

# Conservation Programs for Pollinator Habitat



## **Background: How do Private Landowners Play a Critical Role in Conservation?**

- In the U.S., there is approximately 2.3 billion acres of land. 1.4 billion acres, or approximately 61% is privately owned. With the majority of land under private ownership, landowners and land managers play a critical role in conservation - and have a great opportunity to support pollinators by creating habitat.
- Private landowners in the U.S. have access to local, state, and federal conservation assistance programs to create pollinator habitat and other agricultural practices that benefit pollinators.

## **Quick Notes on Conservation Programs:**

- Local, State, and Federal conservation programs will vary with site and size requirements, cost-share, timeline of task completions, and length of agreement or contract. Be sure to review thoroughly!
- Habitat installation is typically up to the landowner to provide. Some programs may be able to help provide assistance with locating specialty equipment, such as native plant seeders.
- When or how financial assistance is distributed will also vary - for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), financial assistance is typically provided after installation to offset the costs.
- Creating habitat takes time, patience, and support. Pollinator Partnership has five partner biologists available to assist landowners on private lands. Partner Biologists work in joint capacity with NRCS to promote, coordinate, and implement conservation efforts that relate to pollinator conservation on private lands.

## **Finding Resources: Local and State**

- A great way to find Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for pollinators is to search online Non-Profit + Pollinator Habitat . Check out the website and look for key phrases, such as, “Plant Habitat”, “Seed Grant”, “Habitat Conservation”, or similar phrases. If you are not sure, contact the organization for current and future opportunities!
- An easy way to find your local conservation office is to search online for your *State + Soil and Water Conservation District* (e.g., New York Soil and Water Conservation District). It is usually best to call and schedule an appointment with staff to discuss available opportunities.
- To find state programs, search online for your *State + Pollinator Habitat* (e.g., Indiana Pollinator Habitat). Once you find a program, be sure to follow directions on how to apply and whom to contact.

## **Pollinator Partnership’s Biologists Work in Joint Capacity with NRCS. Contact Us for Help!**

- ◆ Sarah Gardner - Western Regional Partner Biologist: [sgardner@pollinator.org](mailto:sgardner@pollinator.org)
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## Local:

- **Non-Governmental Organizations**
  - Land Trusts and Land Conservancies
  - Wildlife Conservation Organizations
  - Sustainable Agriculture Organizations
- **County Level Conservation**
  - Land Conservation Department
  - Soil Conservation Districts
  - Natural Resources District
  - Soil and Water Conservation District



## State:

- **Cooperative Extension - examples**
  - Oregon State University
  - Michigan State University
  - Penn State
- **Departments Supporting Conservation**
  - Division of Natural Resources
  - Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Game, Fish, and Parks
  - Department of Transportation



## National:

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
  - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
  - U.S. Forest Service
    - Forest Stewardship Program
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
    - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
    - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
    - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
  - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
    - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); technical assistance from NRCS

