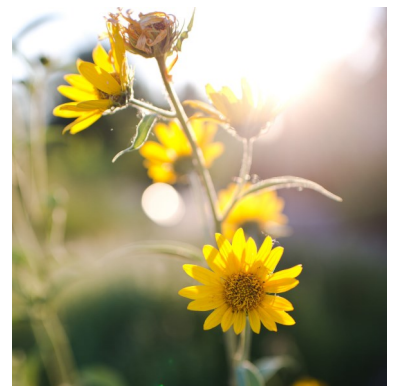


Native plants, the world's agriculture sector, and our state and national economies rely on healthy and abundant native pollinating animals, like bees, bats, birds, ants, butterflies, and other insects. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data indicate that between \$235 and \$577 billion in food production value is generated by pollinating animals each year. Approximately 35% of our food depends on animals for pollination. USDA data also show a decline in honey bee populations in the U.S, and still unexplained instances of Colony Collapse Disorder, where worker bee populations vanish from colonies. Because of these facts, 28 states, including Montana, have enacted some type of legislation targeting the issues facing pollinators.



Montana Audubon recognize that use of certain pesticides and chemicals and unchecked changes in land use can have major impacts on pollinator nesting habitat and population numbers. In particular, there is a strong connection between neonicotinoid pesticides and declining bird and pollinator populations that feed in treated areas. Unlike traditional insecticides applied to the surface of plants, neonicotinoids are absorbed into plant tissue and can be present in pollen and nectar, making them accessible to pollinators. To minimize and mitigate these threats, we generally support the establishment of pollinator reserves or refuges and of funding to support pollinator conservation. Further we support the inclusion of pollinator needs in best management practices and habitat restoration guidelines and support incentives to maintain quality pollinator habitat across the landscape.

### **The policy of Montana Audubon regarding Pollinators is to:**

- Educate the public and decisions makers on the best available science regarding pollinator populations, threats, and opportunities;
- Educate the public and decisions makers about the connection between pollinators and other aspects of wildlife and ecosystem health
- Support efforts to fund opportunities to tackle issues facing pollinators and their habitat
- Provide review and advice to agencies on their guidelines, documents, and practices regarding pollinators in funding and management determinations
- Encourage increased monitoring of pollinator populations and pollinator habitat
- Oppose the broad-scale use of pesticides and chemicals, and, in some cases, oppose even limited use, especially any of neonicotinoids but support the selective, licensed use of approved chemicals for noxious and invasive species management and habitat restoration