

On-The-Ground Conservation Of Pollinators In Wisconsin

Grants Aid DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Habitat & Monitoring Work









In recent years, there has been an unprecedented amount of attention and funding at the national level targeted to helping pollinator species, many of which are in decline. Wisconsin's native pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, flower flies, beetles, wasps and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

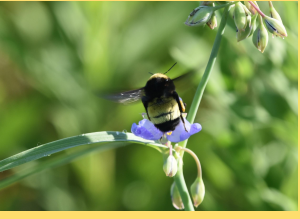



DNR land managers for State Natural Areas, State Parks and Wildlife Areas reported 103,918 of new or enhanced acres of habitat for pollinators in 2014-2020. Much of that enhanced habitat has occurred on State Natural Areas. In addition, the DNR's Natural Heritage Conservation staff, which have primary responsibility for DNR-owned State Natural Areas, have been successful in securing grants to help pay for important habitat and monitoring work for pollinators.


Nearly \$2 million in on-the-ground conservation work is underway due to grants. In most cases, the DNR must provide matching money to secure the grants. That money often comes from Wisconsinites who donate to the DNR's Endangered Resources Fund through their Wisconsin income tax form, who buy Endangered Resources license plates or who make a direct donation.

Below is a list of grants showing the range and reach of DNR Natural Heritage Conservation conservation work for pollinators. Some gifts paying for pollinator work and other habitat work that incidentally benefits pollinators are not included. The counties where grant-funded projects are occurring are listed; specific State Natural Areas are not named to avoid disclosing locations of these endangered animals.

Grant Title	Funding Agency	Total Grant	Project Location	Target Species/Outcomes	Partners
 <p>Improving Habitat for Karner Blue Butterfly, Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, and Other Pollinators (WI)</p> <p>Rusty patched bumble bee Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator's Fund	\$227,826	Adams, Jefferson, Juneau, Portage, Marquette, Walworth, Waukesha and Waushara counties	<p>Target: Monarchs, pollinators, prairies, barrens, savanna and grasslands</p> <p>Outcomes: 1,100 acres of improved management; 50 acres restored; 100 pounds of seed harvested; 250 people reached; 25 workshops, webinars or meetings</p>	State Natural Area Volunteers, DNR-sponsored Pollinator Preservation Initiative, UW Interns
 <p>Increasing Pollinator Habitat Availability in Southwest Wisconsin's Prairies and Grasslands. WI is sub-recipient to Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (NRF)</p> <p>Regal fritillary Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	NRF Pollinator Conservation Fund and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator's Fund	\$197,275	State Natural Areas in Crawford, Dane, Grant, Green, Iowa and Lafayette counties	<p>Target: Monarchs, rusty patched bumble bee, regal fritillary</p> <p>Outcomes: 1,837 acres restored or enhanced; NRF offering 44 meetings, webinars, workshops and other events and engage a minimum of 340 people; helps fulfill state, regional and national pollinator conservation plans</p>	NRF, landowners adjacent to DNR State Natural Areas and State Parks

 <p>Monitoring Karner Blue Butterfly Populations Through Distance Sampling 2021</p> <p>Karner blue butterfly Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund</p>	<p>\$35,302</p>	<p>Burnett, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties</p>	<p>Target: Karner blue butterfly</p> <p>Outcomes: Karner blue butterfly population data; monitor conservation success</p>	<p>UW-Stevens Point students and professor</p>
 <p>Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Program Population Surveys</p> <p>Karner blue butterfly Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish & Wildlife</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Burnett, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties</p>	<p>Target: Karner blue butterfly</p> <p>Outcomes: Karner blue butterfly population data; monitor conservation success</p>	<p>UW-Stevens Point students and professor</p>
 <p>Pollinator Conservation Through Barrens Restoration</p> <p>Monarch butterfly Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Competitive State Wildlife Grants</p>	<p>\$333,333</p>	<p>Adams, Burnett, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, Polk, Portage, Waushara and Waupaca counties</p>	<p>Target: Karner blue butterfly, monarch butterfly, frosted elfin, rusty patched bumble bee and yellow-banded bumble bee.</p> <p>Outcomes: Conduct assessments on barrens sites to determine the quality of each area; surveys for focal species and other important Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) to improve our datasets; restore 400 acres of public barrens and adjacent lands to improve SGCN and pollinator habitat; facilitate on-the-ground habitat work on other publicly owned and private protected lands through implementation of the Wisconsin Monarch Conservation Strategy; and use data collected from this project to identify future management and survey needs for barrens sites</p>	<p>Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin</p>
 <p>Improving and Expanding Fire-dependent Communities to Benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Minnesota and Wisconsin</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Competitive State Wildlife Grants</p>	<p>\$221,490</p>	<p>Crawford, Columbia, Pepin, Vernon, Rock counties</p>	<p>Target: Rusty patched bumble bee, monarch, ornate box turtle, Blanding's turtle, timber rattlesnake, and bluff prairie, sand prairie and savanna natural communities</p> <p>Outcomes: Restore or enhance 200 acres of oak barrens, bluff prairie, sand prairie, savanna, and oak woodland; site visits with 50 landowners; technical outreach to 100 landowners; eight bumble bee and butterfly surveys on restored or enhanced habitat to monitor conservation success</p>	<p>DNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides financial aids to private landowners, The Nature Conservancy</p>

<p>Rusty patched bumble bee Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>					
 <p>Inventory, Monitoring, Habitat Management and Stressor Assessment of Bumble Bee Species in Wisconsin's Great Lakes Basin</p> <p>American bumble bee Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</p>	<p>\$45,000</p>	<p>Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coastal counties plus some interior counties</p>	<p>Target: Rusty patched bumble bee and other bumble bee species</p> <p>Outcomes: Habitat and stressor assessment of up to six rusty patched bumble bee core population sites; population surveys in Great Lakes basin; continue Bumble Bee Brigade citizen-based monitoring program.</p>	<p>DNR Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade citizen-based monitoring program</p>
 <p>Monitoring Karner Blue Butterfly Populations through Distance Sampling</p> <p>Karner blue butterfly Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund</p>	<p>\$35,057</p>	<p>Burnett, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties</p>	<p>Target: Karner blue butterfly</p> <p>Outcomes: Karner blue butterfly population data; monitor conservation success</p>	<p>DNR Karner Blue Butterfly Volunteer Program</p>
 <p>State Wildlife Grant: Program Implementation</p> <p>Swamp metalmark Photo credit: Jay Watson</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Non-Competitive Formula State Wildlife Grants</p>	<p>\$453,333</p>	<p>Statewide</p>	<p>Target: Karner blue butterfly, Poweshiek skipperling, Species of Greatest Conservation Need bumble bees, Ottoo skipper, swamp metalmark, monarch butterfly</p> <p>Outcome: Karner surveys for metapopulation analysis, 10-15 Poweshiek surveys, 15-20 bumble bee monitoring at existing sites, Ottoo skipper and swamp metalmark monitoring at five existing sites, continued implementation of Wisconsin Monarch Conservation Strategy</p>	<p>DNR's Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade volunteers</p>
 <p>Poweshiek Skipperling Surveys and Critical Habitat Area Management</p> <p>Poweshiek skipperling Photo credit: Mike Reese</p>	<p>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund</p>	<p>\$23,753</p>	<p>Green Lake and Waukesha counties</p>	<p>Target: Poweshiek skipperling habitat restoration</p> <p>Outcomes: Enhance and restore federally designated Poweshiek critical habitat in Wisconsin</p>	

 <p>Partnering for Pollinators in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin and Minnesota</p> <p>Persius duskywing skipper Photo credit: Mike Reese</p>	<p>USFWS Competitive State Wildlife Grants</p>	<p>\$393,075</p>	<p>Buffalo, Chippewa, Crawford, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Sauk, Trempealeau and Vernon counties</p>	<p>Target: Rusty patched bumble bee, Persius duskywing skipper, regal fritillary; barrens, oak woodland and prairie communities</p> <p>Outcomes: Restore or enhance 450 acres of habitat on private lands, provide technical assistance to 25 landowners, participate in three3 workshops, field visits or related activities to engage landowners in pollinator conservation, conduct eight rusty patched and bumble surveys, eight duskywing and four regal fritillary surveys to record new occurrences</p>	<p>DNR Landowner Incentive Program provides financial aids to private landowners to restore, maintain and improve habitat</p>
		<p>\$1,985,444</p>			