

## 2024 Eastern Migration Supplemental Conservation Measure

January 2024

### Purpose

While still being finalized at the time of this draft, early indications by Monarch Watch are that the 2023-24 overwintering monarch butterfly estimates will be low. The first generation produced by spring migrants returning from Mexico to the southern states in the U.S. are believed to be critical to the annual growth of the eastern population (i.e., increasing the size of the early generations will produce more monarchs to lay eggs to produce larger later generations).

This supplemental measure represents a voluntary measure that CCAA Partners operating in the focus region are encouraged to undertake in Spring 2024. By aligning mowing and other vegetation management actions with published guidelines for this region, this supplemental measure encourages:

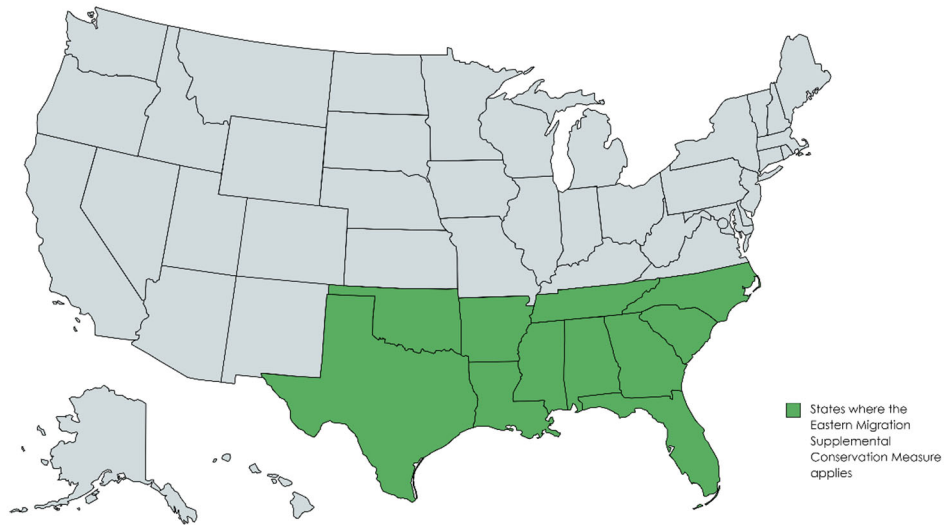
1. Increased alignment of vegetation management with the treatment timing recommended by Monarch Joint Venture in the [Mowing for Monarchs guidance](#).
2. Improving light exposure for early emerging native milkweed and nectar plants available for egg laying and first-generation monarch development.
3. Avoiding vegetation disturbance or removal at times that are critical for first-generation monarch development.

### Requirements

Consideration	Minimum Expectation
<b>Where Does This Apply?</b>	The map provided in Figure 1 highlights the states where this supplemental conservation measure applies.
<b>When Does This Apply?</b>	This supplemental measure applies to conservation measures applied between January 1 and April 1, 2024.
<b>What Is Required?</b>	<p>Conduct mowing or herbicide applications within suitable monarch habitat during the recommended spring management timing windows published by Monarch Joint Venture in the <a href="#">Mowing for Monarchs guidance</a> (Figure 2).</p> <p>If herbicide applications must occur, avoid applications in areas where milkweed and nectar plants are likely to occur. As much as possible, avoid removing flowering nectar plants, milkweed, and spring-flowering shrubs.</p>

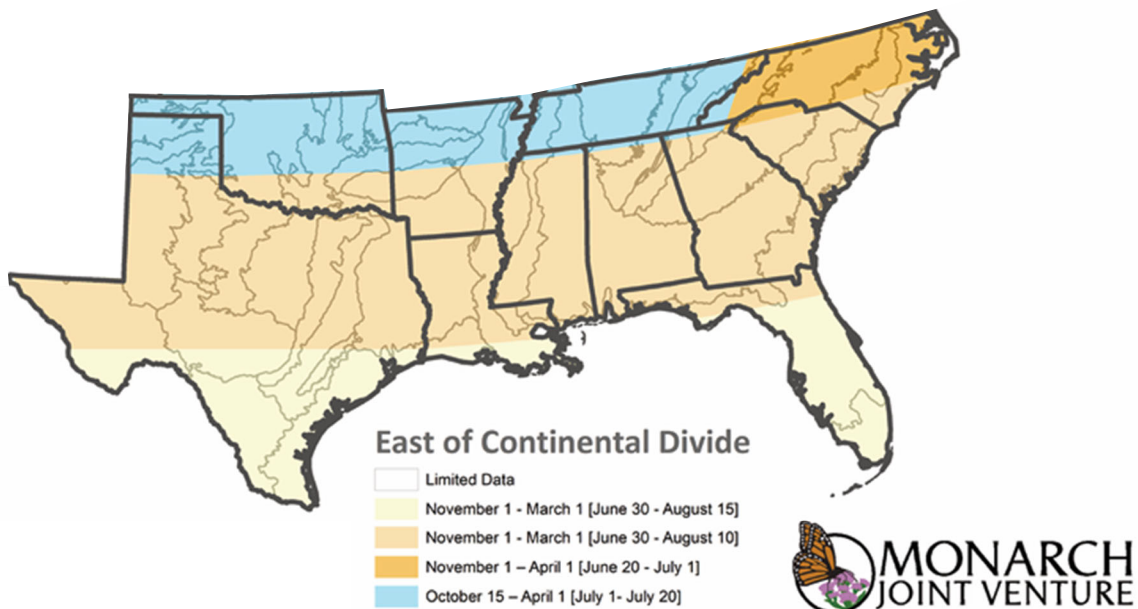
<p><b>How Will It Be Implemented?</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1. On-the-Ground Measures</b> Implementation should adhere to the requirements associated with conservation mowing, targeted herbicide treatments, or temporary set-aside idle lands as described in Table 6-3 in the Monarch CCAA.</p> <p><b>Option 2. Outreach Communications</b> Supplemental outreach to customers, municipalities, local road authorities, social media followers, or landowners near adopted acres that encourage landowners to avoid early spring mowing or removal of monarch habitat may also be applied under this conservation measure. Communications should reference the recommended guidance, management dates, or timing as published in the Monarch Joint Venture in the <a href="#">Mowing for Monarchs guidance</a> or the avoidance of vegetation management outside of these dates. Outreach may occur via e-blasts, social media posts, or other communications.</p>
<p><b>How Should These Commitments Be Tracked and Reported?</b></p>	<p>For either option, Partners should notify the Program Administrator via email on or before May 1, 2024 as to their use of the supplemental measure, and estimated extent to which it was applied. To be eligible for a reduction in the next year’s annual Administration Fee, Partners must also separately report the subset of adopted acres that fulfilled these requirements during 2024 annual reporting.</p> <p><b>For Option 1. On-the-Ground Measures</b> All acres of conservation measures applied should be tracked according to standard Monarch CCAA tracking and reporting procedures. To be applicable, measures must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Align with conservation mowing, targeted herbicide treatments, or temporary set-aside idle lands as described in the Agreement.</li> <li>2. Be located in the geography specified in Figure 1.</li> <li>3. Occur between January 1 and April 1, 2024.</li> </ol> <p><b>For Option 2. Outreach Communications</b> Partners must provide copies of their communications distributed to customers, municipalities, local road authorities, social media followers, or landowners in this geography that encourage avoiding early spring mowing or removal of monarch habitat. Communications should reference the recommended guidance, management timing, or the avoidance of vegetation management outside of these dates. Partners also should describe the methods of content delivery and estimated number of contacts reached.</p>
<p><b>What Type of Fee Discount is Available to Contributing Partners?</b></p>	<p>Partners adhering to these requirements may apply for a 2% reduction in the next year’s annual administrative fee payment.</p>

Figure 1. Map of states where the 2024 Eastern Migration Supplemental Conservation Measure applies.



Created with mapchart.net

Figure 2. Excerpt of Timing Recommended by Monarch Joint Venture in the Mowing for Monarchs Guidance.



Recommended management timing windows as published by Monarch Joint Venture in the Mowing for Monarchs guidance: <https://rightofway.erc.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MowingForMonarchs.pdf>

### Background on Supplemental Measures

Supplemental conservation measures are activities that do not directly address key threats identified, but still provide important partnership and logistical contributions to the undertaking of this Agreement and monarch conservation. Partners of the CCAA (or Agreement) that implement supplemental monarch conservation efforts are eligible for a reduction in the annual Administration Fee.

### Acknowledgement

Special thanks to Monarch Watch for identifying this need and collaborating to develop this supplemental measures. Learn more about Monarch Watch at: <https://monarchwatch.org/>

### Questions

Contact Megan Petraitis, Program Administrator, at [mpetrait@uic.edu](mailto:mpetrait@uic.edu).

