation.
- Enhance landscape aesthetics and recreational opportunities that draw tourists and park visitors.
- Increase fruit, vegetable and nut production for 30% of the food grown for human consumption throughout the world.

While each land unit is unique, they are all interconnected through ecosystems that make up our nation's landscape. Managing these lands with all ecological components in mind benefits ecosystems and increases your impact past the boundaries of your unit.

Land management actions can either benefit or harm pollinators. Please consider how you might promote pollinators. With a little effort and awareness, public lands can be lively and vigorous habitat for pollinators.

Public lands make up a considerable portion of the United States, as demonstrated by this map of significant federal and state holdings. Public land managers have an opportunity to enhance pollinator populations through actions of many scales. Learn more about public lands near you by visiting <http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov/>.



Photo Leif Richardson

## Take Action!

### Add pollinators to your resource management equation.

Consider how management and land use activities, such as planting, mowing, weed control, grazing, and recreation may create "pollen deserts". Search for setting-appropriate changes of any scale, whether simple and subtle or large and intensive, which will increase floral availability and pollinator shelter.

**Cultivate pollen and nectar producing plants**, especially native plants that bloom from early spring to late fall. Think big and select plants with successive blooms in mind.

**Learn more about pollinators** and how they are important components of public lands. Resources are available on our web site for all types of land managers.

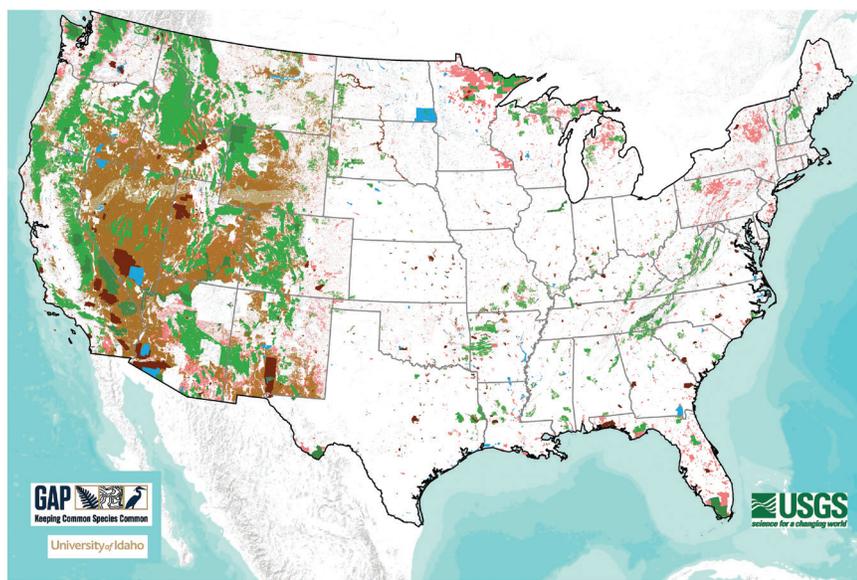
**Share your experience** with the public and pollinator groups, such as the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. We welcome your stories and images! **Please visit.....**

**[www.pollinator.org/lands.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/lands.htm)**  
**to see how much you can do.**



# Value of Public Lands

Public lands are held in trust for the good of all communities, including pollinators. They provide recreational, material, educational, and emotional benefits for citizens. They also provide ecosystem services that maintain the basic underpinnings of life. Pollination is an often overlooked ecosystem service, yet without insects and other animals providing this service, over 75% of plant species would not develop seeds and reproduce. Imagine spring without wildflowers!



**Public Lands**

National Park Service (NPS)	Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Other Federal
Forest Service (USFS)	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Department of Defense (DOD)	State Land

World Terrain Basemap provided by ESRI

The **North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC)** is a collaborative body of over 140 organizations that work for the protection of pollinators across Mexico, Canada and the United States. The **NAPPC Public Lands Task Force** produced this brochure for your use and information. Feedback is welcome. For more information please contact [info@pollinator.org](mailto:info@pollinator.org) or 415-362-1137 or visit [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org).