

Pollinator Guide

Native Pollinators of the Palouse Region

Genus: Andrenidae

Genus: Apidae

Genus: Halictidae

Genus: Lasioglossum

Genus: Megachilidae

Managing Habitat for At-Risk Species

U of I is committed to enhancing biodiversity and supporting species of concern through ecologically informed landscaping and habitat restoration projects. Several initiatives across campus directly benefit species the IUCN, ESA or state of Idaho deems at risk, including *Bombus occidentalis* (western bumblebee), *Bombus suckleyi* (Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee), *Danaus plexippus* (monarch butterfly), *Myotis lucifugus* (little brown bat) and *Coccyzus americanus* (yellow-billed cuckoo).

The Paradise Creek Restoration Project, a collaborative effort with multiple agencies, realigned Paradise Creek to its historic channel, creating a thriving riparian corridor. Nearly 19,000 native trees and shrubs were planted, stabilizing creek banks, improving water quality and providing essential habitat for avian and pollinator species. While yellow-billed cuckoos have only been sporadically observed in Latah County, the restored riparian zone offers suitable habitat, with native vegetation supporting potential nesting and foraging opportunities. The growth and retention of mature trees and woodland patches near riparian corridors also benefits the little brown bat by providing suitable roosting sites and foraging grounds.

As a Bee Campus USA-certified institution, U of I is dedicated to creating and maintaining healthy pollinator habitats. This commitment includes planting native, pollinator-friendly species, reducing pesticide use and providing educational opportunities for students and the community. Informational signage is placed throughout campus to highlight the importance of pollinators, the native plants that support them and the role of habitat conservation in sustaining biodiversity.

For pollinators, our campus landscaping incorporates a diverse selection of native and pollinator-friendly plant species documented as critical forage for the western bumblebee and Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee. These include genera such as *Agastache*, *Penstemon*, *Solidago*, *Trifolium* and *Rubus*,

among others. Moving forward, all native plantings on campus will prioritize species known to support these two bumblebees, ensuring a continuous supply of nectar and pollen resources throughout the growing season. Additionally, our native landscapes support the monarch by including *Asclepias* species (milkweed), which serve as the sole larval host plant for the butterfly.

Through ongoing habitat restoration, sustainable landscaping practices and a targeted effort to support native pollinators, U of I is actively fostering an environment that supports regional biodiversity and contributes to the conservation of species of concern.

Native Planting Sites on Campus

Paradise Path Garden

As part of the Student Sustainability Cooperative's Sustainable Initiative Fund program, students in the Society for Conservation Biology club designed, planted and continue to maintain the native pollinator garden along Paradise Path at the east end of Guy Wicks Field. This garden is the site of several annual student volunteer events.

Paradise Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project

In 2010, University of Idaho and the Army Corp of Engineers exposed nearly a quarter mile of creek that was routed under Paradise Creek Street. This project realigned Paradise Creek with the historic channel location, improved flood mitigation characteristics and restored the local riparian habitat. Federal, state, municipal and non-profit partners assisted the university in daylighting this section of the creek and planted 18,980 trees and shrubs to stabilize the creek banks and restore the native ecosystem.

