

## Monarch Butterfly CCAA Talking Points [For Internal Use]

### Purpose of Talking Points:

Encourage and educate potential applicants (specifically managers and field operations staff) to consider:

- a) adopting voluntary conservation by enrolling in the monarch butterfly CCAA, and
- b) supporting CCAA development through financial or in-kind contributions.

### CCAA Key Talking Points:

- CCAAs are voluntary conservation agreements between non-federal landowner(s) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Landowners implement conservation measures to benefit wildlife species, including on lands where leaseholds or other property interests exist to carry out the proposed management activities.
- The CCAA uses conservation measures to benefit the designated wildlife species and the landowner. Non-federal landowners will receive assurances from the USFWS that no additional conservation measures will be required nor additional restrictions imposed should the species become listed in the future.
- The CCAA allows landowners to perform certain covered activities on the lands they own and manage when a net conservation benefit is demonstrated.
- The agreements are completely voluntary. Applicants can terminate the agreement at any time.

### Monarch CCAA Partnership Key Talking Points:

- Monarch butterfly is in decline. In the last 20 years, the population of monarch butterflies in the eastern U.S. has declined by 80 percent. This decline has put the species in jeopardy, which may result in the species being listed as an endangered species.
- The monarch butterfly CCAA for the transportation and energy sectors represents an extraordinary opportunity for collaborative conservation. The 24 partner organizations involved to date collectively manage more than 1.8 million acres.
- The monarch CCAA is being led by the Energy Resources Center (ERC) at the University of Illinois - Chicago. ERC facilitates the [Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group](#), which initiated the CCAA development effort. The working group formed in 2015 as a forum for industry to collaborate and share ideas on habitat conservation on working landscapes, particularly within transportation and utility rights-of-way (ROW). Today, more than 200 transportation, energy, government, and non-profit organizations across the U.S. and Canada are engaged in the working group.
- Development of the monarch butterfly CCAA is occurring in 2018, with a final draft anticipated around late 2018. After its finalization, it will undergo final review by the USFWS.
- As an applicant, you can define which conservation measures and covered activities you will implement to address the key threats to the monarch.

## Key Talking Points for Managers:

- CCAAs are voluntary conservation agreements. Applicants can terminate the agreement at any time.
- As an applicant, you can define which conservation measures and covered activities you will implement to address the key threats to the monarch. This provides valuable operational flexibility.
- Operational changes that will help conserve habitat include, but are not limited to, adjusting the timing of vegetation management practices, using more selective herbicides, and monitoring vegetation establishment.
- In exchange for adopting conservation measures, applicants receive assurances from USFWS that no additional measures will be required in the event the species is listed as Threatened/Endangered.
- A CCAA can help:
  - Regulatory certainty by giving assurances that no additional requirements will be requested by USFWS.
  - Positive public perception as a voluntary mechanism by which your organization is collaborating with USFWS to conserve a species in need.
  - Avoid costly delays and response to last minute disruptions to construction and maintenance activities by new species listing requirements.

## Key Talking Points for Operational Staff:

- Monarch butterfly is in decline. In the last 20 years, the population of monarch butterflies in the eastern U.S. has declined by 80 percent. This decline has put the species in jeopardy.
- One of the most effective ways of conserving this species is by promoting the plants it needs – i.e., milkweeds and other flowering plants.
- Conservation measures include, but are not limited to, adjusting the timing of mowing and other vegetation management practices to reduce impacts to monarchs, using more selective herbicides to avoid impacts to the milkweed and flowering plants that monarchs rely upon, and monitoring the quantity and quality of habitat resources such as milkweed and flowering plants.
- As an organization, we need to change the way we manage vegetation to help restore a sustainable population for the species.
- By adopting voluntary conservation measures, we can a) make simple changes that have big conservation impacts, b) avoid additional restrictions in the future, and c) proactively address a regulatory issue.
- Making these changes requires a change in how we operate. It requires dedication and the on-the-ground knowledge by all workers in the field.

## For More Information:

If you want to learn more about CCAAs, see:

[https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/enhancement/ccaa/cca\\_faqs.html](https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/permits/enhancement/ccaa/cca_faqs.html)

For more information about the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group, see:

<http://www.erc.uic.edu/assets/img/documents/ProgramProfileROW090617.pdf>