



Resolution 2014-01-04

SUPPORT FOR THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

WHEREAS, the migration of monarch butterflies in North America to overwintering sites in Mexico and California are among the most spectacular and unusual of the world's natural events; and

WHEREAS, monarchs depend upon a wide range of habitats in Canada, the United States and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, habitat loss and degradation pose threats to both the eastern and western migratory populations of North American monarchs throughout their annual cycle of breeding, migration and overwintering; and

WHEREAS, the overwintering population of monarchs at the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Mexico covered only 1.7 acres this last winter, the lowest population index over the last 20 years; and

WHEREAS, state and federal land management agencies manage lands throughout the monarch's flyway which may provide a unique opportunity for wildlife habitat management practices to be enhanced to provide benefits to monarchs and other species; and

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly maybe the most well-known butterfly in the world, studied by thousands of school children, monitored by thousands of citizen scientists and supported by people across the United States; and

WHEREAS, State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Federal agencies, and partners have a history of effectively developing plans to address continental conservation issues through joint plans and efforts, such as the North American Waterfowl Management plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports voluntary and incentive-based efforts to address threats of loss, fragmentation and modification of monarch breeding habitat including a better understanding of monarch host plants and how land use practices affect the distribution and abundance of numerous milkweed species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that voluntary land use practices that support monarch breeding habitat should be encouraged among State and Provincial members, Federal land managers, private conservation groups, agricultural conservation agencies, and public and private landowners and that a continental approach within the context of the annual life-cycle needs of the monarch butterfly is encouraged, which could take the form of tri-lateral plans or other efforts at a North American continental scale.