



Western Hummingbird Project

A new initiative in the USFS Wings Across The Americas Program



Hummingbirds are the feathered jewels of the migratory bird world, but receive relatively little attention from a conservation standpoint, yet there are indications that populations of at least some of the species are declining. Current widespread monitoring efforts such as Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) stations are not designed to capture and collect the level of data necessary to understand hummingbirds.

Summary: The US Forest Service (FS) and the Hummingbird Monitoring Network (HMN) are working together to develop and implement the Western Hummingbird Project (WHP), which will address hummingbird conservation issues in western North America. This program will build international partnerships and collaborations with FS regions across the west, non-profit organizations, universities and other governmental agencies at federal and state levels. The conservation programs developed will include habitat restoration and enhancement, monitoring, research, and education/outreach.

Mission: The mission of the WHP is to work together to maintain thriving hummingbird populations and their habitats throughout western North America. We will accomplish our mission by bringing conservation focus to western hummingbirds through focused monitoring, research, and education/outreach and through the creation of a broad partnership with non-profit organizations, universities, and governmental agencies at both the federal and state/provincial levels within the United States, Mexico, and Canada. There are many gaps in information. Therefore, the intent of the Western Hummingbird Project is to investigate what hummingbirds in North America need to survive, successfully reproduce, and sustain viable populations and to inform policy makers so habitats can be managed in a way that help hummingbirds and their communities thrive. The products of this partnership will include conservation action plans and recommendations to land management agencies.

Workshop: To begin this new initiative, the first WHP workshop will be held in southeastern Arizona in April 2009 and will provide a forum for focused discussions on issues related to hummingbird conservation. Workshop goals are to create a common understanding about the state of knowledge and conservation of hummingbirds, identify gaps in our knowledge, and develop recommendations for key actions and projects that will best use the available resources to advance hummingbird conservation.

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