

# Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

Shaughn Galloway

Michelle Kane

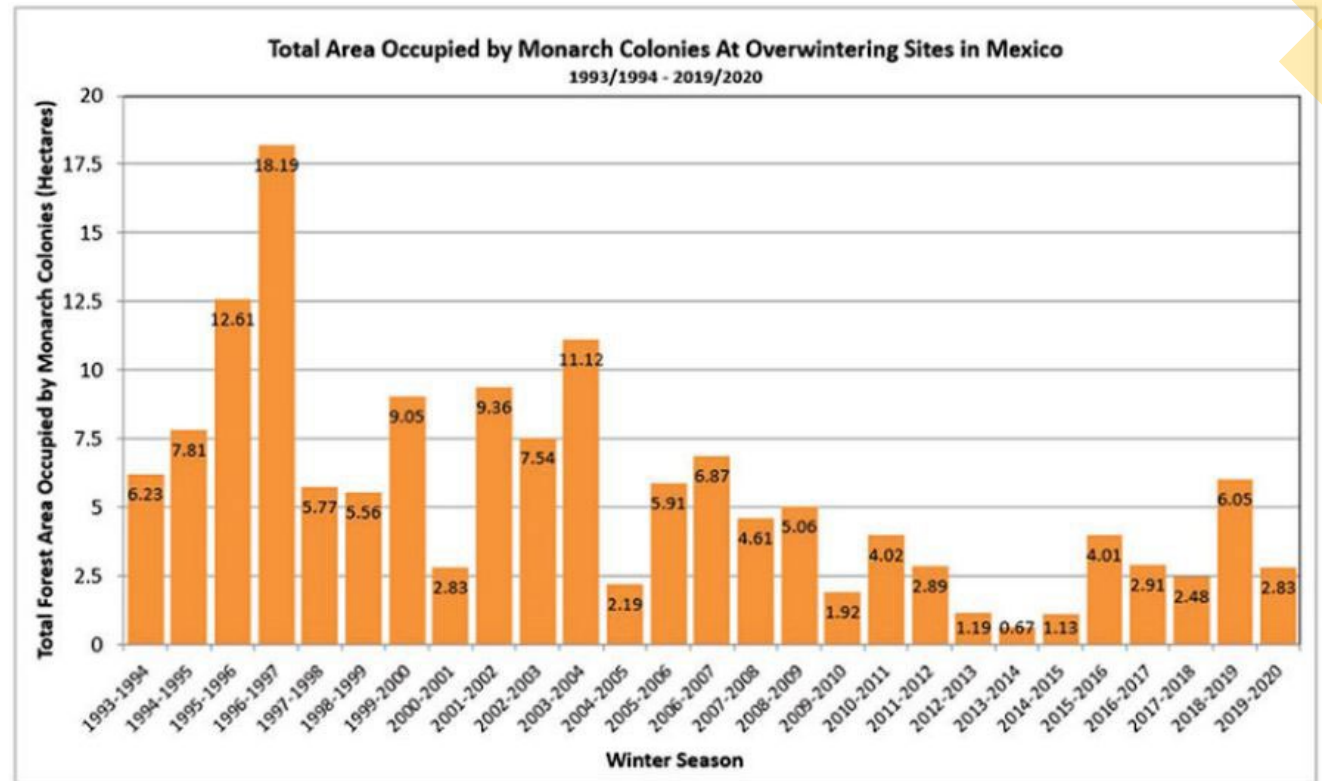
USFWS

County Road Association of Michigan  
Engineering Committee Meeting  
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# Overview of Monarch Butterflies

- Monarch butterfly populations have a wide distribution
  - Span approximately 90 different countries and island nations
  - Represented by 31 populations
  - Four populations in United States
- "Warranted but Precluded" status under the Endangered Species Act in 2020
  - Loss of habitat, exposure to chemicals, impacts to overwintering sites, climate change
- The Eastern Population of monarchs has been in decline since the 1990's
  - Systematically monitored since the early 1990's during migrations and at overwintering sites



Population estimates from overwintering grounds in Mexico. Data displayed in hectares where 1 ha = ~21 million individuals. Photo from Monarch Joint Venture.

# Monarch Habitat within Rights-of-Way

- Rights-of-way provide habitat!
- Rights-of-way can be broken into three zones
  - Zone 1 – Road surface & shoulder
  - Zone 2 – Ditch (inslope)
  - Zone 3 – Backslope
- Zones 2 and 3 are typically managed for either early successional or natural vegetation characteristics and can support monarchs
- Maintenance actions can remove habitat or impact monarchs

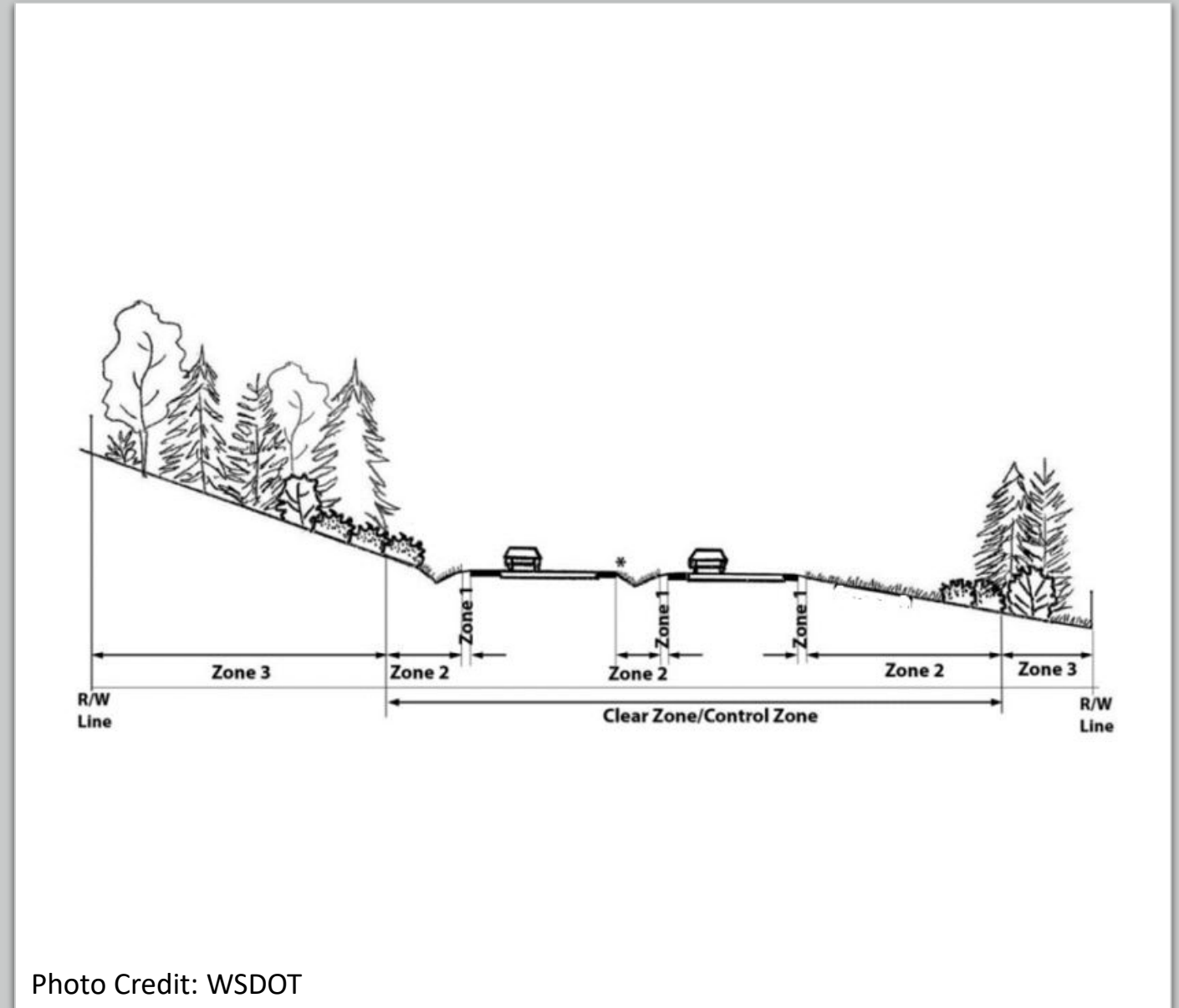


Photo Credit: WSDOT

# What is the Conservation Candidate Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)?

- Nationwide agreement available for transportation and energy lands
  - Administered by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- You (Partner) agree to voluntarily commit to implement conservation actions for monarch
- We (FWS) provide an Enhancement of Survival permit with assurances that additional conservation would not be required if monarch is listed in the future



*Voluntary Conservation*



*Regulatory Assurances*



# Qualifying Lands for Enrollment

- Transportation lands that can support habitat for monarch
  - ROWs along roadsides
  - Rest Areas
  - Storage and Maintenance facilities
  - Wetland or other mitigation sites
- Applicants must adopt **at least** 5% of enrolled lands
  - Adopt means to apply conservation measures to enhance, restore, and/or maintain
  - Adopted acres are accounted for on an annual basis
- Adopted acres should be prioritized where it is possible to carry out conservation measures and to meet 5-year target
  - Habitat is most likely to be maintained in areas that are **not** frequently managed





## Covered Activities

- General operations and emergency response
- Construction and modernization within the footprint of existing infrastructure
- Maintenance, including vegetation management
  - Herbicide use
  - Mowing
  - Woody vegetation removal
- Covered activities do **not** include construction of new infrastructure

# Conservation Measures



## CREATE

PLANT A VARIETY OF MILKWEED AND NATIVE FLOWERING PLANTS TO RESTORE OR ENHANCE HABITAT

## PLAN

TIME MOWING, BRUSH REMOVAL, AND HERBICIDE USE WHEN MONARCHS, EGGS, OR CATERPILLARS ARE NOT PRESENT

## AVOID

REDUCE MOWING AND SPRAYING, AND USE TARGETED PRACTICES WHERE POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE SUITABLE HABITAT

## MANAGE

ADOPT GRAZING, BURNING, AND OTHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO PROMOTE BENEFICIAL PLANTS

## SET ASIDE

ALLOW CERTAIN AREAS TO REMAIN IN A NATURAL STATE WITH AS LITTLE ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AS POSSIBLE

# Monitoring, Reporting, and Fees

- Must monitor adopted acres annually
  - # of plots determined by # of adopted acres
  - 90% of plots need 6+ stems of milkweed
- Must file an annual report
  - Summary of lands managed, monitoring, and upcoming year forecast
- Annual administrative fee required
  - Estimated cost for state DOTs/national energy companies \$10,000 – \$15,000 per year
- An implementation plan must be completed within one year
- Must meet adopted acres targets within five years

| Estimated Adopted Acres | Anticipated No. of Annual Samples  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Fewer than 1,000        | 10   |
| 1,001 to 10,000         | 30   |
| 10,001 to 30,000        | 50   |
| 30,001 to 60,000        | 70   |
| 60,001 or more          | 70, plus one additional point for each 1,000 acres exceeding 60,001 adopted acres. |

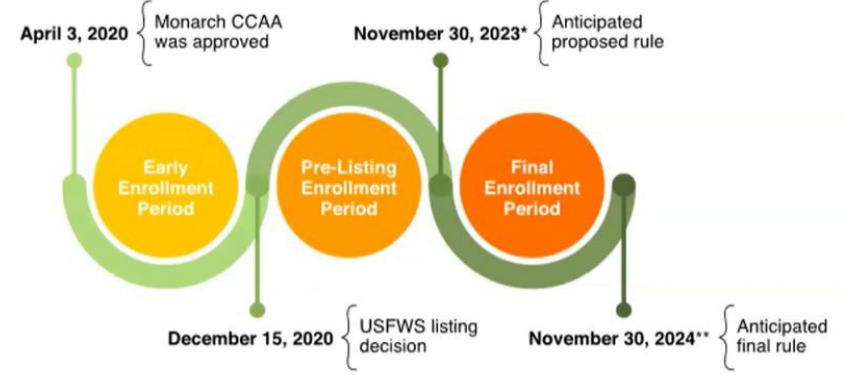




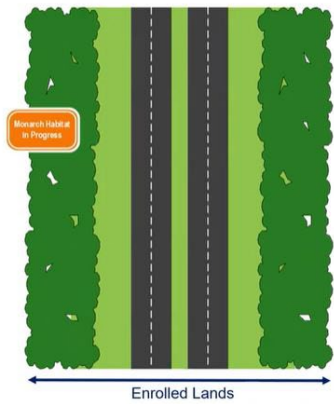
# CCAA Application Process

- There are four steps in the CCAA Application Process
  1. Pre-Application Outreach\*
  2. Application Preparation\*
  3. Application Review
  4. Certificate of Inclusion Issuance
- Consider timeline for compiling application materials (potentially 6-12 months)
- Applicants cannot rely on CCAA coverage until they receive the Certificate of Inclusion
- Not possible to join CCAA once final rule goes into effect

## When to Enroll



## Enrollment Timing



- Expectations vary by organization but can be 6 to 12+ months for enrollment.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Internal team building, coordination, and buy-in          | 1-3 months |
| Pre-application review and implementation decision making | 1-3 months |
| Application preparation                                   | 1-2 months |
| Final internal approval and submittal                     | 1-2 months |
| UIC and USFWS review and approval                         | 2-6 months |

# Benefits of Enrollment

- Assist in conservation and may help preclude listing
- Voluntary
- Decreased costs
- Regulatory assurance if monarch is listed
- [Transportation Case Study](#)
  - Vegetation management changes reduced cost of operation
  - Reduced uncertainty, technical guidance, and information sharing



# Web Resources

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- [Monarch CCAA](#)
- [University of Illinois, Chicago CCAA Home Page](#)
- [Monarch CCAA Webinars and Case Studies](#)
- [Monarch CCAA Toolkit](#)
- [FWS FAQs about Monarch CCAA](#)
- Administrative Fees
  - [Calculator](#)
  - [FAQs](#)



# Questions?

- Shaughn Galloway
  - [shaughn\\_galloway@fws.gov](mailto:shaughn_galloway@fws.gov)
- Michelle Kane
  - [michelle\\_kane@fws.gov](mailto:michelle_kane@fws.gov)

