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Current topic and issues affecting outdoor recreation in our State. Prepared by the North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, and the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

## Conservation Notes #17, August 2017

### Why care about pollinators?

Pollinating insects, such as bees and butterflies, support 1 in every 3 mouthfuls of food and drink we consume. Over 75% of the flowering plants on earth rely to some degree on pollination in order to set seed or fruit. Without pollinating insects, there would be no apples, pumpkins, strawberries, or many other fruits and vegetables. The diets of 25% of birds and mammals consist of seeds and fruits pollinated by insects.

Pollinators face threats from insecticides and habitat loss. As native vegetation, especially forbs, is replaced by bromegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, manicured lawns, roads and annual crops, pollinators lose the food and egg laying sites that are necessary for their survival. Direct application of insecticides kills beneficial pollinating insects and indirect application of systemic insecticides with neonicotinoids are known to kill bee's weeks to months after application.

We can help pollinators by converting lawns to native pollinator gardens; reducing herbicide and insecticide use, particularly insecticides with neonicotinoids; and building rain gardens with native flowers to capture rainwater. Every little bit helps!

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, ([memcenroe@bis.midco.net](mailto:memcenroe@bis.midco.net)) or Rick Nelson, President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, ([bluebill@bis.midco.net](mailto:bluebill@bis.midco.net)).

