

A close-up photograph of a bumblebee in flight, positioned on the right side of the frame. The bee is facing left towards a cluster of purple lupine flowers on the left. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft, out-of-focus greyish-green. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Seeing the forest for the bees

Dr. Jim Rivers, College of Forestry, OSU

Pollinators impact natural ecosystems and food production on a global scale

>300,000 species of plants benefit from pollinators



~75% of crops benefit from pollinators





Kevin Frayer/Getty Images

Recent work to conserve pollinators and their habitats



Why are bees such good pollinators?

Bees depend solely on nectar and pollen throughout their entire life cycle





There are >500 named species of native bees in Oregon



The honey bee is not representative of wild bees

Honey bee (*Apis mellifera*)



Social nesting species

Nests in cavities (hives)

Nests have 20,000+ individuals

Adults active year-round

Mining bee (*Andrena* sp.)



Solitary nesting species

Nests in the ground

Nests have 10-20 individuals

Adults active 4-6 weeks

What can you do to promote bees?

Vine Maple
(*Acer circinatum*)



Salal
(*Gaultheria shallon*)



**Arctic lupine
(*Lupinus latifolius*)**



Disturbances that expose mineral soil can benefit ground-nesting bees



Agapostemon



Pithy stems can provide nesting sites for cavity-nesting species



Three take-home points for today



Pollinators are globally important



Bees are especially good pollinators



Easy steps can be taken to promote bees