



Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators: 2021 Report



ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.8 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Monarch butterfly

Since 2015, the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund has awarded approximately **\$16.8 million** to 109 projects that are helping conserve and recover the imperiled monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Grantees have matched this investment with an additional **\$27.8 million**, for a total on-the-ground impact of more than **\$44.6 million**.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATORS CONSERVATION FUND: 2021 REPORT

The monarch butterfly is one of the most iconic species in North America, and its annual migration cycle is one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the world. However, during the past 20 years, the monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 80 percent throughout much of its range. Pollinators such as the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee are also experiencing population declines. Habitat loss is one of the primary factors challenging pollinators.

In response to this threat, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) established the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund in 2015 to protect, conserve and increase habitat for pollinators. Partners include Bayer Crop Science, BNSF Railway, Shell Oil Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Geological Survey. The program invests in projects that improve the availability of high-quality habitat, increase the capacity needed to expand conservation efforts into the future, and support implementation of technical assistance to engage private landowners with pollinator conservation practices on working lands. By leveraging the resources and expertise of its partners in this way, the program is helping to reverse recent population declines and ensure the survival of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

(continued)



109

Projects funded

2,500

Pounds of native milkweed seed collected

1,570

Workshops or meetings hosted

336,000

Acres restored or enhanced

931,100

Native milkweed seedlings propagated



Since 2015, the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund has supported projects that address the following three conservation priorities to restore populations of at-risk pollinators:



Rusty patched bumble bee | Credit: Lisa Nordstrom Kuck

INCREASING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HABITAT

The goal of this conservation strategy is to create and sustain a connected patchwork of pollinator habitat to support at-risk pollinators and the monarch butterfly. It emphasizes restoring and enhancing land to support ample milkweed and nectar plants as well as overwintering habitat. This strategy also seeks to ensure adequate supply of native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seeds or plugs for habitat restoration efforts.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: Ecoregional Seed Program for Monarchs across Eastern Broadleaf Forest

NFWF Award Amount \$150,000
Matching Funds \$485,080
Total Project \$635,080

The Pollinator Partnership established a seed collection program for the Eastern Broadleaf Forest and provided technical assistance to public and private land managers in five states. The project collected 60 pounds of milkweed seed and propagated 11,000 seedlings to support the improvement of 27,000 acres of monarch habitat.

COORDINATION, CAPACITY BUILDING

The goal of this conservation strategy is to increase organizational capacity and coordination among organizations, states, and regions engaged in pollinator conservation. Grant funding supports work to develop regional strategies and plans, build capacity and expertise, maximize information exchange, and distribute information about on-the-ground conservation practices.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: Developing a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy

NFWF Award Amount \$144,750
Matching Funds \$170,000
Total Project \$314,750

The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies led a regional coordination process to develop a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy for states located along the eastern monarch migratory corridor. The project established common habitat and population goals, as well as strategies and monitoring protocols to be implemented at the state level.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE WORKING LANDS

This conservation strategy supports implementation of technical assistance to increase the number of private landowners engaged in pollinator conservation practices on private working lands.

PROJECT EXAMPLE: Using Technical Assistance to Increase Resource Conservation District Effort for Monarchs

NFWF Award Amount \$300,000
Matching Funds \$800,000
Total Project \$1,100,000

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is providing technical assistance on private working lands by hiring a statewide Monarch Project Coordinator and a Technical Assistance Trainer. The project is developing 50 pollinator conservation plans, restoring 50 acres of habitat, coordinating 63 meetings and workshops, and reaching 150 landowners.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY AND POLLINATORS GRANTEES

Alternare, A.C.	\$50,000
American Bird Conservancy	\$324,988
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum	\$92,787
Audubon International.....	\$150,000
Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania.....	\$190,983
Bureau of Land Management.	\$86,916
Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City	\$228,107
California Association of Resource	
Conservation Districts.	\$300,000
Compatible Lands Foundation.....	\$235,992
Dakota County	\$150,000
Driftless Area Land Conservancy.	\$241,255
Ducks Unlimited.	\$136,879
Field Museum of Natural History	\$147,988
Friends of Crex.	\$199,576
Friends of Red Rock Canyon	\$109,208
Friends of the Neal Smith NWR	\$87,000
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District.....	\$175,000
Grassland Water District	\$173,040
Great River Greening	\$195,916
Houston Wilderness	\$485,244
Ice Age Trail Alliance	\$175,000
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.....	\$889,998
Jo Daviess Conservation Fund	\$83,640
Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition	\$125,000
Keystone Policy Center	\$30,000
La Cruz Habitat Projection Project	\$60,000
Lake County Forest Preserve District	\$135,000
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	\$193,785
Midwest Association of	
Fish and Wildlife Agencies	\$300,951
Missouri Botanic Garden.	\$154,500
Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation.....	\$494,410
Monarch Joint Venture	\$568,434
National Audubon Society	\$437,409
National Wildlife Federation.....	\$566,000
National Wild Turkey Federation	\$99,999
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.....	\$100,000
Nature Conservancy of Canada	\$80,000
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.....	\$332,518
North American Butterfly Association.....	\$199,271
Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas	\$344,080
Pathfinders Resource	
Conservation and Development.....	\$227,370
Pheasants Forever	\$1,130,000
Pollinator Partnership	\$648,455
Prairie Pothole Partners	\$50,000
Pronatura Noreste A.C.	\$50,000
Regents of the University of Minnesota	\$222,392
Resource Conservation and	
Development for Northeast Iowa.....	\$165,000

Sand County Foundation.....	\$98,768
Southwest Monarch Study.....	\$88,950
Superior Watershed Partnership	\$59,320
Texan by Nature	\$411,959
Texas Discovery Gardens.....	\$125,000
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	\$480,000
The Board of Trustees	
of the University of Illinois	\$315,265
The Conservation Foundation	\$247,942
The Learning Center	
at the Euche Butterfly Farm	\$340,939
The Nature Conservancy.....	\$550,960
The Prairie Enthusiasts	\$245,518
The Wetlands Initiative	\$166,497
The Xerces Society	
for Invertebrate Conservation	\$350,964
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,167,663
University of Kansas Center for Research	\$248,006
U.S. Forest Service	\$205,086
Western Association	
of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	\$120,000
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.....	\$169,796

Total Pollinator Fund Grant Awards (2015 - 2021) ... \$16.8 million
Total Grantee Matching Contributions \$27.8 million
Total Conservation Impact \$44.6 million



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed