

# MONARCH HABITAT RESTORATION IN CANADA

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## Outline



Canada's Role in Monarch Recovery



Canadian ROW as Habitat Working  
Group

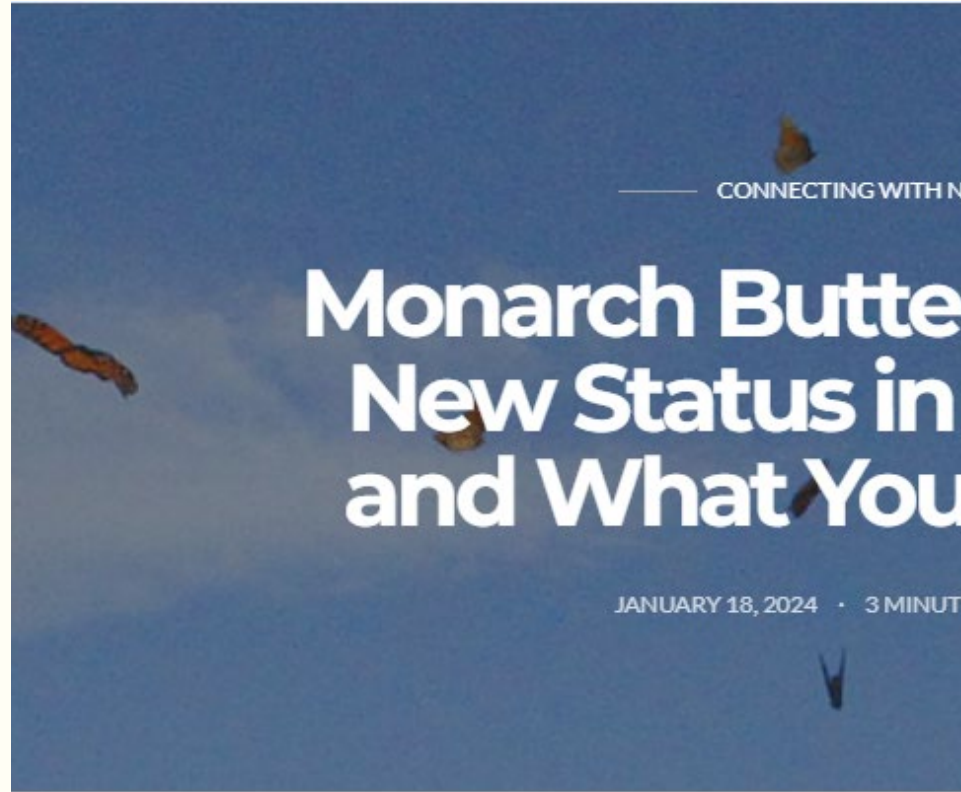


ROW: An Opportunity for Restoration



Lessons Learned

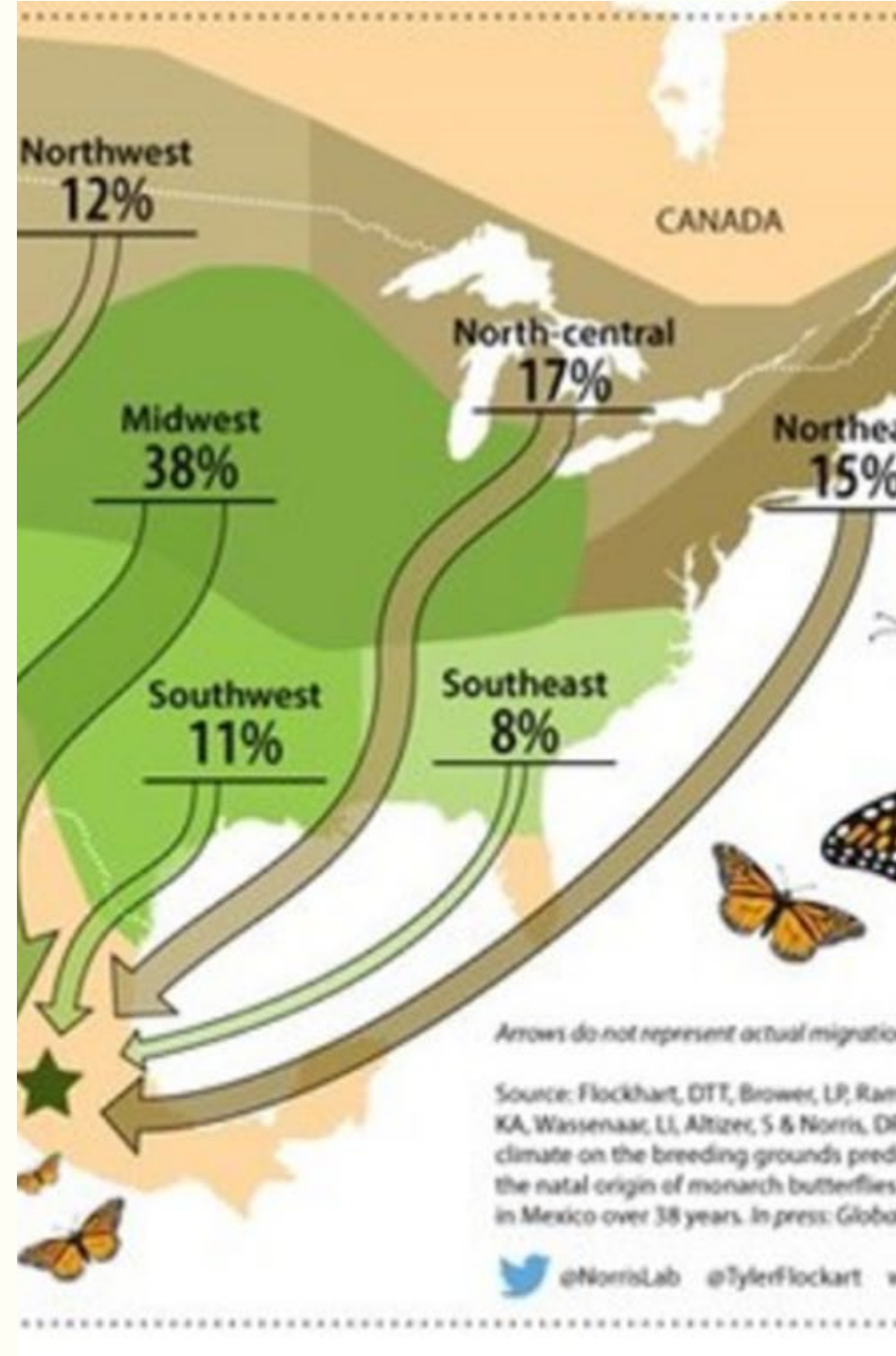




### As of December 8, 2023, the Monarch Butterfly has a new status in Canada: Endangered.

The previous listing by the federal government was Special Concern (Special Concern) and the government has been reviewing the status for a while. This new listing as an order amending Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* provides protection for the butterfly on federal lands. This order also lists the *Monarch* as threatened and the Western Bumblebee *mckayi* as Special Concern.

### What Does This Mean for These Species?



**RIGHTS-OF-WAY**  
offer a brilliant and affordable  
environmental challenges

**RIBBONS OF LIFE**  
The potential for restored habitat along rights-of-way stretches like a crucial ribbon of life through the country's most damaged areas. Creating easily travelled bands of native habitat means smaller wildlife of all kinds can move easily and thrive. Pollinators would have a near-contiguous trail of nectar-bearing flowers, undisturbed nesting areas and specific host plants to do their work fostering our vulnerable biodiversity.

**RIGHTS-OF-WAY?**  
They exist on every roadside, beside every train track, under every powerline and pipeline, and around every solar array. The scale is almost unimaginable, and the potential is massive: Ontario's Hydro One alone is responsible for 30,000 linear kilometres of rights-of-way requiring costly ongoing tree and shrub removal to prevent damage to lines that result in disruptive power interruptions.

Southern Canada's rural roadsides alone make up more than 11,000 square kilometres. That adds up to two times the land mass of Prince Edward Island just waiting to be converted to native meadows, all of which could be home to extraordinary biodiversity

**WORKING LANDSCAPES FOR BIODIVERSITY**  
Native meadows are compatible with the need to manage vegetation along rights-of-way. They create short, stable, low-growth plant communities that require less mowing and less spraying. That saves money, reduces pesticide use and cuts fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions, helping governments and corporations to meet their net-zero carbon target. Local ecosystem benefits include flood and drought mitigation, carbon storage, natural snow fencing and helping to keep out alien invasive plants. Many jurisdictions in the United States have cut costs by converting roadsides to needed pollinator habitat. Does your municipality have a plan? Call to find out

**RIGHTS-OF-WAY ARE ALL AROUND US**

## Organizational Change



Peer Network



Partnerships



Training



# CANADIAN ROW AS HABITAT WORKING GROUP



250+ Network  
Participants



24 Restoration  
Partners







1775+ ha Restored



ROWnetwork@cwf-  
fcf.org



-  Organizational change takes time and continuous support
-  Partnerships are important to achieving outcomes
-  There is strong need for collaboration and investment to support the native seed supply chain
-  There is huge public interest in pollinator conservation



40%  
WISHING THE  
MONARCHS A  
SAFE MIGRATION



MONARCH HABITAT  
RESTORATION *in progress*  
RESTAURATION DE L'HABITAT  
DU MONARQUE *en cours*

