



The Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

The Monarch CCAA DELIVERS CONSERVATION, SUPPORTS SUSTAINABILITY, AND PROTECTS AGAINST REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY

The Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) is the first nationwide agreement to promote voluntary conservation for the monarch butterfly. The Monarch CCAA was finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Illinois Chicago in April 2020 after more than two years of collaboration with industry partners from across the U.S.

In exchange for **committing to conservation** that supports monarch butterfly habitat, industry participants **receive regulatory assurances** that no additional conservation measures will be required by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if the monarch butterfly is listed under the Endangered Species Act.



Program Goals

The Monarch CCAA aims to contribute **300 million milkweed stems** and **2.3 million acres of monarch foraging habitat**. In 2024, the program **exceeded 1 million acres of habitat commitments** by Monarch CCAA partners.

Why Enroll?

Supports sustainability by contributing to nature-positive actions verified by a third-party program.

Delivers conservation for the iconic monarch butterfly, whose populations have declined more than 80%.

Insures an organization against regulatory uncertainty resulting from a monarch listing, including associated legal challenges.



Program Requirements

ORGANIZATIONS COMMIT TO:



Annual monitoring of habitat areas

Enrolled organizations survey milkweed and other flowering plants to verify the program supports monarch habitat where conservation measures have been applied.

Annual reporting of conservation measures and monitoring data

Supporting the program through annual administrative fees



Implementing and tracking conservation measures

Conservation measures are applied on a portion of enrolled lands. They include integrated vegetation management activities that create or enhance monarch butterfly habitat, such as:

Planting and seeding native plants to restore and create habitat

Suitable habitat set asides, or idle lands

Targeted herbicide treatments of invasive and noxious species

Prescribed burning

Controlled grazing

Brush removal to promote suitable habitat

Conservation mowing with seasonal considerations for monarchs

Covered Activities

Partners receive regulatory assurances for operations, maintenance, and modernization activities on all enrolled lands. This includes site access, maintenance, standard vegetation management, and upgrades to existing facilities. New construction is excluded from coverage.



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MANAGED HABITAT

Interested in Enrolling?

Learn more about the Monarch CCAA at:
<https://rightofway.erc.uic.edu/national-monarch-ccaa/>

Please reach out to Megan Petraitis (mpetra@uic.edu) with your interest or questions.

