

Corri A. Feige  
Commissioner



Department of  
Natural Resources

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 26, 2020

## **Governor declares June 22 to June 28 Alaska Pollinator Week**

**(Anchorage, AK)** – The important role that bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles and other bugs play in fertilizing the plants underlying the state’s ecosystem have earned them the designation of June 22-28 as “Alaska Pollinator Week.”

Governor Mike Dunleavy issued the proclamation in recognition of pollinators’ importance in supporting both the agricultural industry, and the robust natural systems that serve as the foundation of human civilization.

“The natural pollination process by which plant species replicate and reproduce themselves is essential to healthy sustainment of Alaska’s unique forests, grasslands, croplands and other ecosystems,” the governor said in his proclamation.

National populations of pollinator species have experienced steady decline since the 1950s possibly due to factors including as disease, parasites, viruses, loss of habitat, exposure to pesticides, or lack of genetic diversity.

Dave Schade, director of the Division of Agriculture, noted that while pollinators may be small in size, they are huge in terms of their importance to the natural order, and to human beings’ ability to survive in a finely balanced natural world.

Establishing this special week encourages Alaskans to understand the importance of pollinators, and of the need to protect pollinators, reverse losses in their numbers, increase the quality and amount of pollinator habitat and forage, and help restore pollinator populations to healthy levels, Schade said.

**CONTACT:** Dave Schade, 907-761-3867, [david.w.schade@alaska.gov](mailto:david.w.schade@alaska.gov)

###