



# NFWF

## 2016 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund Grant Slate

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### ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed

### OVERVIEW

In 2015, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) established the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund to protect, conserve and increase habitat for these iconic insects and other pollinators. Over the past 20 years, the North American monarch population has plunged from 1 billion to fewer than 60 million, due mostly to loss of critical habitat. The Fund supports efforts to increase monarch butterfly population numbers, with an ultimate goal of stabilizing the population and continuing its migratory phenomenon.

NFWF received 95 proposals, with a total request of more than \$13 million. The 22 projects chosen represent a total award amount of \$3,048,887, which will be further leveraged by \$5,961,317 in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$9,010,204. The projects address the three key strategies for the monarch butterfly: 1) habitat restoration, 2) coordination and capacity building, and 3) seed supply and availability.

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**HABITAT RESTORATION**

The following projects seek to increase the quantity and quality of monarch butterfly habitat. The goal of this work is to create and sustain a connected patchwork of monarch habitat across the species range to support the annual life cycle and migration. Emphasis is placed on restoring lands to support ample milkweed and nectar plants, securing critical sites for monarchs, and improving habitat management using best practices. In this category, \$1,981,787 in NFWF funds is being awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$6,253,822.

**1) Missourians for Monarchs: Habitat and Landowner Outreach**

Grantee: Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$249,966  
Matching Funds: ..... \$566,608  
**Total Project: ..... \$816,574**

Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation will work with multiple partners to implement on-the-ground monarch habitat restoration and disseminate training materials to landowners. Project will restore more than 434 acres of monarch habitat and will help fulfill objectives of the Missouri Monarch and Pollinator Conservation Plan.

**2) Fox Valley Monarch Corridor Restoration (IL)**

Grantee: The Conservation Foundation  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$247,942  
Matching Funds: ..... \$597,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$845,442**

The Conservation Foundation, along with a coalition of 12 public and private land conservation organizations, will create or improve 975 acres of monarch habitat along the Fox River Valley in Illinois. Project will establish and restore 10 multi-acre sites and hundreds of smaller stepping-stone sites on private properties, creating a linked patchwork of habitats for the breeding and migration of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

**3) Iowa Butterfly Flyway Conservation**

Grantee: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$150,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$170,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$320,000**

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will work with a coalition of public and private land conservation and restoration organizations to coordinate a series of restorations that span Iowa from north to south. Project will restore a minimum of 360 acres of monarch habitat and harvest 180 pounds of local ecotype seed.

**4) Restoring Midwest Monarch Habitat (IA, IL)**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Region 3  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$104,340  
Matching Funds: ..... \$395,742  
**Total Project: ..... \$500,082**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Region 3 will establish monarch and other pollinator habitat on private, easement and fee-title lands in the prairie pothole region of Minnesota and Iowa. Project will restore and enhance 440 acres with local eco-type northern tallgrass prairie seed that is rich in native milkweed and nectar plant species.

**5) Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in the Anoka Sandplain and Twin Cities Metro (MN)**

Grantee: Great River Greening  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$110,916  
Matching Funds: ..... \$830,950  
**Total Project: ..... \$941,866**

Great River Greening will conduct a series of shovel-ready restoration projects to improve monarch habitat on more than 500 acres in the greater Twin Cities areas of Minnesota. Project will enhance seed mixes and sustainable seed collections, engage the community in local work, and restore milkweed and other pollinator plants for monarch butterflies.

**6) Restoring Monarch Habitat through the People for Pollinators Program (IA)**

Grantee: Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$87,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$133,770  
**Total Project: ..... \$220,770**

Friends of Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge will recruit and train individuals and organization to establish pollinator habitat in the greater Des Moines area of Iowa. Project will restore more than 3,100 acres of pollinator habitat across more than 660 sites and propagate more than 60,000 pollinator plants.

**7) Wisconsin Driftless Area Monarch Butterfly Initiative**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$75,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$158,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$233,500**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will improve monarch butterfly habitat on private lands in the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin. Project will restore 250 acres of agricultural lands or low-diversity grasslands to high-diversity pollinator plantings consisting of native milkweeds, wildflowers and prairie grasses.



**8) Monarch Butterfly Conservation in the Mexico Migratory Route**

Grantee: Pronatura Noreste A.C.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$50,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$157,125  
**Total Project: ..... \$207,125**

Pronatura Noreste A.C. will identify critical habitat locations along the migratory monarch route by monitoring monarchs and characterizing habitat. Project will use habitat characterization to inform local habitat restoration and will establish 10 pollinator gardens.

**9) Southwest Oregon Monarch Habitat Restoration Initiative**

Grantee: Lomakatsi Restoration Project  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$193,786  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$260,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$453,786**

Lomakatsi Restoration Project will restore and enhance 300 acres of degraded monarch habitat including woodland edges, meadows, natural forest openings, riparian areas and landings/roadsides in southwestern Oregon. Project will unify monarch butterfly habitat restoration efforts in the region and expand the milkweed supply for restoration projects.

**10) Arizona State Parks and Milkweed Conservation Consortium**

Grantee: Southwest Monarch Study  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$88,950  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$93,600  
**Total Project: ..... \$182,550**

Southwest Monarch Study will expand monarch habitats in Arizona by planting seeds and seedlings of native milkweed in all 30 Arizona state parks and other Arizona locations and by training citizen scientists to monitor the plantings. Project will plant 18,000 seedlings of multiple milkweed species favored by monarchs across Arizona.

**11) Restoring Monarch Habitat in South Texas**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$249,987  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$436,686  
**Total Project: ..... \$686,673**

American Bird Conservancy will restore approximately 500 acres of degraded native grassland to high-quality monarch habitat in the core of its migratory route through south Texas. Project will increase quality, quantity and connectivity of suitable habitat for the species as well as increase

organizational coordination and capacity for monarch conservation in the region.

**12) Gulf-Houston Monarch Flyway Program (TX)**

Grantee: Houston Wilderness  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$248,900  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$285,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$533,900**

Houston Wilderness will increase monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat, improve partner capacity, and, build seed supply of regionally adapted native plants in the greater Houston area. Project will incorporate best management practices recommended by the Monarch Joint Venture to engage partners, propagate 250,000 milkweed seedlings, and support restoration on 290 acres of monarch habitat.

**13) Monarchs for Dallas Parks (TX)**

Grantee: Texas Discovery Gardens  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$125,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$186,555  
**Total Project: ..... \$311,555**

Texas Discovery Gardens will restore and establish monarch habitat on approximately 37 acres of Dallas city park lands. Project will propagate and distribute regionally appropriate milkweed and other pollinator plants to partners in support of the habitat restoration work.

**COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

The following projects will increase organizational capacity and coordination among organizations, states and regions engaged in monarch conservation. Grant funding will support work associated with monarch monitoring, milkweed seed blend production and distribution, and monarch programming to ensure efficiency and the use and sharing of best practices. In this category, \$830,184 in NFWF funds is being awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$1,893,655.

**14) Coordinating Monarch Habitat Restoration in Agricultural and Grassland Landscapes (WI)**

Grantee: Driftless Area Land Conservancy  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$241,255  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$279,995  
**Total Project: ..... \$521,250**

Driftless Area Land Conservancy will coordinate the work of more than a dozen organizations to restore and enhance monarch habitat on 1,650 acres of protected and private lands in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. Project will engage



Monarch butterfly on milkweed

130 landowners in the planting of milkweed and nectar-producing plants in core habitat areas and along dispersal corridors to augment and link similar work recently supported by Farm Bill programs.

**15) St. Croix Valley Monarch Habitat Partnership (MN, WI)**

Grantee: Friends of Crex  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$199,576  
Matching Funds: ..... \$199,595  
**Total Project: ..... \$399,171**

Friends of Crex will coordinate numerous partners to plan and implement monarch butterfly conservation on public and private lands throughout the St. Croix River watershed. Project will engage local organizations and volunteers to restore and enhance more than 939 acres and create eight acres of seed plots.

**16) Developing a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy (Multiple)**

Grantee: Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$144,750  
Matching Funds: ..... \$170,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$314,750**

Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will lead a regional and national coordination process to develop a Central Flyway Monarch Conservation Strategy for states

located along the eastern monarch migratory corridor. Project will establish common habitat and populations goals, and strategies and monitoring will be implemented at the state level.

**17) Building Capacity for Monarch Recovery among Electric Utilities (IA, IL, MN, WI)**

Grantee: Sand County Foundation  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$98,768  
Matching Funds: ..... \$170,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$268,768**

Sand County Foundation, Inc. will build capacity within the energy industry to establish high-quality monarch habitat on lands dedicated to energy infrastructure and rights-of-way. Project will incorporate cost-effective habitat restoration strategies into energy industry standards of operation and restore habitat at 400 sites.

**18) Establishing Strategic Links to Conserve the Overwintering Sites of the Monarch Butterfly (Mexico)**

Grantee: Alternare, A.C.  
NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$50,000  
Matching Funds: ..... \$50,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$100,000**

Alternare, A.C. will develop technical and organizational action plans for stakeholders involved in the management of the overwintering monarch habitat within the Monarch



Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. Project will link community action and train rural leaders to enhance protection of monarch overwintering sites.

**19) Enhancing Monarch Habitat in Agricultural Landscapes (Multiple)**

Grantee: Keystone Policy Center  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$30,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$100,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$130,000**

Keystone Policy Center will disseminate information to agricultural producers, private landowners and the public to explain the role of agriculture in monarch conservation. Project will build capacity to accelerate voluntary monarch conservation on the agricultural landscape in the 14-state eastern monarch corridor and catalyze agricultural community engagement.

**20) Building Capacity for Monarchs and Other Pollinators on U.S. Forest Service and Adjacent Lands (CA)**

Grantee: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, Mt. Pinos Ranger District  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$65,835  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$93,881  
**Total Project: ..... \$159,716**

Los Padres National Forest, Mt. Pinos Ranger District will strengthen and expand its Native Plant Pollinator-Friendly Garden Program. Project will engage new cooperators and partners through workshops and increase direct seeding and plant propagation using locally collected seed from all three native milkweed species.

**SEED SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY**

The following projects seek to ensure adequate supply of native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seed or plugs that can support habitat restoration efforts. Emphasis is given to projects that produce sustainable seed sources and increase seed affordability. In this category, \$236,915 in NFWF funds is being awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$862,726.

**21) Ecoregional Seed Program for Monarchs Across Eastern Broadleaf Forest (AR, IL, IN, MO, OH)**

Grantee: Pollinator Partnership  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$485,080  
**Total Project: ..... \$635,080**

Pollinator Partnership will establish an ecoregional seed collecting program for the Eastern Broadleaf Forest and provide technical assistance to public and private land

managers in five states. Project will collect 300 pounds of milkweed seed and propagate 9,000 seedling to support establishment of 4,700 acres of monarch habitat.

**22) Colorado Plateau Native Plant Program for Milkweed and Nectar Species (AZ, CO, NM, UT)**

Grantee: Bureau of Land Management - Rio Puerco Field Office  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$86,915  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$140,731  
**Total Project: ..... \$227,646**

Bureau of Land Management - Rio Puerco Field Office will increase seed collection of milkweed and other nectar-producing species in portions of the four corners states and will work with partners to increase commercial availability of seed and container plants. Project will produce a minimum of 12 pounds of milkweed seed and propagate more than 500 seedling plants.