



# MONARCH CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT WITH ASSURANCES (CCAA)

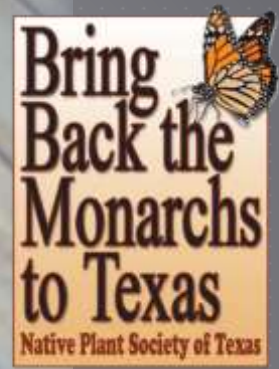
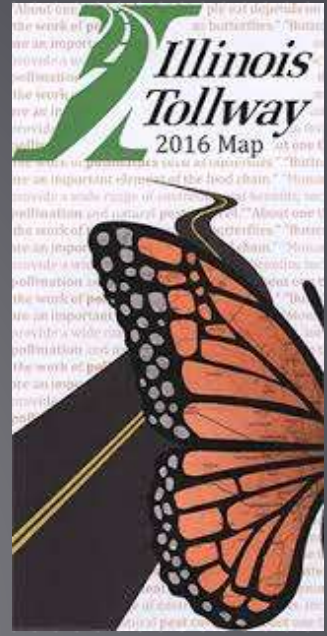
April 10, 2018

Kris Gade, PhD  
Arizona DOT

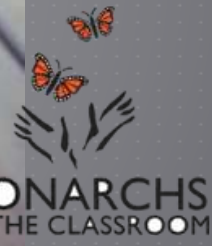
Stephanie Dobbs  
Illinois DOT

Iris Caldwell, P.E.  
University of Illinois-Chicago





**BUTTERFLY HEROES**

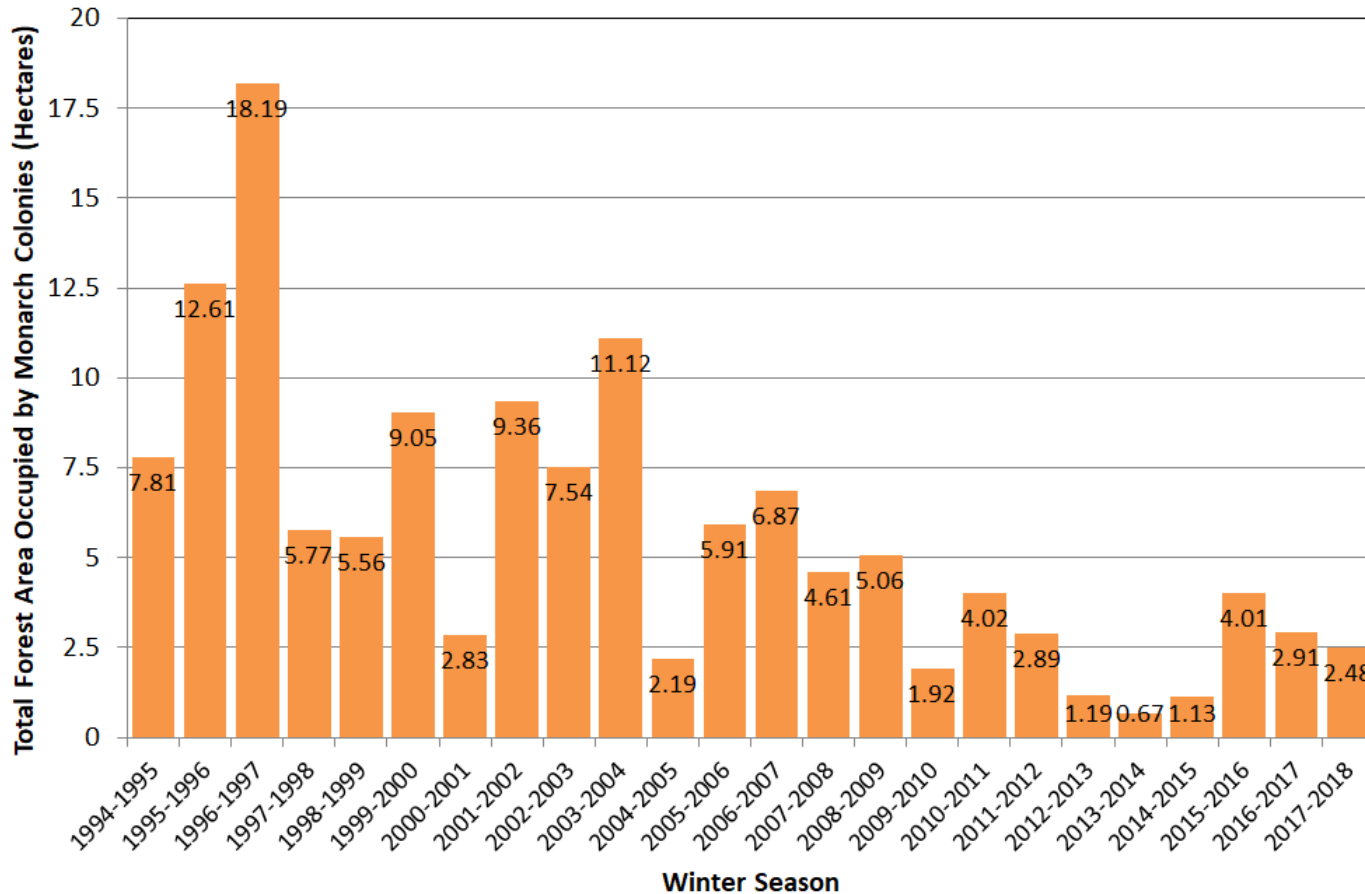


**FARMERS FOR MONARCHS**



# POPULATION DECLINES (EAST)

Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies At Overwintering Sites in Mexico  
1994/1995 - 2017-2018



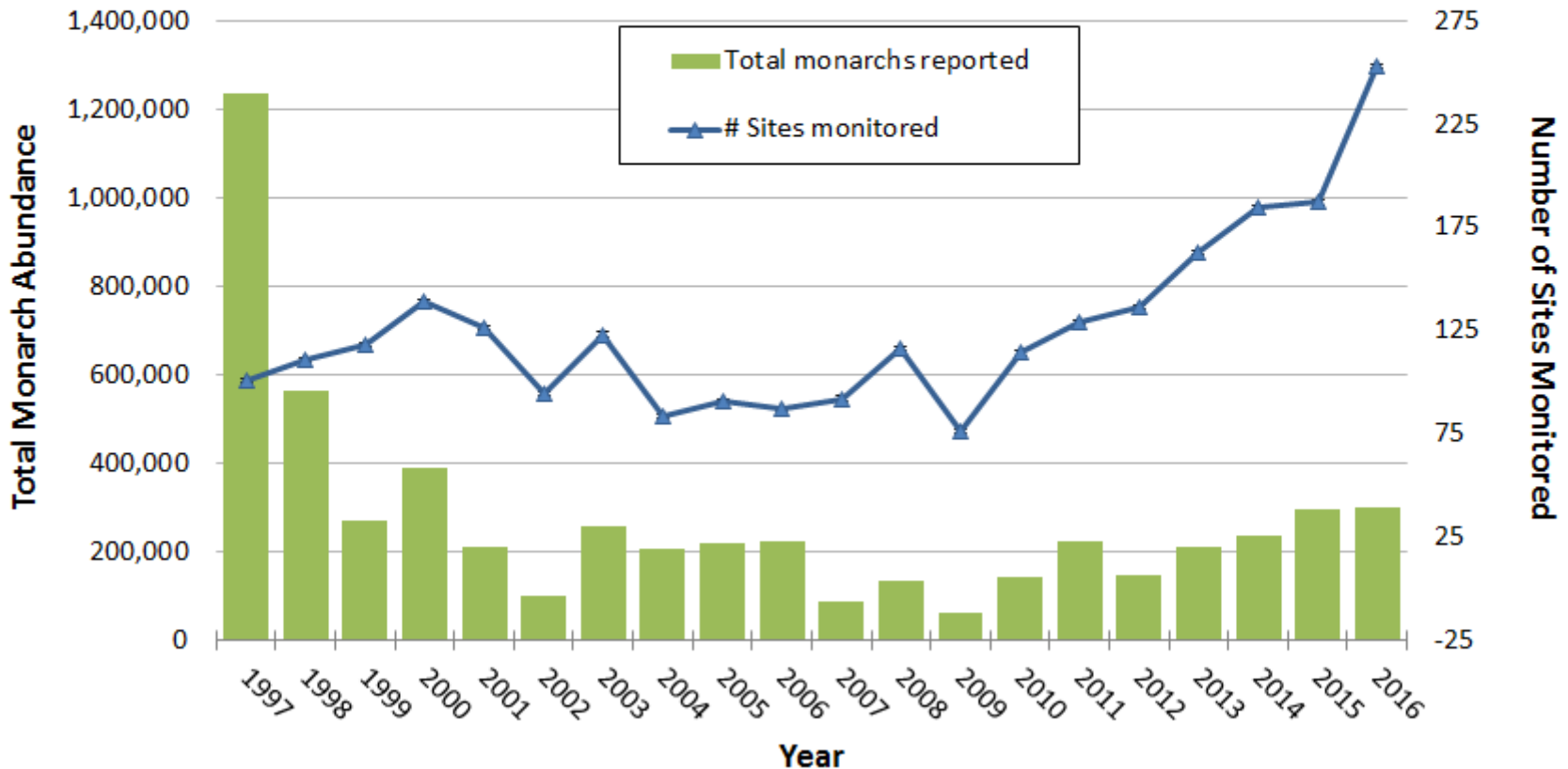
Data from 1994-2003 were collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data from 2004-2018 were collected by the WWF-Telcel Alliance, in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR. 2000-01 population number as reported by Garcia-Serrano et. al (The Monarch Butterfly : Biology and Conservation, 2004)

# POPULATION DECLINES (WEST)

## Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count

Total Abundance Estimates w/ Number of Sites Monitored  
from 1997-2016  
(Monroe *et al.* 2017)

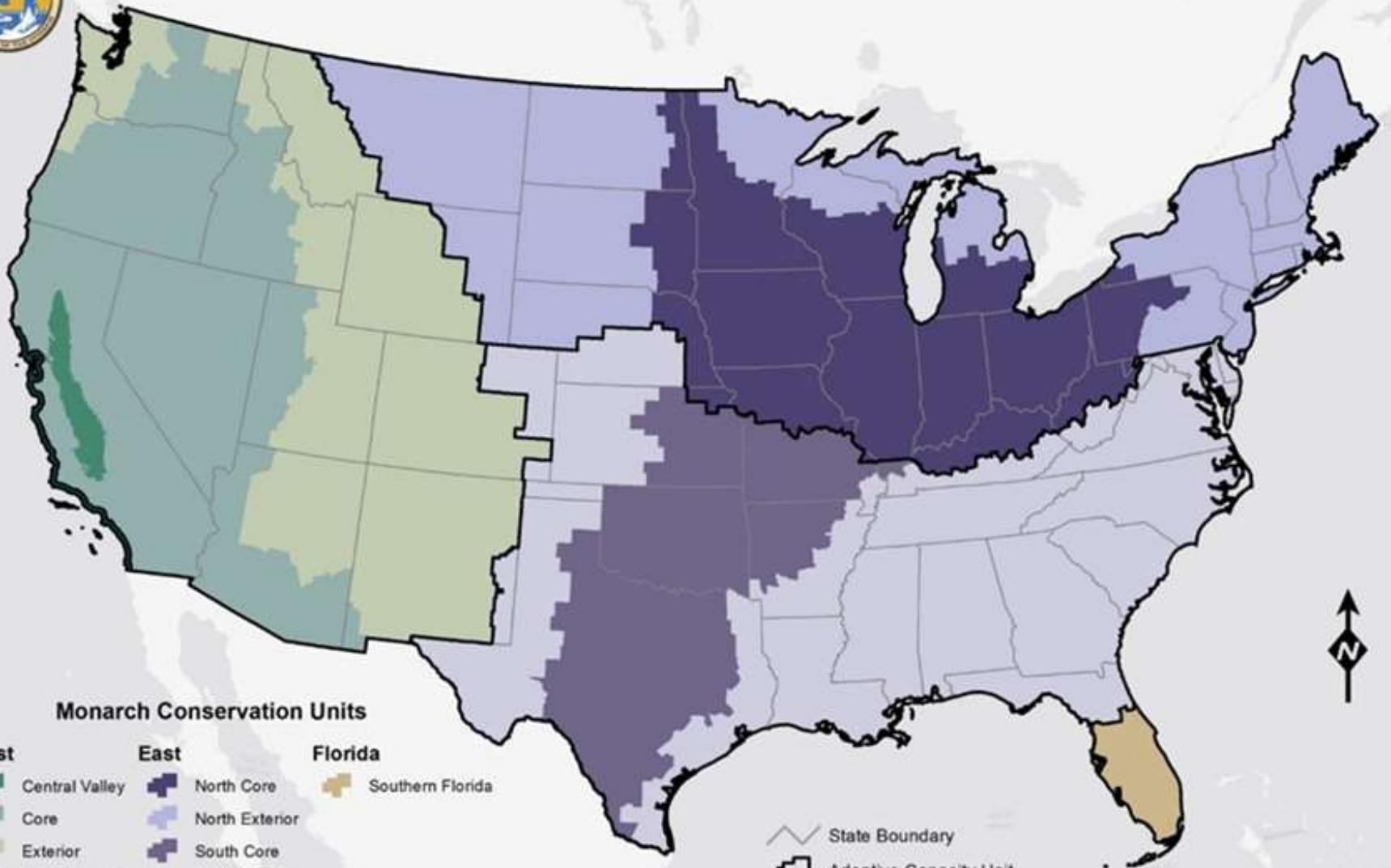
© The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation 2017







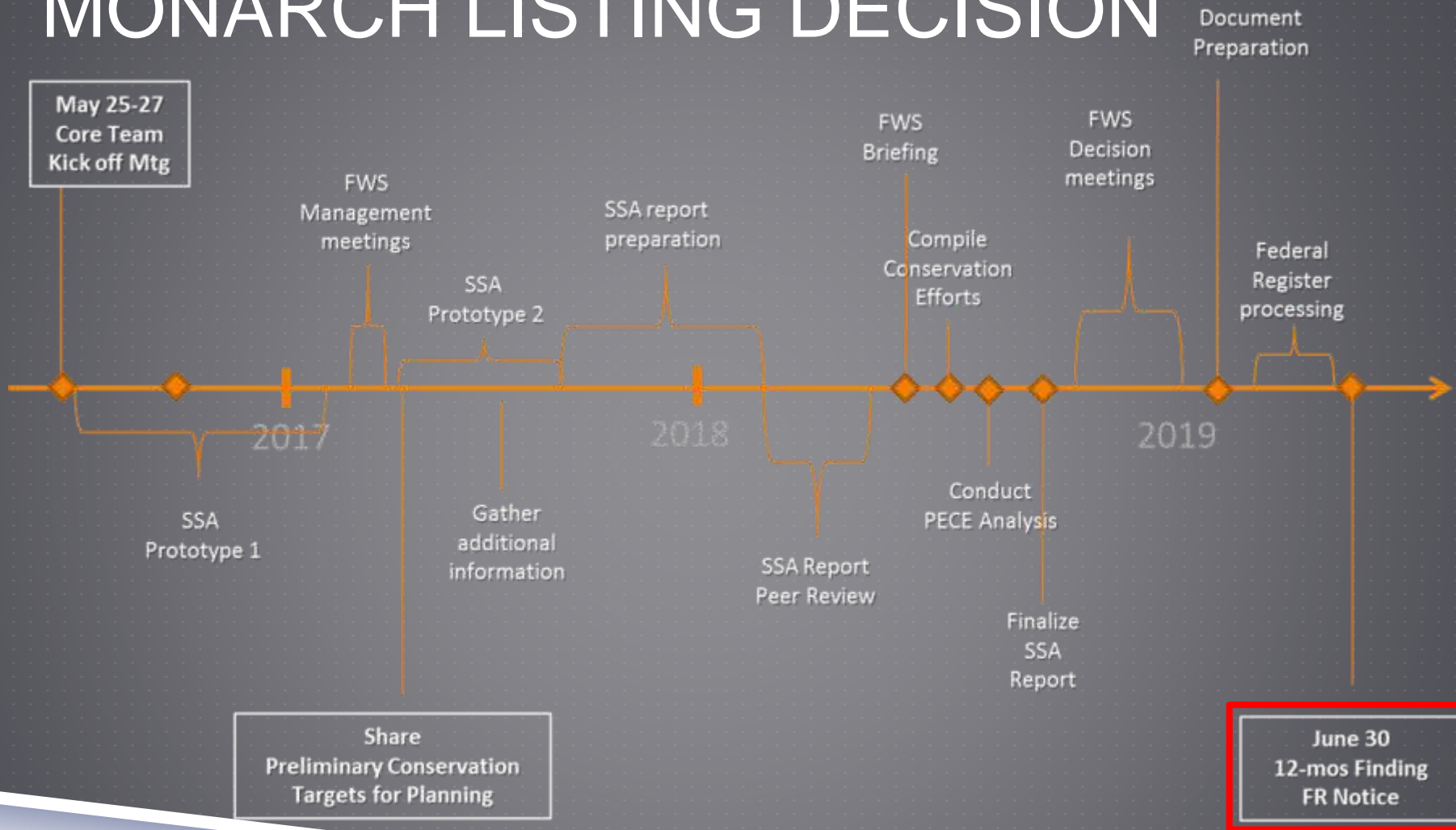
# Monarch Butterfly Conservation Units in the U.S.



0 100 200 400 Miles

MEXICO

# MONARCH LISTING DECISION



# RIGHTS-OF-WAY AS HABITAT WG



Engaging diverse stakeholders in a collaborative environment that promotes pollinator habitats and healthy ecosystems along rights-of-way by providing expertise, cost-effective best management practices, and industry-driven tools and resources.



# WHAT ARE CCAAs?

- ▶ Voluntary agreements with non-Federal property owners designed to address concerns about providing conservation for a species that in the future may be listed
- ▶ CCAA must provide net conservation benefit to covered species and address all *key* threats under property owners' control (manageable threats)
- ▶ USFWS assures that no additional conservation measures or restrictions (beyond those described in the CCAA) will be required if the species becomes listed





# BENEFITS OF CCAA

- ▶ Documents industry contributions
- ▶ Flexible mechanism with broad application across industries
- ▶ Regulatory certainty
- ▶ Reduce impacts to project schedules
- ▶ Possibly precludes listing of monarch

## Collaborative Approach

- ▶ Reduces redundancy of efforts/cost
- ▶ Improves quality and streamlines CCAA process
- ▶ Partnership value for all parties (USFWS, industry, etc.)

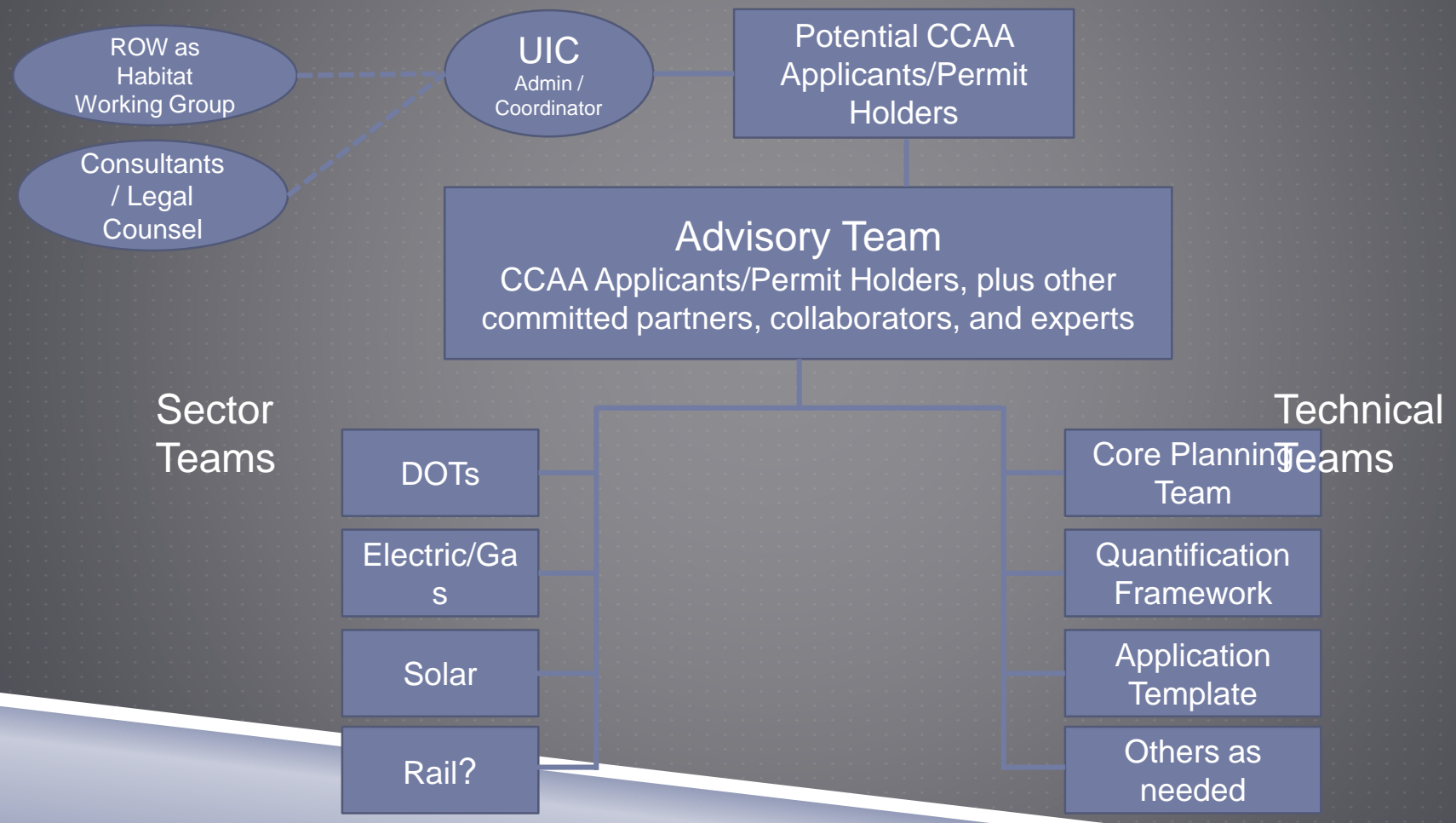


# MONARCH CCAA

- ▶ Formed CCAA Task Force
- ▶ Started working with USFWS in earnest in September 2017
- ▶ Established Joint Fund at UIC in January 2018
- ▶ More than 20 committed partners to date
- ▶ Initially proceeding with umbrella approach



# CCAA TASK FORCE







# CCAA APPROACH

## Proposed Timeline

					Phase 1. Draft CCAA/EA Preparation												Phase 2. CCAA/EA Finalization						Phase 3. Application Period											
Task #	Task Name	Task Lead	Start	Finish	2018												2019						2020											
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1	Call for Participation	ERC	12/18/2017	1/15/2018	■																													
2	Impacts/Benefits Quantification	Task Force	2/1/2018	6/20/2018	■																													
3	Draft CCAA and EA Preparation	Task Force	5/1/2018	11/16/2018	■																													
4	Review and Preparation of Final CCAA and EA	USFWS, with Task Force	11/16/2018	3/29/2019													■																	
5	Publication of Final CCAA and EA	USFWS	4/1/2019	6/28/2019													■																	
6	Listing Decision (Anticipated) for Monarch	USFWS	6/3/2019	6/28/2019													Listing Decision Anticipated On/ Around June 2019 ■																	
7	Partner Applications Under CCAA	Partners	7/1/2019	6/30/2020																			■											
8	Final Application Deadline / Effective Listing Date	USFWS	7/1/2020	7/31/2020																			Effective Listing Date Anticipated On/Around July 2020 ■											



# RECENT ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Draft bylaws and partnership objectives
- ▶ Dedicated USFWS staff
- ▶ Detailed work breakdown structures
- ▶ Work with Sector Teams
- ▶ Draft quantification framework



# DOT SECTOR TEAM

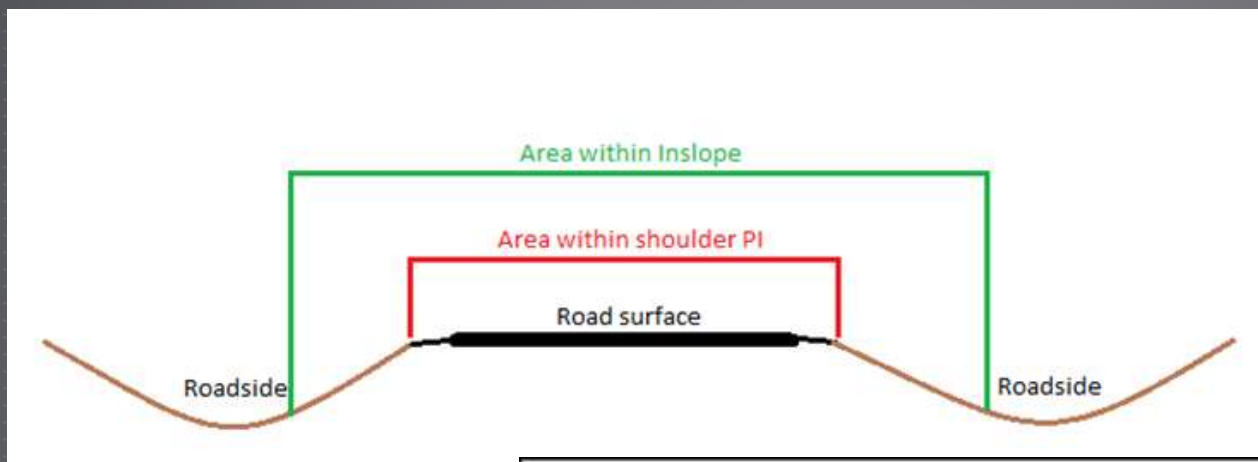
## Co-Chairs:

- ▶ Kris Gade – Arizona Department of Transportation
- ▶ Chris Smith – Minnesota Department of Transportation
- ▶ DOTs currently participating:
  - Arizona
  - Arkansas
  - Colorado
  - Delaware
  - Illinois
  - Iowa
  - Minnesota
  - Ohio

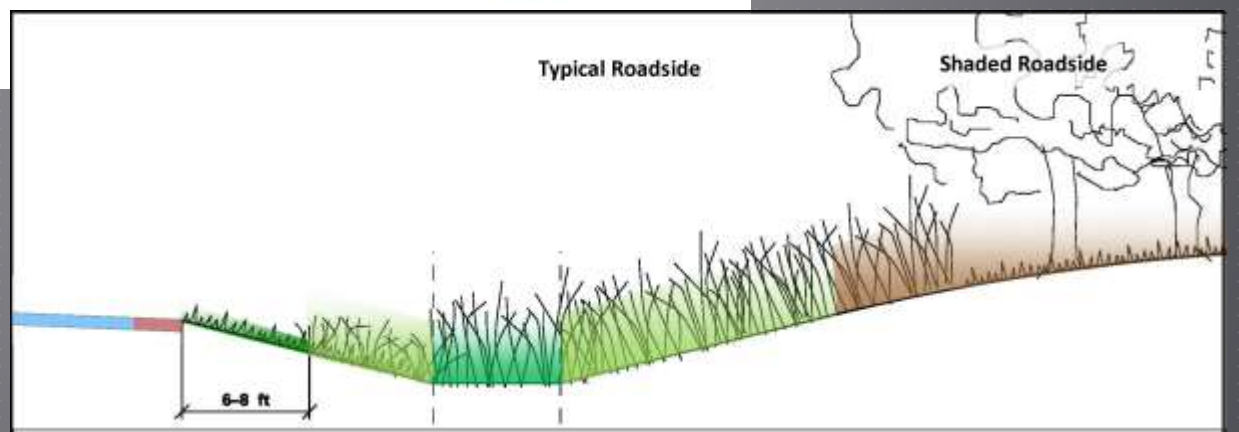


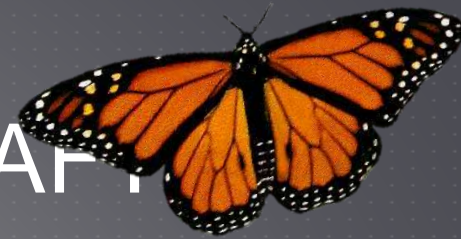


# ROAD ZONES – DRAFT



Add clear zone?





# COVERED ACTIVITIES – DRAFT

## ▶ Conservation Measures

- ▶ any vegetation management activity within the existing road ROW that maintains, restores, or enhances roadside vegetation and promotes establishment of milkweeds and other floral resources

## ▶ Activities within Inslope or Little to No Impact

- ▶ any construction, maintenance, routine maintenance, or other permitted activity that occurs completely within the inslope

## ▶ Activities with Temporary Impacts/No Net Loss

- ▶ any minor construction activity beyond the inslope, but within the existing ROW, if a) no milkweed is present within the activity area, or b) there will be no permanent loss of suitable monarch habitat. If there is temporary loss of habitat, habitat will be enhanced beyond pre-existing conditions through the establishment of native vegetation (including milkweed and other floral resources).

## ▶ Activities with Temporary Impacts/Minor Loss

- ▶ Includes modernization and minor construction projects, which may occur beyond the inslope, but within the existing ROW. Overall habitat losses will be assessed against the benefits of other conservation measures implemented, and **allowable thresholds defined** (TBD) for these activities.

# ROAD CONSERVATION MEASURES – DRAFT

Threat	Activity	Conservation Measures
Lack of Habitat and Nectar Resources (General)	Increase milkweed and blooming nectar plants	Plant native seed or plants
		Mow following recommended practices for monarchs (frequency, season)
		Spot spray invasive/noxious weeds
		Prescribed fire
Loss of Habitat and Nectar Resources (Mowing Practices)	Mitigate negative impacts of mowing on habitat and nectar resources	Woody cover removal with seasonal restrictions
		Implement pollinator mowing plan outside inslope or clear zone
Loss of Habitat and Nectar Resources (Herbicides)	Mitigate negative impacts of herbicide use on habitat and nectar resources	Mow or hay full ROW no more than every 3 years
		Implement herbicide BMPs – to be defined







# HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- ▶ Identify your organization's interest / capacity to participate
  - ▶ Direct funding and/or
  - ▶ In-kind resources/expertise on sector or technical teams
- ▶ Prepare letter of commitment and submit to UIC
- ▶ Ongoing effort but advantage to being at the table early



# BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- ▶ Provides potential justification to not list the monarch under the ESA
- ▶ If monarch is listed, participation in the CCAA provides certainty that
  - ▶ Regular maintenance activities can continue without additional coordination with USFWS
  - ▶ State-funded minor construction can continue
  - ▶ Approach for Section 7 consultations will be established for ROW projects
- ▶ Collaborative approach is less expensive and more efficient than pursuing a separate agreement – and much better likelihood that it will be completed with USFWS in time



# CONTACTS

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