CCAA Tracking and Reporting

Annual Reporting Information Needed

Applicant Information

- Applicant contact information including Administrator-assigned Certificate of Inclusion number.

Summary of annual NCB contribution

- This should include a short summary of lands managed over the past year in the CCAA. Include: where work is conducted, a tracking sheet or shapefile, and a summary of conservation measures being implemented or changed and/or any unforeseen impacts to annual contribution. Also, summarize any supplemental efforts undertaken for education, outreach, and promotion of monarchs, like CCAA or pollinator conservation.

Summary of effectiveness monitoring conducted

- This should include a summary of effectiveness. For this section, include: location of work (include map), methods used (if applicable), and a summary of the results including any applicable tables or figures.

Upcoming year annual forecast

- Review and update annual estimates of enrolled lands, acres improved, and any adaptive management that needs to occur.

CCAA Reporting Example

Applicant Information:

- Asclepias Energy (AE), Certificate of Inclusion # 2019-0324
- Total enrolled lands = 111,112 acres

Summary of Net Conservation Benefit:

Our target adoption rate in 2019 was 20,000 adopted acres. Our conservation measures were implemented on approximately 23,000 acres, **which was 15% higher than our target adopted acres**. The conservation measures used most frequently included: targeted herbicide use, brush mowing, native seeding, and idle land set-aside practices. Conservation measures were reported on a state-wide scale, unless noted otherwise. Conservation measures were quantified using the following methods:

- Targeted herbicide use was reported based on the collective treatment acres recorded by field crews in our internal work planning and reporting system. Completed maintenance records were queried at the end of the spray season to quantify acres. These acres include:
    - Work audit records verifying that 2,000 acres were treated through targeted herbicide applications per company specifications.
    - Work planning records indicate that an additional 4,000 acres were treated through targeted herbicide applications. These maintenance efforts did not have audits conducted.
- Brush mowing was mapped using the ESRI Collector app by field crews conducting brush mowing throughout the year as work occurred. Additional acres were reported by project teams.
- Native seed mixes were applied on capital projects where ground disturbance occurred. Quantities were either reported on by project teams as part of erosion control permit applications, or inferred based on seed quantities and listed seeding rates.
    - Based on our project records, approximately 435 pounds of native seed mixes (including temporary cover) were installed last year at an average rate of 30 lbs/acre. This quantity equates to 14.5 adopted acres.

- Idle land set-asides were quantified by reviewing acres where targeted herbicide treatments were conducted in the prior year. Since that activity follows brush removal and initial clearing work, it is often the final activity in our vegetation management treatment cycle. Lines with potential set-aside lands were then cross-referenced again lists of known projects and maintenance activities. Areas where activities were identified were removed from the set-aside lands reported.

Observations from field staff indicated that practices resulted in a general increase in flowering plants and milkweed. There were however some areas that did not experience notable gains. This likely is a result of the timing of treatment and/or the presence of invasive species (smooth brome).

Some changes to treatment this year included unintended mowing of suitable habitat by landowners and conversion to agricultural production. Less than 1% of these areas occurred within areas previously reported as acres improved. This loss is offset by the acres of notable improvement that are listed above.

Supplemental activities this past year included the distribution of more than 500 native seed packets.

Summary of Effectiveness Monitoring Conducted:

Effectiveness monitoring was conducted on 50 sites across enrolled lands. Monitoring was conducted by internal work planners and auditors already conducting other field work at these sites. Each monitor received an introductory training in the CCAA monitoring protocol, milkweed and flowering plant identification, and reporting requirements.

In summary:

- All but 5 contained either milkweed or at least 10% nectar plants. (90% of total sites surveyed documented at least one habitat element)
    - 25 of 50 sites contained milkweed. (50% of total surveyed)
    - 45 of 50 post implementation sites contained at least 10% nectar plants. (90% of total surveyed)

Monitoring data was recorded in the tracking and monitoring spreadsheet template provided by UIC, which is included as an attachment to this report.

Adapting herbicide and mowing regimes resulted in a general increase in milkweed and other flowering plants. The few sites that did not experience a notable increase in flowering plants were likely a result of inadequate timing of treatment and/or the presence of invasive non-flowering vegetation (such as smooth brome).

Upcoming Annual Forecast:

Last year, we completed construction of a new 300 mile long pipeline in KS and MO. This project lies in potential suitable habitat consistent with other enrolled lands. Assuming an average width of 100 feet, this adds another 3,636 acres to our enrolled lands. Assuming the enrolled adoption rate of 18% on an updated total of 114,748 enrolled acres, this adds an additional 654 acres of adopted acres to our target. AE will now contribute at least 20,654 adopted acres annually. A map displaying the existing, and added, enrolled lands is included as an attachment to this report.

Based on current forecast, we anticipate being able to support that acreage through continued use of conservation measures and sustaining habitat on idle-managed set aside lands. No changes to conservation measures are expected. AE will continue to monitor implementation effectiveness to inform treatment timing and next steps.