



Ryan Hagerty USFWS



Monarch Action, Recovery, and Conservation of Habitat Act (MONARCH Act)

The MONARCH Act (S. 857) will provide funding to restore, enhance and manage overwintering and breeding habitats of the monarch butterfly and pollinator populations in the Western U.S. The act will:

- ◆ Establish a Western Monarch Butterfly Rescue Fund:
 - The bill authorizes \$12.5 million for each of the next five years to provide grants for conservation projects that benefit monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
 - This fund is accessible to Tribal nations, local governments, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations.
- ◆ Facilitate implementation of the Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan
 - This plan was prepared by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).
 - The MONARCH Act authorizes \$12.5 million for each of the next five years for this purpose. Funding will be distributed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
 - Support the conservation and restoration of all native pollinators
- ◆ Ensure that states, Tribes, and other essential partners have the resources they need to recover the western monarch and other native pollinators.



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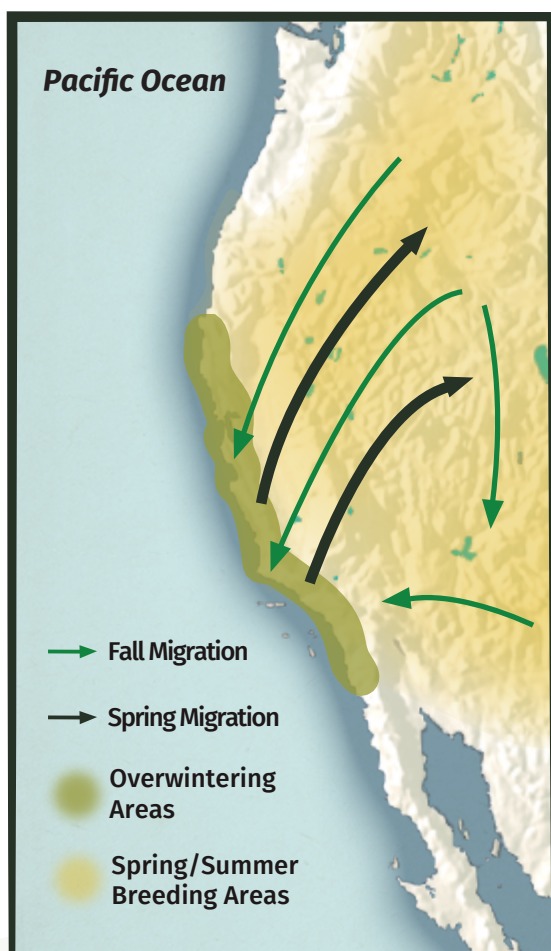


The Plight of the MONARCH BUTTERFLY

As the western migratory monarch population edges closer to extinction, this species and many other native pollinator species urgently need investments that support the large-scale restoration of the habitats they rely on. **The MONARCH Act** will help ensure will provide the proper resources and support to achieve large-scale habitat restoration of native habitats.

The monarch butterfly is a sentinel species. Migratory monarchs depend on diverse native habitats that are also the home of many other North American wildlife species, including some native pollinators. Once common, the monarch butterfly is experiencing an alarming decline primarily due to the loss of overwintering and breeding habitat, pesticide use, and climate change.

Monarchs are just one of many species of pollinators facing extinction. Recent research has revealed that more than half of the butterfly species in the Western U.S. are declining. Two native bumblebee species are now protected under the Endangered Species Act, and several others are under consideration for ESA protection. Without pollinators, our food resources and ecosystems face an uncertain future.



Western Monarchs In Jeopardy

The breeding habitat of the western monarch population covers 8 states. Most western migratory monarchs overwinter in hundreds of forested groves along the California Coast. In 2020, the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count recorded fewer than 2,000 monarch butterflies at their overwintering sites.

Though more monarch butterflies have been counted in the two years since then, the population has not yet recovered. The most recent estimate of the overwintering monarch population represents just 3-8% of the 4 to 10 million monarchs estimated to overwinter in California in the 1980s.

Please support the MONARCH Act, S. 857, and help monarchs and more butterflies and pollinators.

Contact

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