



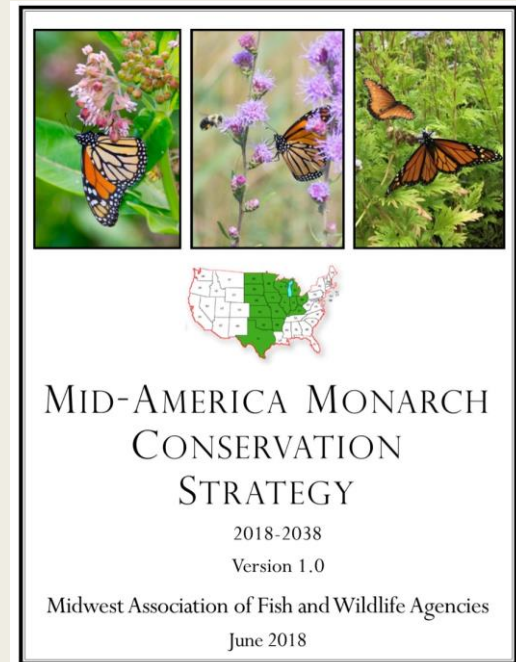
RIGHTS-OF-WAY STRATEGIES FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy
Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group
October 2018 Meeting



Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy

- 20-year strategy with regional “North Core” habitat goal of 1.3 billion milkweed stems
- Covers a 16-state region
- Sector-based approach, including agricultural private lands, ROWs, protected natural lands, and urban/developed lands
- ROW chapter developed by Rights-of-Way Technical Work Group – included many members of the ROWHWG
- WAFWA currently developing a western strategy



Strategies – Major Categories

- Existing ROW Vegetation Management
- New Construction/Re-vegetation
- Contracting
- Employee Training
- Outreach/Communications
- Monitoring/Data Management



Survey to ROWHWG Industry Partners

- For each strategy category:
 - *Is the organization currently implementing?*
 - *How likely is the organization to implement in the future?*
 - *What are the primary challenges?*
 - *What support could conservation partners offer?*
 - *How effective is this category of strategies?*
- 37 complete responses returned



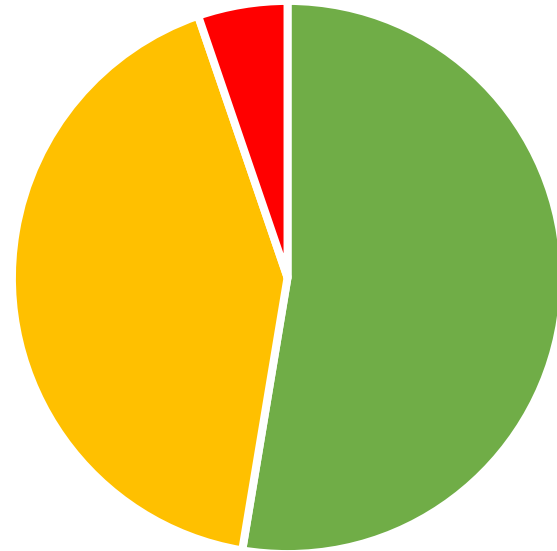
Monarch-friendly vegetation management on existing ROWs and properties

Currently implementing?



■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

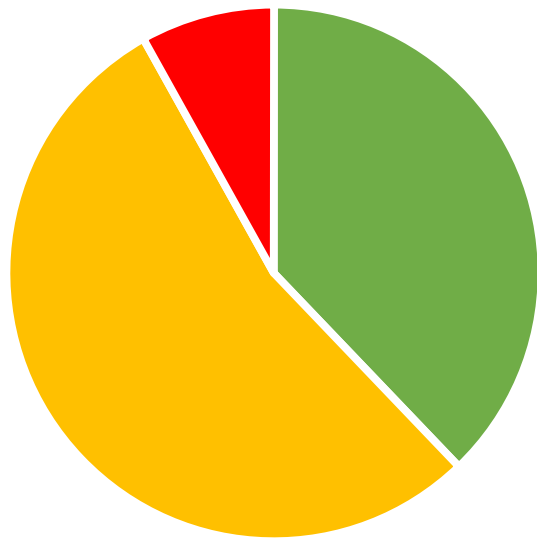
Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

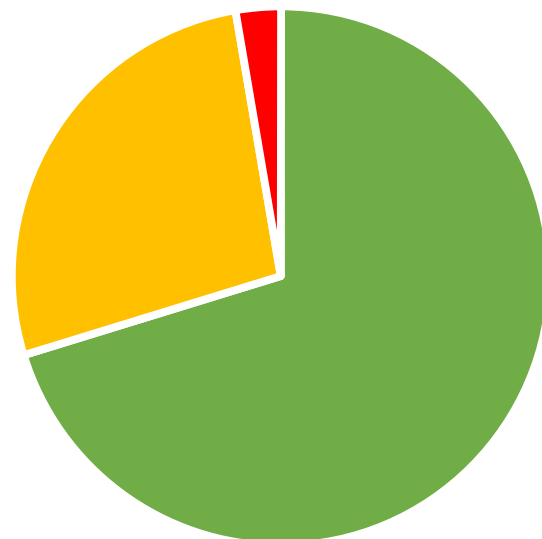
Monarch-friendly practices on new construction and re-vegetation projects

Currently implementing?



■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

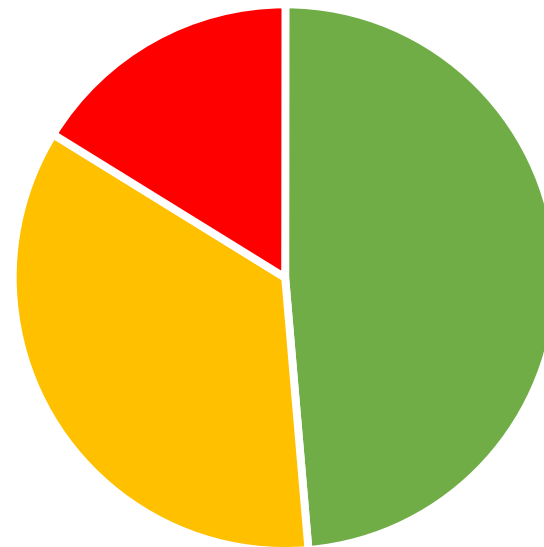
Modify contracts to influence monarch-friendly practices

Currently implementing?



■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

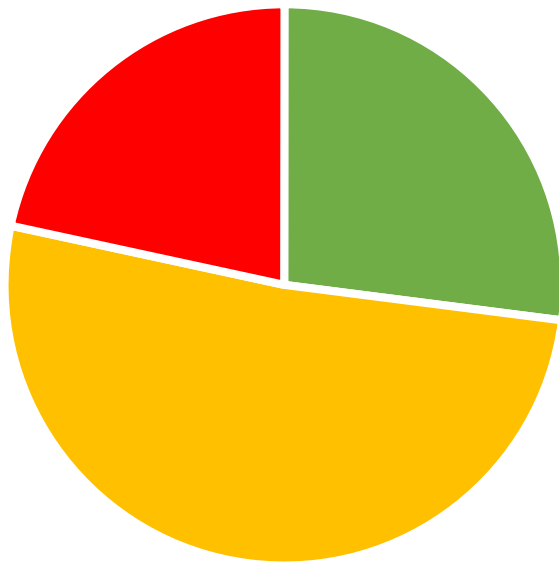
Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

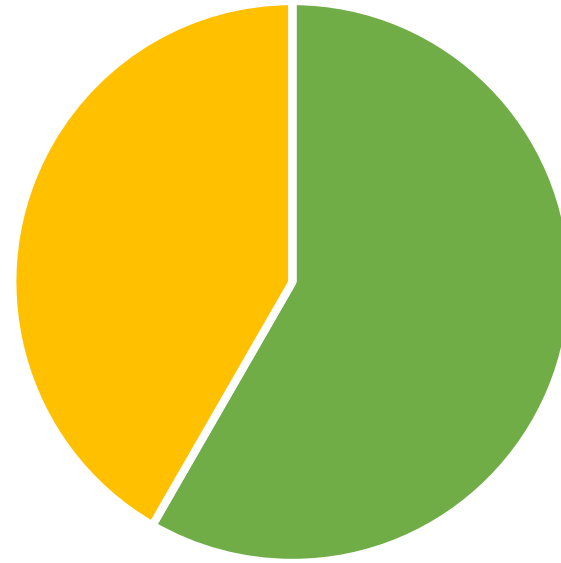
Employee training to increase support and adoption of monarch-friendly practices

Currently implementing?



■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

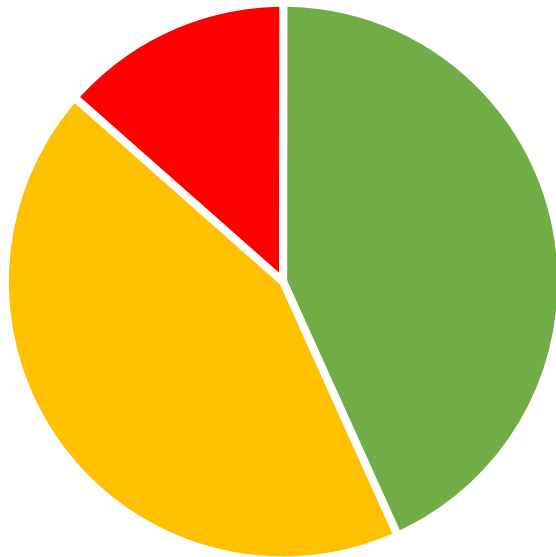
Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

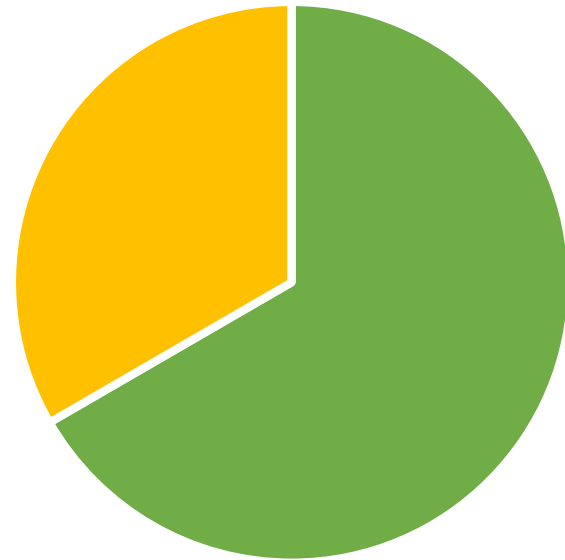
Outreach and communication activities (internal and external)

Currently implementing?



■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

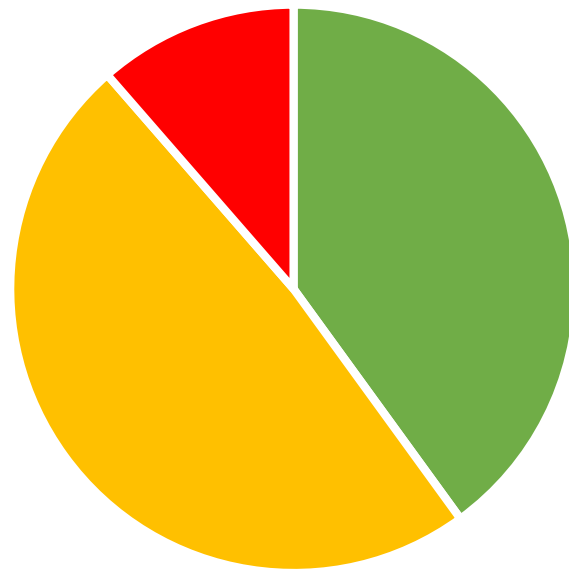
Vegetation and habitat monitoring/tracking

Currently implementing?



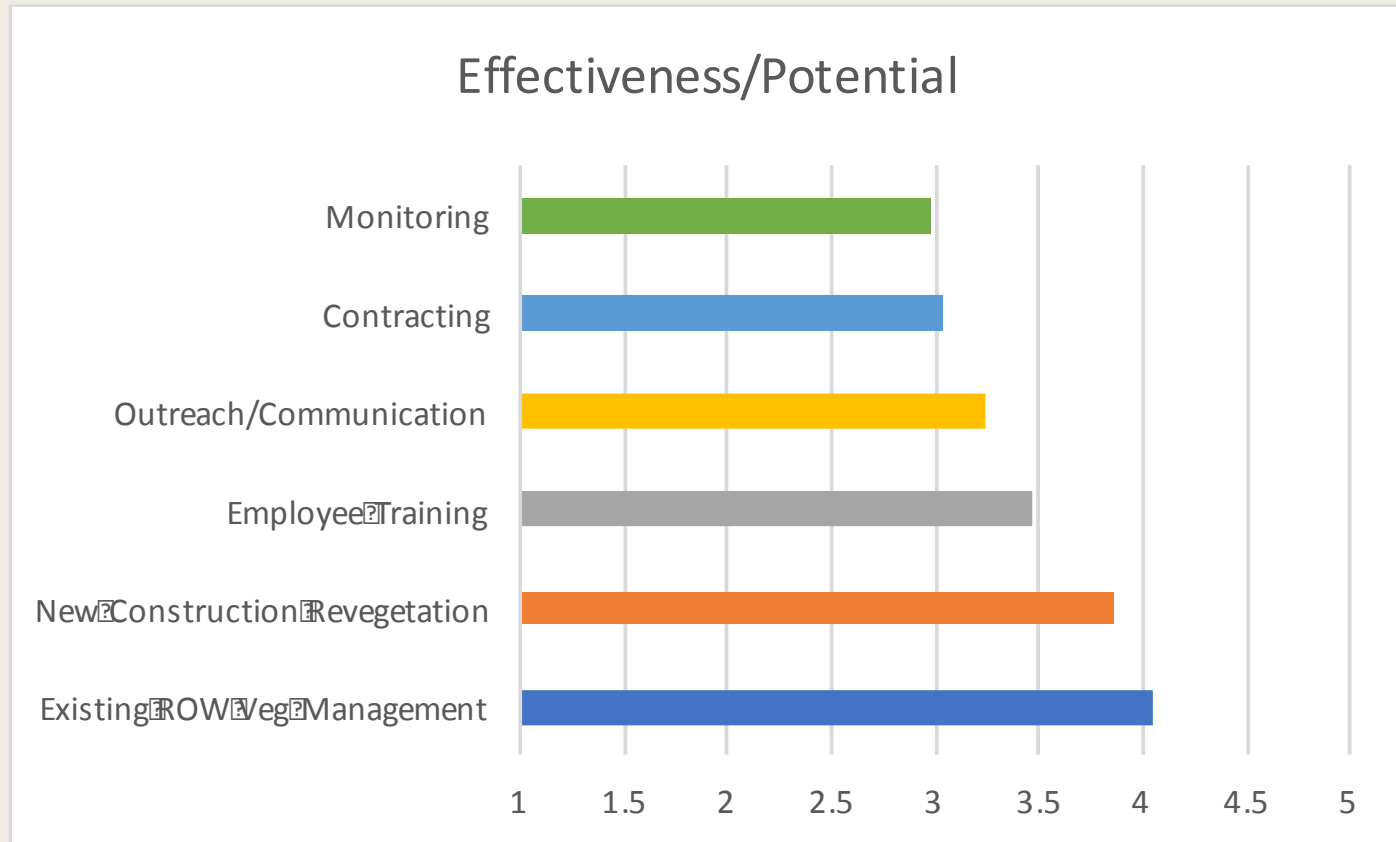
■ Yes ■ Partial ■ No

Likely to implement in the future?



■ Likely ■ Possible ■ Unlikely

Effectiveness of each Strategy Category



Not Effective
At All



Extremely
Effective

Summary of Text Responses

■ Implementation:

- *Much partial implementation of strategies due to (1) efforts being focused on pollinators/native vegetation but not necessarily monarchs and (2) efforts only focused in certain project locations, geographies, or areas of the organization.*
- *Outreach/education activities and monarch-friendly vegetation on new construction and re-vegetation projects have the highest levels of implementation so far.*
- *Many see that implementation of these strategies will increase in the future as part of participation in the ROW Monarch CCAA.*



Summary of Text Responses

■ Challenges:

- *Limits in funding, staffing, training, and leadership/management support contribute to low implementation across strategies. In some cases, laws and policies present a challenge as well.*
- *Organizations are already struggling to comply with management and vegetation regulations related to other T&E species, and thus adding consideration for monarchs can be difficult if not required by law.*



Summary of Text Responses

■ Support:

- *There is a clear need for development of off-the-shelf materials from conservation partners with regard to most of these strategies, including guidance and materials regarding seed mixes, management practices, employee and contractor training, vegetation monitoring, public outreach, and gaining buy-in from key people within the organization and in other leadership positions.*
- *Additionally, case studies showing successes, cost-benefit analyses, and proof-of-concept will help many organizations “sell” changes to their leadership.*



Responses to Monitoring Questions

- Near universal agreement that time, money, and expertise are limiting factors to implementation;
- Proposed solutions include more of the above + easy-to-use protocol;
 - *Such a protocol is under development*
- Monarch CCAA participation will require a monitoring and reporting component.



Small Group Worksheet Activity

■ Purpose:

- *Refine information from survey results with ranking exercises;*
- *Share ideas and solutions with table mates;*
- *Create clear recommendations for participants at the Monarch Conservation Partners meeting this November in Nebraska.*

■ Process:

- *About 45 minutes for worksheet completion and discussion in small groups;*
- *Time at end of session to share with larger group;*
- *Worksheets will be collected at end of the day (remain anonymous if you would like!)*



Small Group Worksheet Activity

■ Things to Keep in Mind:

- 6 categories from survey were condensed to 3 for this exercise:
 - ❖ *Vegetation Management on Existing ROWs/Properties*
 - ❖ *Revegetation/Habitat Replacement on New Construction Projects*
 - ❖ *Training/Education/Outreach*
- Steps 1 and 2 are to be completed individually; steps 3 and 4 are small group exercises;
- The products of steps 3 and 4 will be summarized and presented to conservation partners attending the Monarch Conservation Partners Meeting in November hosted by Monarch Joint Venture and MAFWA.

