

Pollinator Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of pollinator habitat both maintained and enhanced on lands found within Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area. Through the collaboration and outreach resulting from this Resolution, a mosaic of pollinator habitat will be created and/or enhanced to stabilize and/or increase populations of pollinator species throughout this project area.

WHEREAS, pollinators include butterflies, bees, some birds, bats, and other insects that play a crucial role in flowering plant reproduction and given the breadth, severity and persistence of pollinator losses, it is critical to expand efforts to take new steps to reverse these losses and help restore populations to healthy levels;

WHEREAS, three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about thirty-five percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollination to reproduce;

WHEREAS, we recognize the importance of the identification and protection of nectar corridors for migratory pollinators, such as hummingbirds and the monarch butterfly;

WHEREAS, monarch butterfly populations declined to the lowest recorded level in 2013-14, and there is an imminent risk of failed migration;

WHEREAS, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is located in the monarch butterfly's eastern migratory flyway and is ideally suited to serve as a coordinating entity for collaborative efforts between multiple organizations in the Piedmont region of Georgia;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively and strategically protect pollinator species and their habitat on public and private lands throughout Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area located in the state of Georgia through:

- *Pollinator Habitat Conservation, Maintenance and Enhancement*: Identify existing pockets of pollinator habitat, and then develop a network of habitat on public and private lands to develop a nectar corridor for migratory and non-migratory pollinator species. Encourage voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation efforts that have proven to be effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes, this may include but is not limited to planting pollinator gardens, building bee blocks and considering the impacts of pesticide use.
- *Partnerships*: Develop public and private strategic partnerships to enhance or create pollinator habitat as well as provide educational opportunities within the scope of the resolution. Coordinate and collaborate with partners already invested in pollinator habitat protection and restoration.
- *Education to Enhance Awareness of Pollinator Conservation Issues and Opportunities*: Provide educational opportunities to those interested in protecting pollinators and enhancing their habitat.
- *Research and Monitoring to Inform Pollinator Conservation Efforts*: Promote existing citizen science opportunities for monitoring pollinator species' populations and their habitat.

The undersigned (on back) have each committed to protect, preserve, create, or enhance pollinator habitat on lands that we manage by signing a pledge.