



Endangered Species

Midwest Region

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Bat Fact of the Day

View the Bat Fact Calendar
[Daily Bat Fact - Jan. 13](#)
 There are thousands of caves within the range of the Indiana bat, but few are used by large numbers of bats. Caves that meet the right temperature and humidity requirements are rare.

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Endangered Species Day



Photo courtesy of Susan Carpenter; University of Wisconsin - Madison Arboretum

Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*)

Status: **Endangered**

Current Range: IL, IN, IA, ME, MA, MN, OH, VA, WI and Ontario, Canada

The rusty patched bumble bee has declined by 87 percent in the last 20 years. The species is likely to be present in only 0.1% of its historical range. There are many potential reasons for the rusty patched bumble bee decline including habitat loss, intensive farming, disease, pesticide use and climate change. With the odds seemingly stacked against the rusty patched bumble bee, there is a role for everyone in conserving this beneficial pollinator. Your actions will also help a host of bees, butterflies and birds that share resources with the rusty patched bumble bee.

What is your role?

Follow the links below for guidance on your specific situation.



Project Proponent

Guidance for reviewing Federal and Non-federal Projects



Land Manager

Guidance for land managers and private landowners

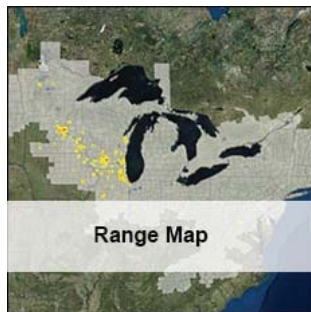


Surveyor / Researcher

Guidance for surveys, how to apply for scientific recovery permits, and research ideas

Resources

Follow the links below for more about rusty patched bumble bees and their conservation.



Range Map



Plant List



Conservation in your backyard

Exhibit 3780

State of Minnesota v. 3M Co.,
 Court File No. 27-CV-10-28862

Learn More

New! Conservation Management Guidelines



Photo by Tamara Smith; USFWS

Voluntary management guidance to help FWS, other federal agencies, state agencies, private landowners and land managers manage their land to benefit the rusty patched bumble bee and other pollinators.

[Conservation Management Guidelines](#) 

Life History



Photo by Tamara Smith; USFWS

The rusty patched bumble bee's life history is similar to other bumble bee species. Bumble bees live in colonies that include a single queen and female workers. The colonies have an annual cycle.

[Fact Sheet](#)

[Life History Excerpted from the Final Listing Rule](#)

[Life History Excerpted from the Species Status Assessment](#)

Listed as Endangered



Photo courtesy of Susan Carpenter;
University of Wisconsin - Madison Arboretum

Just 20 years ago, the rusty patched bumble bee was a common sight, so ordinary that it went almost unnoticed as it moved from flower to flower, collecting nectar and pollen. But it's now balancing precariously on the brink of extinction and has become the first-ever bumble bee in the United States to be listed as endangered.

[Learn more »](#)

[Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Species Profile](#)

Species Status Assessment



Photo by Tamara Smith; USFWS

The status assessment is a comprehensive compilation of data available for the rusty patched bumble bee and an analysis of that data to evaluate the bee's viability now and into the future.

[Species Status Assessment](#)  (June 2016)

Have you seen a rusty patched bumble bee?



Photo by Jill Utrup; USFWS

Help scientists record occurrences of the rusty patched bumble bee. Bumble Bee Watch and Bee Spotter are citizen science projects that track bumble bees. Upload your photos of bumble bees and experts will verify identification and record the location.

[Bumble Bee Watch](#)

[Bee Spotter](#)

Stories

The story of the rusty patched bumble bee decline documented in images and film.



Photo courtesy of Clay Bolt

[The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee: the story of a declining pollinator](#) links to Xerces Society story map

[A Ghost in the Making: rusty patched bumble bee](#) links to documentary by Clay Bolt

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