



# 2015 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund Grant Slate

## NFWF CONTACT

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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 115 proposals, with a total request of more than \$19.5 million. The 22 projects chosen represent a total award amount of \$3,310,668, which will be further leveraged by \$6,691,153 in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$10,001,821. 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 projects below seek to increase the quantity and quality of monarch butterfly habitat. Emphasis will be on restoring lands so that they contain ample milkweed and nectar plants. Also important will be securing critical sites for monarchs at any migratory stage and improving habitat management using best practices. In this category, \$2,408,133 in NFWF funds was awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$6,951,721.

**1) Southernmost Monarch Waystations (TX)**

Grantee: North American Butterfly Association  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$199,271  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$239,367  
**Total Project: ..... \$438,638**

The National Butterfly Association's Center, in partnership with the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges, will create approximately 67 acres of native nectar plant and milkweed habitat across Hidalgo County, Texas; significantly increase the availability of native milkweed seeds and plants by surveying and collecting on Refuge tracts; and build capacity for new monarch habitat through stakeholder workshops and pilot projects.

**2) Western Monarch Habitat Conservation and Native Milkweed Seed Increase on U.S. Forest Service Lands (CA)**

Grantee: U.S. Forest Service-San Bernardino National Forest  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$100,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$150,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$250,000**

The U.S. Forest Service will conserve, restore and monitor restoration success of occupied and suitable western monarch habitat on the San Bernardino National Forest by protecting existing milkweed populations, propagating, out-planting, and direct seeding three local milkweed species and five nectar species. The project will impact 4,166 acres at six locations on the San Bernardino National Forest recovering from wildfire.

**3) Collaborative Restoration of Monarch Butterfly Habitat on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (WA)**

Grantee: U.S. Forest Service  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$40,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$40,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$80,000**

The U.S. Forest Service will enhance and restore approximately 500 acres of meadows and other suitable areas of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest with native milkweeds and other native nectar producing plants to provide habitat for monarch caterpillars and adults. Native

milkweed and nectar seeds will be collected, grown out at nurseries, and then out-planted in conjunction with ongoing restoration activities by forest employees and NGO and private partners.

**4) Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Partnership in the Central Flyway**

Grantee: Pheasants Forever, Inc.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$1,101,479  
**Total Project: ..... \$1,351,479**

Pheasants Forever will hire a Central Flyway coordinating wildlife biologist to facilitate 40 unique demonstration sites, habitat tours, workshops, and additional outreach events to engage private landowners in monarch conservation. The project will restore or enhance 1,060 acres of high quality monarch habitat by enrolling private and public lands into the Honey Bee and Monarch Butterfly Partnership.

**5) Kansas City Metropolitan Area Monarch Butterfly Conservation (KS, MO)**

Grantee: Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$229,868  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$236,656  
**Total Project: ..... \$466,524**

The Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City and partners will implement a series of strategically chosen, on-the-ground native habitat restorations critical for monarch butterfly conservation. The project will result in 1,400 acres of restored monarch habitat on both public and private lands, and will serve as a model regional effort to stimulate native plantings and conservation.

**6) Establish Monarch Habitat on Marginal Lands (IA)**

Grantee: Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$227,400  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$227,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$454,900**

A collaborative effort between three bureaus within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality will establish monarch habitat on 3,311 acres of privately owned land in Iowa. The project will enhance four existing programs that establish wildlife habitat on Iowa's private lands: Buffer Initiative Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Abandoned Mine Land Program, and Urban Conservation Program.



**7) Grasslands for Monarchs (MO)**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$200,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$617,786  
**Total Project: ..... \$817,786**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will restore 293 acres of cropland to wet-mesic bottomland prairie at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge and 40 acres of grassland will be enhanced at Squaw Creek National Refuge to benefit monarchs and other pollinators. In addition to restoration, the project will conduct habitat practices on private lands including field preparation, and facilitate local seed collection for monarch habitat restorations.

**8) Grazing Lands as Monarch Habitat (KS)**

Grantee: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Inc.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$125,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$521,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$646,000**

The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition will work with private landowners and managers to develop conservation plans to benefit monarch butterflies on grazing lands. The project will result in 12,000 acres of improved or created habitat for the monarch butterfly by restoring and enhancing native mixed-grass and tallgrass ecosystem functions, improved rangeland health on private working lands through invasive species control, proper grazing management, prescribed fire, native grassland and forb planting, and other beneficial rangeland management practices.

**9) Driftless Area Monarch Habitat Restoration and Education (IL)**

Grantee: Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, Inc.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$83,640  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$94,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$177,640**

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation will restore and maintain 94 acres of monarch habitat on protected conservation lands in the milkweed restoration corridor. The project will also conduct outreach and education to local and regional landowners to help establish additional acres of monarch habitat on private lands.

**10) Monarch Butterfly Flyways (IA)**

Grantee: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$249,999  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$400,000  
**Total Project: ..... \$649,999**

A coalition of public and private land conservation and restoration organizations will create or improve monarch habitat on over 7,000 acres along two major north-south migration corridors. Project activities will establish, expand, restore, diversify and manage ten 80-acre core monarch and pollinator sites and 100-125 satellite sites. The project will result in large blocks for monarchs and pollinators and smaller stepping stone satellite habitats to connect core areas for both breeding and migration.

**11) The St. Louis Riverfront Butterfly Byway: Milkweeds for Monarchs (MO)**

Grantee: City of St. Louis  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$154,500  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$154,500  
**Total Project: ..... \$309,000**

The City of St. Louis will create urban monarch butterfly habitat within a 19 mile pollinator pathway along the Mississippi River. Building on the successes of Milkweeds for Monarchs: The St. Louis Butterfly Project, the St. Louis Riverfront Butterfly Byway will bring together local, state and federal partners to establish monarch habitat, build capacity through volunteer stewardship and staffing additions, improve the seed supply of native milkweed, conduct community outreach and engagement, and serve as a national model for urban monarch conservation ecology.

**12) Dunn Ranch and Pawnee Prairie Restoration, Enhancement, and Maintenance (MO)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$104,154  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$188,922  
**Total Project: ..... \$293,076**

The Nature Conservancy will restore 75 acres, enhance 960 acres, and maintain 3,860 acres of prairie habitat at Dunn Ranch and Pawnee Prairies within the Grand River Grasslands of northern Missouri. The project will also result in the harvest, cleaning, and planting more than 1,000 pounds of milkweed and nectar seed on 1,035 acres.

**13) Enhancing Monarch Butterfly Habitat in the Hiawatha National Forest (MI)**

Grantee: Superior Watershed Partnership  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$59,321  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$60,175  
**Total Project: ..... \$119,496**

The Superior Watershed Partnership, in cooperation with the Hiawatha National Forest and other project partners, will restore monarch habitat in the Central Upper Peninsula of

Michigan through non-native invasive species removal on 83 acres, planting 26,000 native milkweed and nectar plants, and the harvest of 50 pounds of native plant seeds. The project will improve peninsulas and open coastal sites along the Upper Peninsula’s primary migratory flyway.

**14) Restoration of Pollinator Habitat along the Cowboy Trail (NE)**

Grantee: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$140,900  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$151,098  
**Total Project: ..... \$291,998**

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and partners will restore 140 acres of low quality grasslands adjacent to the Cowboy Trail to high quality monarch habitat. The project will collaborate multiple monarch conservation groups and organizations, facilitate workshops for plug planting, and maintain and monitor the additional habitat acreage.

**15) Restoring Habitat for Monarch Butterflies on Public and Private Lands in Texas**

Grantee: Parks and Wildlife Foundation of Texas, Inc.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$244,080  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$361,105  
**Total Project: ..... \$605,185**

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) biologists will enhance or restore 14,910 acres of habitat for monarch butterflies within the monarch’s migratory flight path through Texas. Restoration will occur on 160 acres of public land on five wildlife management areas and 14,750 acres of private land through a partnership with the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Grassland Restoration Incentive Program.



Monarch butterfly on milkweed

**COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Projects listed below seek to increase organizational capacity and coordination among organizations, states and regions engaged in monarch conservation and monitoring, milkweed seed blend production and distribution, and monarch programming to ensure efficiency and the use and sharing of best practices. In this category, \$354,181 in NFWF funds was awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$1,306,535.

**16) Filling Information Gaps and Developing Best Management Practices to Sustain Monarchs on Public Lands in the West**

Grantee: The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$104,181  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$105,091  
**Total Project: ..... \$209,272**

The Xerces Society will build the capacity of public land managers to implement conservation practices that benefit the western population of monarch butterflies by accounting for current management practices and addressing information gaps on the distribution and management of milkweed. The project will develop best management practices for monarch conservation on public lands and disseminate recommendations through workshops and distribution of the resulting document, reaching more than 3,000 individuals to improve 250,000 acres of publicly managed lands.

**17) Coordinating Restoration of Professionally Managed Lands, Rights-of-Way, and Agricultural Lands (IL)**

Grantee: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$230,208  
**Total Project: ..... \$305,208**

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois will facilitate collaboration for the installation of monarch-friendly plantings on college and university campuses, conduct habitat monitoring and support habitat restoration projects on critical landscapes, develop and maintaining a habitat database for new projects installed across the restoration corridor, facilitate the Rights-of-Way as Habitat Working Group to promote habitat restoration by utilities and transportation authorities across the Midwest, and facilitate the Agricultural Habitat Working Group to promote monarch conservation on rural landscapes in Illinois.



**18) Coordinating Conservation Plans for Monarch Recovery in Mid-America (TX)**

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$75,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$303,542  
**Total Project: ..... \$378,542**

National Wildlife Federation will work with networks of state, federal and tribal governments, NGOs, industry and academia to facilitate the development of a regional monarch conservation plan and strategy. The project will result in conservation actions to positively impact the monarch butterfly in the central flyway.

**19) Arizona Monarch Conservation Partnership**

Grantee: Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Inc.  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$100,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$313,513  
**Total Project: ..... \$413,513**

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum will facilitate the creation of the Arizona Monarch Conservation Partnership as a network of government agencies, NGOs, universities and citizen-scientists to advance monarch butterfly conservation in its western range in Arizona with activities that will include Asclepias surveys, seed collection, increasing Asclepias seed availability and density, native plant propagation and habitat improvement, monarch adult and immature monitoring in breeding areas, and tagging monarchs to determine migration flyways.

**SEED SUPPLY AND AVAILABILITY**

The projects listed below seek to ensure adequate supply of native milkweed and nectar-producing plant seed or plugs. In this category, \$548,354 in NFWF funds was awarded, for a total on-the-ground impact of \$1,743,565.

**20) Southern Nevada Milkweed Mapping, Seed Production and Distribution Project**

Grantee: Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$135,347  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$164,306  
**Total Project: ..... \$299,653**

The Friends of Red Rock Canyon will locate, map, and collect seeds of native milkweed on federal and state partner lands in Southern Nevada, with a portion of the collected seeds contributed to the Bureau of Land Management Seeds of Success Program and planted on federal and state partner lands. The project will also increase seed availability for planting on private lands through Partners for Fish and Wildlife.

**21) Seed Banks and Seed Mixes for Marginal Lands (IA)**

Grantee: Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$165,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$751,758  
**Total Project: ..... \$916,758**

The Resource Conservation and Development for Northeast Iowa will establish over 400 acres of seed banks on public lands adjacent to roadways in nine counties to develop regionally adapted native seed supplies that will be used to enhance or create monarch habitat on thousands of acres of public land in county parks and roadsides. Partners will also enhance Conservation Reserve Program seed mixes with milkweed and nectar seed for plantings on 10,000 acres of agricultural lands.

**22) Building Tribal Capacity for Monarch Habitat Restoration (OK)**

Grantee: University of Kansas Center for Research  
 NFWF Award Amount: ..... \$248,007  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$279,147  
**Total Project: ..... \$527,154**

The University of Kansas Center for Research will coordinate with seven Native American tribes in eastern Oklahoma to increase capacity to restore monarch habitats on tribal lands. The project will provide the training needed to plant donated milkweed plugs, to collect, process, store, and propagate seeds of milkweeds and native forbs, and will include the establishment of seed production plots, creation of demonstration plots and the development of conservation plans, including site selection and preparation, as well as long term maintenance of restored properties.