

CO Department of Natural Resources: Native Pollinating Insects Health Study Fact Sheet



Summary

In response to CO Senate Bill 22-199, the CO Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has commissioned a study on native pollinating insects. This collaborative study will be conducted by Colorado State University Extension, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, and the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, in consultation with state and federal agencies, researchers, scientists, and land managers across the state.

Study Leads

Colorado State University Extension

Deryn Davidson (PI), Sustainable Landscape State Specialist

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Steve Armstead, Pollinator Conservation & Nature-Based Climate Solutions Specialist

University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

Adrian Carper, Research Associate

Scope of Study

Scientific Review: comprehensive review of the existing scientific knowledge of native pollinating insects in Colorado

- The current status of native pollinators and groups of potential conservation concern
- Primary drivers of pollinator populations and/or communities
- Recommendations on how to address potential concerns

Agency Surveys & Interviews: gathering information from state agencies

- Identify existing programs incorporating native pollinating insects
- Develop best management practices (BMP's) for native pollinating insects on state lands
- Outline gaps in understanding or management of pollinating insects

Study Synthesis: CSU Extension will lead a compilation and synthesis of the results of this study

- Synthesis of scientific review and state-wide land management efforts to highlight priority actions and make recommendations to the DNR
- Potential areas of collaboration within state government and with external partners
- Opportunities for public engagement



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Timeline for Study

Research and Development: February - July 2023

- Data collection, team organization, institutional science reviews
- Outreach to agencies, surveys and interviews, compilation of results

Analysis and Synthesis: July - October 2023

- Combine and synthesize results, develop BMPs, feedback from DNR
- Develop draft study for agency review

Recommendations and Final Report: October - December 2023

- Revise draft study to incorporate agency feedback
- Final study editing and presentation

FAQs

What management practices and programs will the study focus on?

A key component of the study is to assess current state land management practices that support and protect healthy and diverse insect pollinator communities. Recommendations will be given on additional best practices for state programs including mitigation factors and highlighting opportunities for management, protection, and recovery efforts. The study will also include potential recommendations for how the state can develop effective education and outreach programs to raise public awareness, engagement, and actions that encourage protecting the health of native pollinating insects in the state.

In addition to collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources to assess management practices, the study will also focus on other state agencies including the Department of Transportation, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Health and Environment and seek input from several federal agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service and Department of Agriculture to learn about their existing programs related to native insect pollinators.

What management practices and programs will the study not focus on?

The focus of this study is to address state agency programs and resources. While there are many other insect pollinator programs and land management efforts happening at regional, county, and local levels, this study will not include an assessment, nor recommendations related to programs other than state programs. The study will collect information about and make recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies on potential programs and organizations beyond state-level programs that may be helpful to coordinate or collaborate with to enhance pollinator conservation efforts across the state.

