

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1983

To encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Monarch Action, Re-
5 covery, and Conservation of Habitat Act of 2021” or the
6 “MONARCH Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the population of western monarch butter-
4 flies is at imminent risk of extinction;

5 (2) over the past 3 decades, the population of
6 western monarch butterflies has declined by more
7 than 99 percent due to prolonged drought, loss of
8 milkweed and native pollinator habitat, loss of breed-
9 ing and overwintering habitat, and climate change;

10 (3) in 2020, the population of western monarch
11 butterflies reached a new historic low of 1,914 but-
12 terflies, falling below the predicted extinction thresh-
13 old for the third year in a row;

14 (4) the extinction of the population of migra-
15 tory western monarch butterflies is now likely to
16 occur within the next 2 decades if urgent action is
17 not taken;

18 (5) actively restoring native milkweed and nec-
19 tar plants, monarch overwintering habitat, and other
20 pollinator habitat, and ensuring that key habitats
21 are protected from destruction, are critical to ensur-
22 ing the survival of western monarch butterflies and
23 can also help facilitate conservation of other essen-
24 tial pollinators; and

1 (6) enhancing pollinator populations can result
2 in improved pollination services for neighboring land,
3 including agriculture and wildlife ecosystems.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) CONSERVATION.—The term “conservation”
7 means the use of each method or procedure nec-
8 essary to protect habitats of western monarch but-
9 terflies, including—

10 (A) the protection, restoration, and man-
11 agement of overwintering, breeding, and migra-
12 tory habitats;

13 (B) assistance in the development and im-
14 plementation of national, regional, State, and
15 local conservation and management plans; and

16 (C) community outreach and education.

17 (2) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the West-
18 ern Monarch Butterfly Rescue Fund established by
19 section 5(a).

20 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (4) WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY.—The
23 term “western monarch butterfly” means the mon-
24 arch butterfly population that overwinters along the
25 coast of the State of California and breeds across

1 the States of California, Arizona, Nevada, Wash-
2 ington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

3 **SEC. 4. WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION**
4 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
6 funds and in consultation with other relevant Federal
7 agencies, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to
8 provide grants for projects for the conservation of western
9 monarch butterflies for which project proposals are ap-
10 proved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

11 (b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

12 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity that is eli-
13 gible to receive a grant for a project under this sec-
14 tion is—

15 (A) a relevant local or Tribal government
16 agency, research institution, or nonprofit orga-
17 nization with expertise required for the con-
18 servation of western monarch butterflies; and

19 (B) any other entity, as determined appro-
20 priate by the Secretary, with the expertise re-
21 quired for the conservation of western monarch
22 butterflies.

23 (2) FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.—
24 A State or Federal agency—

1 (A) may not be a lead entity or receive a
2 grant for a project under this section; but

3 (B) may be included as a partner or col-
4 laborator on a project that receives a grant
5 under this section.

6 (3) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A proposal for a
7 project under this section shall include—

8 (A) a statement of the purposes of the
9 project;

10 (B) the name of the entity with overall re-
11 sponsibility for the project;

12 (C) a description of—

13 (i) the qualifications of the entity that
14 will conduct the project;

15 (ii) methods for project implementa-
16 tion and outcome assessment; and

17 (iii) anticipated outcomes;

18 (D) assurances that the project will be im-
19 plemented in consultation with relevant wildlife
20 management authorities, Indian Tribes, and
21 other appropriate local government, State gov-
22 ernment, and Federal Government agencies;

23 (E) assurances that the conservation ef-
24 forts outlined in the proposal do not conflict
25 with food safety measures or practices;

1 (F) information that demonstrates the
2 clear potential of the project to contribute to
3 the conservation and recovery of western mon-
4 arch butterflies; and

5 (G) such other information as the Sec-
6 retary may require.

7 (c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Sec-
8 retary shall annually—

9 (1) solicit project proposals for funding under
10 this section; and

11 (2) review each proposal described in paragraph
12 (1) on a timeline that recognizes the urgency of the
13 declining number of western monarch butterflies to
14 determine whether the proposal meets the criteria
15 specified in subsection (d).

16 (d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may
17 approve a project proposal under this section if the pro-
18 posal demonstrates a likelihood that the project will con-
19 tribute to the conservation of western monarch butterfly
20 populations in the wild.

21 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
22 provide technical assistance for a project that receives a
23 grant under this section.

24 (f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a
2 grant for a project under this section shall submit
3 to the Secretary, at such intervals as the Secretary
4 may require, reports that include any information
5 that the Secretary determines is necessary to evalu-
6 ate the progress and success of the project for the
7 purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing prob-
8 lems, and fostering improvements.

9 (2) AVAILABILITY TO STATE LEGISLATURES.—
10 Each entity that receives a grant for a project under
11 this section shall submit each report under para-
12 graph (1) to the State legislature of the State in
13 which the project is conducted.

14 (3) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—The Sec-
15 retary shall make available to the public, in a timely
16 manner—

17 (A) each report submitted under para-
18 graph (1); and

19 (B) any other documents relating to
20 projects for which a grant is provided under
21 this section.

22 **SEC. 5. WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY RESCUE FUND.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
24 Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the
25 “Western Monarch Butterfly Rescue Fund”.

1 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts
2 available in the Fund for each fiscal year, the Secretary
3 may expend not more than 3 percent to pay the adminis-
4 trative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

5 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$12,500,000
7 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

8 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN MONARCH**
9 **BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION PLAN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an
11 agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Founda-
12 tion pursuant to the National Fish and Wildlife Founda-
13 tion Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) to facili-
14 tate the implementation of the Western Monarch Butterfly
15 Conservation Plan prepared by the Western Association
16 of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and dated January 2019.

17 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 10(a) of the National
18 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16
19 U.S.C. 3709(a)) shall not apply with respect to—

20 (1) the agreement entered into under subsection

21 (a); or

22 (2) amounts made available to carry out this
23 section.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
25 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary

1 \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026
2 to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Not later than January 31 of each year, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit to Congress a report describing the
6 status of western monarch butterflies, including, with re-
7 spect to the year for which the report is submitted—

8 (1) a summary of the projects for which the
9 Secretary has provided funding under section 4 and
10 an evaluation of those projects; and

11 (2) a summary of the projects for which the
12 Secretary has provided funding through the Western
13 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan prepared by
14 the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agen-
15 cies and dated January 2019.

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