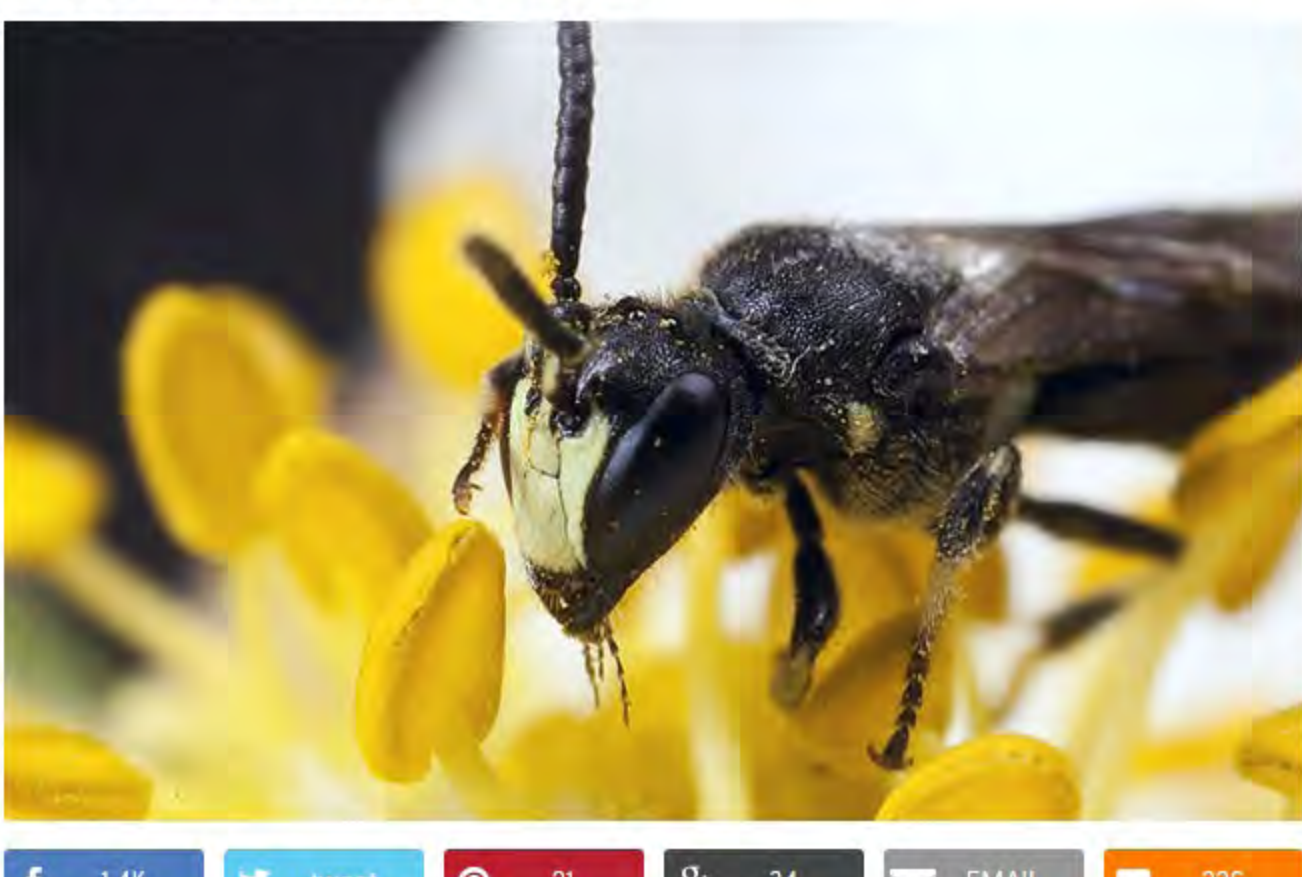


Bees Are Declared Endangered for the First Time in the U.S.



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By: Alicia Graef | October 6, 2016
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For the first time in history, a group of bees in the U.S. will be protected under the Endangered Species Act, following a recent announcement from wildlife officials.

The group of bees, who are commonly known as yellow-faced bees because of the markings on their faces, are endemic only to the Hawaiian islands. While there are dozens of species, scientists identified several of them who are at risk of extinction and have been calling for their protection for years.

In 2009, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to protect seven of the most at risk species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and now it's celebrating a win for these bees.

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Exciting news - The US Fish and Wildlife Service has just agreed to grant Endangered Species Act protection for seven bees native to the Hawaiian islands. These amazing bees originate from one species, the only bee to have reached the world's most isolated archipelago all on their own. Read more about this landmark decision on our blog: <http://www.xerces.org/.../seven-bees-in-hawaii-added-to-us-e.../>

177 | 5 | 29

The listing protects seven species, including *Hylaeus anthracinus*, *Hylaeus longiceps*, *Hylaeus assimulans*, *Hylaeus hilaris*, *Hylaeus kuakea* and *Hylaeus mana*.

The listing unfortunately doesn't come with a designation of critical habitat, but hopefully that will change after the FWS analyzes more sites. Gregory Koob, conservation and restoration team manager for the FWS in Honolulu, told the AP that for now the listing will allow for recovery programs, more funding and will limit their harm from outside sources.

These bees face a host of threats ranging from habitat loss and fragmentation due to development, pollution, wildfires, invasive plants and animals and climate change. It's hoped that by helping these bees survive, the native plants they rely on - some of which are also endangered - will also survive with them, and in turn provide food for other wildlife.

"The USFWS decision is excellent news for these bees, but there is much work that needs to be done to ensure that Hawaii's bees thrive," wrote Matthew Shepherd, Communications Director for the Xerces Society.

Now that these bees are protected, more may be on their way. Just weeks ago, the FWS announced it was also considering listing the rusty-patched bumblebee, who is also at risk of going extinct. Hopefully, they will also get the protection they need and help raise awareness about the need for urgent action to protect pollinators from the growing number of threats they face.

For more info on how to help protect pollinators, check out the Xerces Society.

Photo credit: Systemlayers

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Save the Rusty Patched Bumblebee!



AUTHOR:
Chris Wolverton

TARGET:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Pablo B. 9 hours ago
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Bob P. 10 hours ago
about time...if it is not already to late
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Melania Padilla 13 hours ago
I hope it is not too late.....
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Chevy R. 17 hours ago
ty
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Patricia H. yesterday
Philip Watling, sounds remarkably similar to powdered sugar, as I've heard that it works well at getting rid of the mites.
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maria reis 1 days ago
Finally. Better sooner than later.
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Janis K. 1 days ago
Thanks for sharing.
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