



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILLIAM S. MOORHEAD FEDERAL BUILDING
1000 LIBERTY AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-4186

Operations Division

Subject: Letter of Support for Right Of Way (ROW) Enhancement and Restoration for Imperiled Pollinators

Crystal Boyd
Pollinators Program Manager
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Boyd:

As the District Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Pittsburgh District, I am excited to provide this letter of support for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's (ASWP's) proposal for *ROW Enhancement and Restoration for Imperiled Pollinators*.

The USACE Pittsburgh District manages 11 Flood Risk Management projects encompassing approximately 45,124 acres in western Pennsylvania. To ensure fisheries, wildlife, and natural systems adapt to complex and far-ranging threats such as climate change and habitat fragmentation, the Pittsburgh District must work strategically with partners to conserve landscapes capable of supporting self-sustaining populations of flora and fauna, while also providing for the needs of our public.

With the unprecedented scale and complexity of challenges land managers encounter, it is necessary to adapt our approach to conservation and how we design, deliver, and evaluate our work. Adaptive management actions to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential threats to natural resources and infrastructure at an eco-regional level should be established, implemented and shared, in order to be effective.

As part of this project, we understand ASWP is interested in restoring 15 acres of ROW and enhancing 30 acres of ROW, for a total of 45 acres of enhanced/restored acres for monarchs, rusty patched bumblebees, yellow banded bumblebees, and other imperiled pollinators. Through a formal partnership agreement, USACE Pittsburgh District will outline the scope, goals and term of the project.

Additionally, the Pittsburgh District will work with ASWP and other project partners to develop a set of guidelines for transmission line and pipeline managers in our district, to further improve and expand habitat on ROWs in our District and beyond.

To be effective in confronting the challenges posed by habitat fragmentation and development, the Pittsburgh District must look beyond our boundaries to work and plan with partners. Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania has a long history of advocacy and conservation to support native pollinators. We are excited for the opportunity to collaborate with them and their diverse set of partners on this project, to improve habitat for imperiled pollinators in southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond.

Sincerely,

John A. Chopp
Wildlife Biologist

Audubon Announces Nearly \$191K in Grants to Support Monarch Butterflies, Important Pollinators

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By: Rachel Handel

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Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania was recently awarded two National Fish and Wildlife Grants from the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund that will help to support habitats utilized by important pollinators including Monarch Butterflies. The grants total \$190,983. Overall, the total

investment in the two projects exceed \$400,000.

In addition to Monarch Butterflies, the grants will support Rusty-Patched Bumblebees, Yellow Banded Bumblebees, and other imperiled bumblebees and pollinators.

The grants will also increase the native seed and seedling supply of milkweed—the plant that Monarch Butterflies use to lay eggs.

The [Restoring and Improving Rights of Way for Pollinators](#) grant for \$99,280 will improve over 150 acres of rights-of ways in Pennsylvania to provide habitat for Monarchs and pollinators through the planting of native species and monitoring bumble bees. The project will restore 95 acres, improve 56 acres, and propagate 4,400 milkweed seedlings.

The [Habitat Restoration and Enhancement for Pollinators](#) grant totals \$91,703 and will provide for acquisition and planting of flowering trees and shrubs, milkweed cultivation, invasive species control, and monitoring of bumble bees.

The project will restore 145 acres, improve 130 acres, propagate 6,800 milkweed seedlings, and reach 1,000 people on private agricultural lands and nature reserves.

Significant volunteer hours will be committed to the project, getting people outdoors to explore and engage with the natural world.

Project partners include Chatham University, Penn State Extension-Butler County, Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network, Columbia Gas, FirstEnergy, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, United States Army Corps of Engineers - Pittsburgh District, Allegheny County, Friends of the Riverfront, Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy, Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, and agricultural landowners for these projects.