

DoD Pollinator Initiatives



Pictured left to right: Taylor's Checkerspot, Palos Verdes Blue, St. Francis' Satyr, El Segundo Blue and Karner Blue Butterflies.

How Pollinators Help the DoD Mission

Pollinators help maintain diverse native plant communities that are resilient to impacts from Department of Defense (DoD) activities and other stresses (such as drought and invasive species). Warfighters depend on these landscapes for realistic training and testing. Restoring natural plant communities (and removing and controlling invasive species) also can result in cost savings and protect threatened and endangered species.

DoD's Natural Resources (NR) Program is committed to enabling the testing and training missions by ensuring sound stewardship of its land, water, and air resources. Following are listed some of DoD's efforts to benefit pollinators on and off military lands.

How DoD Helps Pollinators

The DoD's Legacy Resource Management Program, a funding arm of the DoD NR Program, has awarded over \$2 million across more than 35 pollinator-related projects. Many of these projects are focused on habitat improvement and restoration. For more information, visit www.dodlegacy.org, and search keyword "pollinator."



The Military Services also support pollinator conservation efforts on their installations by implementing pollinator-friendly practices (e.g., reducing pesticide use in sensitive areas), and by restoring habitats in ways that benefit declining pollinator populations. Many of these projects benefit the more than 20 threatened and endangered bats, butterflies, and beetles that are found on DoD installations!

DoD provides pollinator-related information and resources for natural resource managers, installation personnel and their families, and the general public on its websites at www.dodpollinators.org and www.denix.osd.mil/nr/FishandWildlife/Pollinators.cfm. Contained on these sites are fact sheets, how-to guides, resource lists, and more describing some of the simple ways that people can help pollinators and their habitats.

Key Pollinator Partnerships

Highlighted here are three of DoD's longstanding partnerships that have benefitted pollinators and, in doing so, helped ensure that DoD's natural landscapes support mission objectives:

Pollinator Partnership

www.pollinator.org

The Pollinator Partnership (P2) is the world's largest organization dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their ecosystems. Each year, P2 sponsors *Pollinator Week* — an international celebration of the valuable benefits that bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles provide to nature. DoD participates annually in Pollinator Week, and uses many of P2's recommendations and management protocols.



National Environmental Education Foundation

www.publiclandsday.org

NEEF's goal is to promote lifelong environmental learning, connecting the quality of people's lives to the planet's health. NEEF also is the national organizer and sponsor of National Public Lands Day (NPLD), the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Since 1999, DoD has funded over 220 pollinator-related NPLD projects, including 22 in 2013. Although each award cannot exceed \$6,500, the return to DoD in volunteer hours is currently 5:1.



Bat Conservation International

www.batcon.org

Bat Conservation International (BCI) is devoted to science-based conservation, education and research to conserve the world's bats and their ecosystems. In 2006, DoD and BCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating a mechanism for cooperation and coordination to identify, document, and maintain bat populations and their habitats on DoD installations. One of the most productive collaborations between DoD and BCI was a series of training workshops on various bat-related topics, including bat ecology and white-nose syndrome.

