

Insects of Rangeland Ecosystems

Guilds

Herbivore
grasshoppers,
beetles,
and larvae
eat plants.

Pollinator
bees, wasps,
flies, beetles,
butterflies, moths
forage flowers.

Predator
wasps, ants,
lady beetles
eat insects.

Detritivore
dung beetles,
flies, ants
eat detritus,
recycling nutrients.

Most insects,
in all functional groups,
are beneficial.
Pesticides kill insects.

Ecosystems

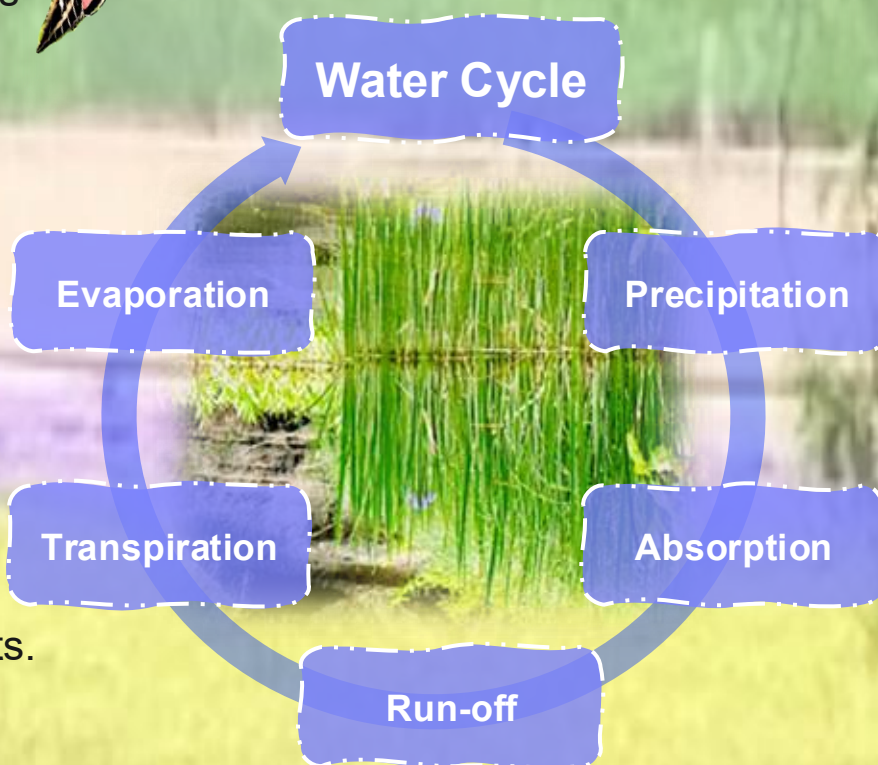
Plant pollinator networks
support all insect guilds.
Insects move pollen and
birds disperse seeds,
regenerating ecosystem plants.
Robust plant pollinator networks
support resilient ecosystems.

Insect foraging and nesting
are limited by
fragmenting habitat with
fewer native plants.

Rangelands

Pastures or croplands
with simple food webs
share insects with
adjacent natural areas.
Savanna pollinators forage
on wildflowers or mesquite,
larvae eat oak or juniper leaves.

Native plant cover
provides habitat, shades soil,
mitigates erosion and
conserves water.



Many insect species nest underground, aerating soil.

bee ground nest

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