

**Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) Post-Project Report
Monarch Highway Project 2015 (CPWN #26)
Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates
and
USFWS Roseburg Field Office**

The Southern Oregon Monarch Advocates (SOMA) made great progress this year in restoring monarch butterfly habitat, due in part, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Service's (Service) Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) funding of approximately \$800.00. SOMA is a local



Site of raised beds (foreground) to be constructed at Applegate School and associated Greenhouse (background). Photo credit: Robert Coffan, SOMA.

grass roots-volunteer group committed to improving the “monarch migration highway” in southwest Oregon for the western population of the iconic Monarch butterfly. The main focus of the group has been establishing Monarch Waystations through planting native milkweed and nectar species, raising monarchs and conducting associated public outreach.

Overall, CPWN funds helped cost-share development of the local propagation of native milkweed seedlings, along with raising public

awareness of the need to plant milkweed for monarch habitat. For example, SOMA worked with two rural nurseries to increase the propagation and supply of native milkweed seedlings to meet the increasing public demand for native milkweed. This includes the building of new raised-beds along with improvements to the Applegate Elementary School's greenhouse. Students at this school in Applegate, Oregon will assist each year in the planting and care of the milkweed nursery. It is anticipated that student-raised milkweed will then be sold as a fundraiser. This effort is part of a larger, pollinator student-educational program at the school.

CPWN funds were utilized by SOMA to purchase growing supplies, to launch a “Pollinator Plant Line” in cooperation with the Silver Springs Nursery in Williams, Oregon. These plants will help to provide the palette of plants important for monarch butterflies during the spring, summer and fall. Silver Springs will grow seedlings wholesale to be available for other nurseries.

This past year, SOMA outreach activities reached over 200 students and twice as many adults in various workshops. The USFWS has been acknowledged as a partner in SOMA's activities.



Some of the 400+ milkweed and other nectar plants in cultivation at Silver Springs Nursery. Photo credit: James Kramer, Silver Springs Nursery.