XX Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
San Diego, CA, U.S.A
April 13-16, 2015

WORK TABLE: Ecosystem Conservation

Co-Chairs: Jeff Rupert, Chief, Division of Natural Resources, Conservation Policy, National Wildlife Refuge System, DOI/USFWS, USA; Margarita Caso, INECC, México; and Sue Milburn-Hopwood, CWS, Canada.

Development of ECWT Agenda

This year's agenda was developed based on the following criteria. Special consideration was given to maximizing opportunities for participation of other federal agencies and non-government organizations.

Executive Table Priorities 2014-2015

- Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation
- Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships
- Wildlife Trafficking
- Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Additional ECWT Priorities for 2014-2015

- Ecosystem services provided by protected areas (marine and terrestrial) and natural systems
- Invasive species (terrestrial, aquatic, and marine)

Monday, April 13, 2015
Room: Cortez 1B

9:00 am
AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda & Approve Action Items Report

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Jeff Rupert (USFWS), Margarita Caso (INECC); Sue Milburn-Hopwood, (CWS)

DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approve and adopt the agenda. Report on major accomplishments or challenges from AIR and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation. AIRs are used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Tables review AIRs at the beginning of each meeting.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda
- Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items

SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

9:10 am
AGENDA ITEM 2: Training for Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (MFCN).

DESCRIPTION: *"Training for Conservation/Formando para la Conservacion."* One of CONANP´s main strengths is its human capital –two thousand people working as a whole are responsible for ensuring the processes for conservation and sustainable development of Mexico's Natural Protected Areas (NPAs). Of these 2,000 people, 500 are park rangers that are in the trenches of the conservation as they are the first contact with the visitors and the communities that live in and around NPAs. Their responsibilities range from species monitoring, patrolling, conflict negotiation, and environmental education, to responding to forest fires, landfills, accidents and environmental crimes. Despite their important role, the level of knowledge, experience and training varies widely among park rangers. The *"Training for Conservation"* program was created with the purpose of strengthening the technical and professional capacities of the park rangers of CONANP. In 2013-2014, *"Training for Conservation"* delivered 8 5-day training workshops for 200 park rangers representing 106 NPAs managed by CONANP. Topics taught included biodiversity conservation, basic monitoring, ecosystem services, and conflict resolution and facilitation. The lessons learned during the workshops were synthesized in the First National Meeting of Park Rangers, where for the first time in the history of CONANP, the park rangers across the country had the opportunity to share experiences, express their opinions, and meet their peers. This presentation will provide a summary of the methodology implemented, activities supported, lessons learned and outcomes of the first phase of the project, and will share information on the activities planned in 2015.

BACKGROUND: The primary obstacle identified by Mexico to properly manage natural protected areas is the lack of trained personnel. In response, the USFWS, together with CONANP and the MFCN developed a program for conservation professionals in Mexico to gain training and expertise in critical protected area management issues. In 2012, *Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico* launched "*Training for Conservation*" with the goal of training 500 CONANP park rangers, with a focus on new employees, to manage Mexico's protected areas that are vital for the conservation of ecosystems and the survival of wildlife in Mexico. The curriculum for

the program has been developed by CONANP field-based staff as a result of a comprehensive survey to identify the most pressing needs and issues limiting this agency's ability to effectively manage protected areas. The training accounts for differences in age, academic level, and working conditions. To reach the largest number of trainees, the program has an online component, while maintaining a strong presence in the field. The innovative training is university-certified so trainees can apply credits toward their professional advancement. As of today, an impressive 200 park rangers have been trained while improving the management of 106 natural protected areas vital for the conservation of wildlife in Mexico.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Information sharing.
- To informed Trilateral Committee about the results and the impacts of the program.

SUBMITTED BY: Margarita Caso, MX co-chair

9:30 am

AGENDA ITEM 3: 20 years of WWB-Mexico Program: Development of a New Strategic Framework under Current Mexican Conservation Priorities

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: INECC and USFWS (Amanda Gonzales)

DESCRIPTION: In 2014, the WWB-Mexico program started working on its new strategic framework to guide its work for the following 5 years. A short summary of the most relevant results of the program in the last 20 years will be presented, as well as, the outcomes generated by CONABIO, CONANP, DGVS, PROFEPA, and INECC during the two strategic planning workshops held in Mexico City since November of 2014,where priority items and areas of interest for the Government of Mexico were established.

BACKGROUND: WWB-Mexico builds human and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and management through training. The program provides small grants by partnering with key stakeholders from government agencies, private sector, universities, schools, NGOs, indigenous and peasant farmers organizations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We would like to show the priorities and interested areas for Mexico to obtain feedback about the further actions from the changes.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Dr. Margarita Caso Chávez

SUBMITTED BY: INECC

10:00-10:15 am BREAK

Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships

10:15 am

AGENDA ITEM 4: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs): Trans-Boundary Projects

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Landscape Conservation Cooperative Network (http://lccnetwork.org/).

DESCRIPTION: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) use a collaborative approach to identify landscape scale conservation solutions that address climate change and other landscape scale issues in North America. LCCs form a network of resource managers and scientists who work across jurisdictional and political boundaries to: meet unfilled conservation needs, develop decision support tools, share data and knowledge, and facilitate and foster partnerships. LCCs are developing landscape conservation designs to achieve the vision of an ecologically connected network of landscapes and seascapes. Several trans-boundary LCCs are engaged in landscape conservation projects and design initiatives that cross the international borders between the U.S. and Canada and the U.S. and Mexico. This presentation will be a summary of trans-boundary projects and initiatives to increase awareness and highlight opportunities for collaboration. For example, the Great Northern LCC funded a project to identify specific wildlife linkage locations for multiple wildlife species in the Rocky Mountains of the US and trans-boundary areas of Canada; and the Desert LCC recently funded a project to integrate water delivery data and models in a rapid, unified manner to assist decision makers in considering the results achieved under Minute 319 for restoring ecological health to the Colorado River Delta.

BACKGROUND: Protecting natural and cultural resources is essential to sustaining our health and quality of life. We, along with fish and wildlife, rely on clean water and the benefits of having healthy rivers, streams, wetlands, forests, grasslands, and coastal areas in order to thrive. Managing the landscapes that provide our natural and cultural resources has become increasingly challenging. With the signing of Secretarial Order No. 3289, the Department of the Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. By building a network that is holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science, LCCs are working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources.
The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. Our partners work collaboratively to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify science gaps, and avoid duplication through conservation planning and design.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update the Ecosystem Conservation Work Table (ECWT) and request Trilateral Committee endorsement to continue the coordination and implementation of trans-boundary LCCs in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. As requested by the ECWT, explore opportunities of trinational interest and collaboration in Landscape Conservation Design; share planning models and design examples; increase awareness of and collaboration in trans-boundary LCCs.

SUBMITTED BY: Genevieve Johnson, DLCC Coordinator, USBR, 602-228-4158; Aimee Roberson, DLCC Science Coordinator, USFWS, 520-670-5008; Elsa Haubold, National Landscape Conservation Cooperative Coordinator, 703-358-2595; Ben Thatcher, Assistant National Coordinator, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, 703-358-2060.

10:45 am
AGENDA ITEM 5: Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC): Climate-Smart Landscape Conservation Planning and Design

- Priority Agenda Item Categories: Climate Change Adaptation; Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships.

- This agenda item covers ongoing binational projects that have previously been presented to the Ecosystem Conservation Work Table (ECWT).

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: : Desert LCC, Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV), Rio Grande Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), U.S. Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP), Intituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climatíco (INECC), La Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, and others.

DESCRIPTION: The Desert LCC's "Climate-Smart" approach to Landscape Conservation Design emphasizes developing shared strategies for adapting to changing conditions. By working together to integrate, or "mainstream," adaptation into our existing activities, we can have a collective impact on sustaining ecosystem function and services and conserving natural resources for people and wildlife across the landscape. In addition to federal and state agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities in the U.S. and Mexico, the Desert LCC is working with local governments and organizations representing private landowners. We are developing an ecosystem stewardship approach to landscape conservation, integrating ecological sustainability as a basis for biodiversity conservation and human well-being. Working with a broad spectrum of organizations representing a diversity of perspectives and interests requires a well-paced, transparent process. This allows us to build the capacity and tools that enhance the ability of our participants to make flexible, "no-regrets" decisions in keeping with a long-term perspective. We are building the trust, relationships, processes, capacity, and tools necessary to create a landscape conservation planning foundation that can lead to effective landscape conservation designs by using integrative approaches that encourage knowledge exchange and solutions to emerge.

The Desert LCC Steering Committee has decided to focus this project on three ecosystem types within our geographic area: arid grasslands and shrublands; streams and rivers, including aquatic and riparian components; and springs, including aquatic and riparian components. Related to these ecosystem types, in 2015-2016, the Desert LCC will:

- produce spatially explicit data and information about focal resources, chosen by the

Desert LCC members;

- seek to understand the effects of climate change and other landscape stressors on these resources;
- integrate social and economic information to predict what these resources might look like in the future; and
- recommend collaborative adaptation responses that are useful and implementable by our partners.

Overall, this project will bring together the information, tools, and methodologies available for landscape conservation design and the development of climate adaptation strategies for pilot areas representative of these ecosystem types. We will engage interested parties in determining design priorities, compiling and curating existing resources, determining what additional information, tools, or resources are needed, and developing plans for 2-3 pilot landscape conservation designs within the Desert LCC geographic area.

BACKGROUND: The Desert LCC is a self-directed, non-regulatory regional partnership formed and directed by resource management entities; interested public, private, and tribal entities in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts and Sky Island/Sierra Madre Occidental regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The primary goals of the Desert LCC are: (1) to identify science needs related to climate change and ecosystem threats at broad spatial scales; and (2) to facilitate the development, integration, and application of scientific information into adaptation strategies and other decision support systems that will inform resource management decisions. . For a map of the Desert LCC geographic area, visit: http://www.usbr.gov/dlcc/resources/map.cfm.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Update the ECWT and request Trilateral Committee endorsement to continue the coordination and implementation of the Desert LCC's activities in the U.S. and Mexico.
- As requested by the ECWT, explore opportunities of trinational interest and collaboration in Landscape Conservation Design; share planning models and design examples; facilitate collaboration between INECC, CONANP, and Desert LCC connectivity studies.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Aimee Roberson, Desert LCC Science Coordinator (USFWS)

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Mesta, SJV Coordinator and Desert LCC Steering Committee Chair, USFWS, 520-882-0047; Genevieve Johnson, Desert LCC Coordinator, USBR, 602-228-4158; Aimee Roberson, Desert LCC Science Coordinator, USFWS, 520-670-5008; Sally Holl, Desert LCC GIS Coordinator, USGS, 512-927-3512.

11:15 am

AGENDA ITEM 6: Progress report on development of Sonoran Joint Venture/Point Blue Conservation Science bilingual, on-line web portal and tool designed to identify climate change impacts on birds

- Priority Agenda Item Categories: Climate Change Adaptation; Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships.

- This agenda item covers ongoing binational projects that have previously been presented to the ECWT.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), Sonoran Joint Venture, Point Blue Conservation Science, National Park Service, Sky Island Alliance, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP).

DESCRIPTION: Climate change has the potential to affect many species of birds in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico; some for the better and many for the worse. Developing tools resource managers can use to plan for these changes is critical to the management of these natural resources. This project builds on the bird and habitat modeling project previously conducted by the Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) and Desert LCC, which models projected climate change impacts on birds and identify areas of potential vulnerability. Over the past three years the SJV, Desert LCC, and USFWS Science Applications program have invested $137,750 in this effort to build the capacity of SJV partners and others to evaluate environmental change in the western U.S. and northern Mexico by identifying where, what, and how to monitor to evaluate climate change impacts for the region.

This project allows managers to: (1) identify climate change impacts and prioritize adaptation/conservation opportunities; (2) identify priority species and regions for monitoring; and (3) build capacity to collaborate on monitoring and management among institutions and across borders. We have developed an online web portal and decision support tool (http://data.prbo.org/apps/sjv/) and conducted two workshops to share the draft tool and gather input on usability and desired functionality. Our ongoing efforts will focus on capacity building and outreach, both of which have been identified as critical needs by project stakeholders. We are working on final refinements to the portal and have a more formal multi-day training scheduled for February 2015 in Tucson, Arizona. Participants include biologists from sister parks in northern Mexico (CONANP) and southern Arizona (National Park Service). We are also planning an experts' workshop for spring 2015 to discuss long-term monitoring of birds and climate in the region to improve future modeling efforts.

BACKGROUND: The Desert LCC is a self-directed, non-regulatory regional partnership formed and directed by resource management entities; interested public, private, and tribal entities in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan deserts and Sky Island/Sierra Madre Occidental regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The primary goals of the Desert LCC are: (1) to identify science needs related to climate change and ecosystem threats at broad spatial scales; and (2) to facilitate the development, integration, and application of scientific information into adaptation strategies and other decision support systems that will inform resource management decisions. . For a map of the Desert LCC geographic area, visit: http://www.usbr.gov/dlcc/resources/map.cfm

The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) mission is to conserve the unique birds and habitats of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. We bring together partners from both sides of the border to integrate the strategies, goals, and objectives of existing regional, national,

and international conservation plans into a single, strategic effort that addresses the needs of our area and makes our efforts more efficient and effective.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: As requested by the ECWT, provide an update on this project and an opportunity to discuss potential for future collaboration.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Robert Mesta, SJV Coordinator and Desert LCC Steering Committee Chair, USFWS

SUBMITTED BY: Robert Mesta, SJV Coordinator and Desert LCC Steering Committee Chair, USFWS, 520-882-0047; Genevieve Johnson, DLCC Coordinator, USBR, 602-228-4158; Aimee Roberson, DLCC Science Coordinator, USFWS, 520-670-5008.

11:45 am
AGENDA ITEM 7: Mexico's Posture on LCCs

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: INECC

DESCRIPTION: In order to encourage collaboration eight summarized points identified by the Mexican environmental agencies are going to be presented on the LCC´s framework. Potentially, we would like to propose a new working way to overcome sectorial or territorial complex barriers that are present at landscape scale to collaborate on natural resources management and adaptation to climate change matters shared by the involved countries.

BACKGROUND: Land managers are facing management challenges and a range of other difficult issues all of them amplified by climate change. The Department of the Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale topics. Twenty-two LCCs function across the US, Mexico, and Canada in specific geographic areas to form a national and international network to develop and communicate a coordinated, science based response to climate change impacts and wildlife resources. In particular the Desert LCC is a bi-national regional partnership formed and directed by resource management entities as well as interested public and private entities in the Mojave, Sonoran, and Chihuahuan Desert regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico (Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Zacatecas. The Desert LCC is aiming to develop science capacity to help resolve resource management issues identified by the scientific committee. During several years Mexico and US has been trying to consolidate collaboration in common interests and a continuous change of information and communication has been done.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Review the implementation Plan 2014-2016 draft and enhance bilateral collaboration proposing eight discussion points that were delivered to the DLCC science coordinator**.** As well as, to discuss and express our opinions in relation to the DLCC.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Dr. Paola Massyel García Meneses

SUBMITTED BY: INECC

12:30 pm

AGENDA ITEM 8: Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative

- Climate change with focus on adaptation across elevation gradients
- Landscape connectivity and area-based conservation partnerships

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

- Scott Morrison, The Nature Conservancy, smorrison@tnc.org
- Jerre Ann Stallcup, Conservation Biology Institute, jastallcup@consbio.org
- Miguel Angel Vargas, Pronatura, mvargas@pronatura-noroeste.org
- Cesar Guerro, Terra Peninsular, cesarguerro@terrapeninsular.org
- Federal, state, and local governments in California and Baja California

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND:

Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative 2015: A decadal review of conservation status and priorities at the California–Baja California border

The *Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative* (LCBCI) report was released in September 2004 by an unprecedented partnership between conservation organizations and natural resource managers in California and Baja California. The report described the exceptional conservation importance of the ecosystem at the core of the California South Coast Ecoregion – an ecosystem threatened by a rapidly growing human population and climate change, as well as the increasingly impermeable international border that divides it. The report also produced a vision for binational collaboration in conservation that embraced and integrated the full spectrum of human land uses in the region, highlighting conservation opportunities presented not only in the region's most intact wildlands but also in its agricultural and urban centers. That vision catalyzed and galvanized conservation efforts in both the United States and Mexico, producing results ranging from direct land protection to cross-border research collaboratives.

Here, we present a progress report on the conservation gains and losses over the past 10 years in the Las Californias study area. We also highlight ongoing and emerging conservation opportunities and strategies, and underscore the urgency for conservation action – not only to protect the extraordinary biodiversity of the region but also to enhance and secure the myriad ecosystem services that natural landscapes provide to people on both sides of the border. An August 2014 meeting between President Nieto of Mexico and Governor Brown of California – in which they committed to more effective cross-border coordination in development, transportation, and the environment – echoed this need and opportunity. This report provides a blueprint for such binational cooperation, a design for a sustainable and thriving border community, with a special emphasis on the role that open space protection can play in regional conservation efforts and enhancing overall quality of life.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Protect core areas of high biodiversity, representing the topographic, geologic, and climatic diversity of the region.
- Conserve north-south and east-west linkages between these core areas and between lands that are already protected to allow biotic communities room to shift geographically in response to climate changes.
- Establish a binational park system to connect Parque Constitución de 1857 in the Sierra Juárez in Baja California to State Park and National Forest lands and Wilderness Areas in the Jacumba, In-Ko-Pah, Laguna and Cuyamaca mountains in California.

The Peninsular Ranges that span the Californias remain the inspirational backbone of the conservation vision, supporting the most iconic species of this place ─ Peninsular bighorn sheep, mountain lions, California condors, golden eagles, and plant species like Cuyamaca cypress, Gander's pitcher sage and Dehesa beargrass that grow nowhere else on Earth. Implementing this vision ─ through land use policies, land management, and land acquisition/easements ─ will require a renewed sense of commitment from all stakeholders. New opportunities and partnerships, new strategies for water conservation, innovative crossing structures to enhance permeability of roads for wildlife movement, and new perspectives and policies on resource management afford reason for hope.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Jerre Ann Stallcup, Conservation Biology Institute

SUBMITTED BY: Jerre Ann Stallcup, Conservation Biology Institute

1:00-2:15 LUNCH

2:15 pm
AGENDA ITEM 9: Gulf of Mexico´s coastal wetlands adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: INECC and GEF

DESCRIPTION: The last year "Adaptation of coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico to the impacts of climate change project "was presented, coordinated by INECC, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank. The project is operating in three pilot sites: the Laguna de Alvarado in Veracruz, the Lagoon- Carmen-Pajonal Machona in Tabasco, and Punta Allen System in the Biosphere Reserve of Sian Ka'an in Quintana Roo. This year it is going be presented the adaptation measures that have been implemented in one of the pilot sites of the lagoon system Carmen-Pajonal-Machona in Tabasco State.

BACKGROUND: Three communities set on the border of the Machona lagoon are treated ones. In these communities a purification and water caption system in being set to provide with clean water to the inhabitants from the community. The construction of houses on stilts (palafitos) with local materials and local workforce have been done, this will provide a safe place for the important belongings from the people from the community in case of water flood. Also

mangrove reforestation actions has been carried out as well as riparian habitat reforestation, channel cleaning has been done too. The implementation of a Wildlife Management Unit (UMA in Spanish) has been set to use the mangrove forest sustainably. All these has been encompassed with training and with the gender perspective. Moreover, a tide gauge station is going to be installed and it is going to operate with the Servicio Mareográfico Nacional. Now, a communication and broadcasting strategy is been developing for the project.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We would like to share the experiences from this project and we would like to get information about similar projects that have used adaptation measures on coastal wetlands.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Biól. Karina Santos del Prado Gasca

SUBMITTED BY: INECC

2:45 pm
AGENDA ITEM 10: Progress Report from the Nonnative Species Risk Assessment Team (Team). Priority: Climate Change with a Focus on Adaptation.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Michael Hoff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Patricia Koleff and Ana Isabel González, Conabio; and Becky Cudmore, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

DESCRIPTION: This Team was approved at the 19th Trilateral for coordination of nonnative species continental risk assessment efforts. Reduction of species invasion risk depends on a combination of national and continental coordination on risk assessment and risk management. Invasive species is a stressor that affects ecosystems, and the social and economic constructs that depend on ecosystem health. We can account for climate change in our risk assessments, and that will inform decisions relating to adaptive management. Our proposed agenda item is an ongoing trinational project that has previously been presented to the ECWT, and has crosscutting application. The Team was formed to: (1) share risk assessment tools, processes, and products, and (2)collaborate on risk assessments for nonnative species of common concern.

BACKGROUND: Each North American Nation has developed tools and processes to conduct risk assessments on nonnative species, and has used those approaches to conduct risk assessments. However, until the 19th meeting of the Trilateral, no forum existed to formally share, among Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., those materials. The Team has begun the process of sharing risk assessment materials, and has also collaborated on risk assessments for several species.

Our process for sharing and coordination has included webinars. Results of those webinars improved communication and coordination among national risk assessment experts. We plan to expand our dissemination of materials to include agency managers. The outcomes of such sharing will better protect North America from future invasions, and minimize impacts of species already established on our continent. We will continue to work to develop decision support materials that aid regulatory and non-regulatory risk management actions that include early detection, rapid assessment and rapid response to incipient invasions, and containment, control,

and adaptive management of established invaders. We collaboratively work to predict invasive species niche under climate change, and that information can be used to inform landscape management strategies and decisions at a continental scale under projected climate change.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Report to the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table the results of the Team's:

- Sharing of risk assessment tools, processes, and products,
- Collaborative risk assessment products, and
- Implications for continental-scale invasive species protection and management, including adaptive management under climate change
- Plans for next steps by the Team.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Michael Hoff

SUBMITTED BY: Michael Hoff, USFWS, U.S.; Patricia Koleff Ana Isabel González, Conabio

3:15 pm

<u>AGENDA ITEM 11:</u> The U.S. Presidential Memorandum on Pollinator Health: Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators: Objectives and Outcomes

- This item aligns with the "Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships" priority topic for the Ecosystems Conservation Working table.

- This is not an ongoing binational or trinational project and has not been previously presented to the ECWT, but has connections to the monarch butterfly topic last year.

- The topic has trilateral application from the perspective of monarch migration, but is not limited to monarch butterflies.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: US Pollinator Health Task Force members include:

- Department of Agriculture (Chair)
- Environmental Protection Agency (Chair)
- Department of State
- Department of Defense
- US Army Corp of Engineers
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Energy
- Department of Education
- Council on Environmental Quality
- Domestic Policy Council
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

- General Services Administration
- National Science Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution
- Delta Regional Authority
- National Security Council Staff
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy

DESCRIPTION: Many U.S. federal agencies are taking actions that benefit a range of pollinating species. An overview will be provided about actions and products related to the U.S. Presidential Memorandum on Pollinator Health.

BACKGROUND: In June of 2014, U.S. President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum (PM), directing all federal agencies to take action "to expand Federal efforts and take new steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels". This directive requested the creation of a Pollinator Task Force to implement the PM; a national pollinator health strategy; a pollinator research action plan; a public education plan; recommendations for developing public-private partnerships; and plans for increasing and improving pollinator habitat. These products, and others, are expected to be released by the White House prior to the Trinational meeting.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Working table members are informed on progress, changes in policy, and future plans for the betterment of pollinators. Potential collaboration opportunities may be discussed.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Anne Kinsinger, US Geological Survey, Associate Director for Ecosystems, akinsinger@usgs.gov, 703-648-4050

SUBMITTED BY: Steve Hilburger, US Geological Survey, Pollinator Science Coordinator, shilburger@usgs.gov, 703-648-4036

3:45-4:00 pm BREAK

4:00 pm
AGENDA ITEM 12: National Wildlife Federation Monarch Conservation Campaign

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: National Wildlife Federation, Monarch Joint Venture, and USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Presentation on the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Conservation Campaign

BACKGROUND: The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), with over six million members and supporters, and 48 state and territorial affiliated organizations, is America's largest and oldest wildlife conservation organization. NWF has partnered with the USFWS and Monarch Joint Venture to engage the public in conserving and creating habitat for the monarch where they live,

work, play, learn, and worship.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing and identification of opportunities for collaboration.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Mary Phillips, NWF National Garden for Wildlife Campaign Manager

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Room: Cortez1B

10:45 am
AGENDA ITEM #13: Progress and results (2014-2015) related to priority objectives for the conservation of the Monarch in Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Luis Fueyo and Gloria Tavera (CONANP), CONABIO, DGVS, PROFEPA, CONAFOR, WWF, TNC, Grupo de los Cien, IB-UNAM

DESCRIPTION: The Mexican Workgroup developed in 2014 a Domestic Action Plan for the conservation of the Monarch. The objective of this AI is to report progress and activities that are being implemented in Mexico, both in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve and along the migratory route, to promote the conservation of the migratory phenomenon.

BACKGROUND: During the XIX Annual Meeting of the Trilateral Committee, held in Querétaro, Mexico, Mexican's six top priorities for the conservation of the Monarch were presented: 1) Conservation Economics, 2) Habitat Restoration and Conservation, 3) Research and Monitoring, 4) Inspection and Vigilance, 5) Social Participation and Environmental Education, 6) Coordination and Financing. This year, progress on the implementation of these priorities will be presented.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:
- Identification of specific topics or activities that could be carried out in collaboration with US and/or Canadian collaborators
- Provide information about ongoing efforts at domestic level for harmonizing efforts at the regional level

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS: Gloria Tavera and Laura Martinez (CONANP)

11:25 am
AGENDA ITEM #14: Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR): Projects Supporting Ecosystem Services and Protected Areas Resilience

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Gloria Tavera, Andrew Rhodes and Ivana Fernández (CONANP), Martín Cadena (Resilience Project), Andreas Gettkant and Federico Starnfeld

(German Cooperation Agency-GIZ)

DESCRIPTION: The objective of this AI is to present activities carried out (or planned) in the MBBR in the framework of two collaborative and complementary initiatives between CONANP and international funding agencies, in this case the GEF and GIZ.

The main objective of the EcoValor project is to generate information on the value of ecosystem services of the Biosphere Reserve. Currently EcoValor is working closely with the Reserve to create a new language of conservation aiming to develop a study of the Reserve´s value and to foster the development of financial mechanisms to distribute in a more equitable way the costs and benefits of conservation. Resilience project objective in MBBR is to increase institutional, socioeconomic and ecosystemic resilience to climate change. Currently, the project and MBBR are working on the identification of priority sites along the migratory route, on increasing available data about the biological characteristics of the MBBR, and on implementing capacity-building workshops for monitoring the Monarch along the migratory route in Mexico. In the next months, we will start the process to develop an Adaptation Program for MBBR to face climate change, identifying priority measures to reduce system vulnerability.

Both projects will overlap their activities on the following topics: strengthening the MBBR management program by including climate change resilience actions and conservation economics elements, foster the communication strategy in order to influence a more diverse public, and improve the cooperation of local and regional actors.

BACKGROUND: This innovative GEF- Funded Resilience project, first in its class, is executed by CONANP and PNUD is the implementing agency. It was conceptualized to strengthen institutional, socioeconomic and ecosystemic resilience through a multi-level strategy in order to face the potential climate change impacts on Mexican biodiversity. Emphasis is made on the Protected Areas System with a landscape/seascape vision. Connectivity, Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Governance are essential part of the project concepts. EcoValor is an institutional project jointly developed by CONANP and the GIZ which aims to generate information about the values of ecosystem services provided by protected areas and develop the institutional capacities to permeate conservation economics topics across CONANP's technical areas.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Identification of specific topics or activities that could be carried out in collaboration with US and/or Canadian collaborators
- Provide information about ongoing efforts at domestic level for harmonizing efforts at the regional level

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS: Gloria Tavera (CONANP)

11:45 am
AGENDA ITEM 15: Canada's Monarch Management Plan under the *Species at Risk Act*

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Environment Canada (Sue Milburn-Hopwood and Paul Johanson)

DESCRIPTION: This presentation will provide the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table with an overview of Canada's proposed Management Plan for Monarch and support coordination of Canadian and trilateral conservation planning for Monarch.

BACKGROUND: Under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*, the federal government must prepare a management plan for species of special concern. Canada has prepared a management plan for the Monarch and the proposed version has been posted on the Canadian Species at Risk Public Registry for public comment. That comment period has now closed and Canada is in the process of revising the management plan before it is posted as final. As part of these revisions, Canada will be updating its management objective for Monarch and would like to initiate discussion around developing a shared objective for recovering migratory Monarch populations.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Inform the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table of Canada's proposed Monarch Management Plan
- Introduce the idea of developing a trilateral objective for recovering Monarch populations.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Paul Johanson (Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service)

SUBMITTED BY: Canada (Environment Canada)

12:10 pm
AGENDA ITEM 16: US Monarch Strategy: An Overview

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: US Department of Interior (Fish & Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management); US Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service); Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration); Department of State; State Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Monarch Joint Venture and other Conservation NGOs

DESCRIPTION: An Overview of the US Monarch Strategy

BACKGROUND: Interior Secretary Jewell tasked Fish and Wildlife Director Ashe to convene the U.S. Interagency High Level Working Group (HLWG) to develop and coordinate a U.S. strategy for monarch conservation and coordinate our efforts with Mexico and Canada through the Trilateral Committee. The Interagency HLWG began meeting in December 2014 to begin collaboration on interagency strategies for monarch conservation in the U.S. through habitat restoration and enhancement, research and monitoring, outreach and education, and tribal/public-private partnerships.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing to provide context for discussions on opportunities and priorities for trinational monarch conservation action.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Donita Cotter, USFWS Monarch Conservation Coordinator

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

12:35 pm
AGENDA ITEM 17: Assisting State Fish and Wildlife Agencies with Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:
- Dr. Jonathan Mawdsley Science Coordinator, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, jmawdsley@fishwildlife.org
- Lisa Van Alstyne, USFWS, Fish and Wildlife Administrator, Branch of Policy

DESCRIPTION: The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) have committed to assist States to include actions and considerations for monarch butterfly and other pollinator conservation in projects funded through WSFR grants.

BACKGROUND: Many pollinators have suffered severe declines over the past two decades. Contributing to this decline are loss of habitat for nourishment and life-cycle needs, pesticide usage, land management practices, predators and diseases, and proliferation of non-native plant and insect species. State fish and wildlife agencies cannot address all factors involved in declining pollinator populations, but some examples of the actions they can do are:

- Include pollinators in their State Wildlife Action Plans as Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Add pollinator-friendly habitat as part of projects for other target species
- Review management practices to make them more pollinator friendly

In recognition and support of our mutual conservation concerns, the voting membership of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) passed a resolution on September 24, 2014 (Resolution 2014-1) supporting "voluntary and incentive-based efforts to address threats of loss, fragmentation and modification of monarch breeding habitat" including numerous milkweed species which serve as the monarch butterfly's larval host plants in North America.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:
- Working table members are informed on progress and results. Potential collaboration opportunities may be discussed

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:
- Jonathan Mawdsley, AFWA

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-chair

1:00-2:15 pm LUNCH

2:15 pm

<u>AGENDA ITEM 18:</u> The U.S. Geological Survey Monarch Conservation Science Partnership – Development of

- This item aligns with the "Landscape and Seascape Conservation Including Connectivity and Area Based Conservation Partnerships" priority topic for the Ecosystems Conservation Working table.
- This topic follows directly behind last year's plenary presentations on the status and conservation needs of monarch butterflies.
- The topic has trilateral application as monarchs migrate among all three countries.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:

- Terrell Erickson,Director of Ecological Sciences,NRCS
- Doug Helmers,Iowa Private Lands Coordinator,USFWS,Wildlife Biologist, Habitat and Population Evaluation Team, USFWS
- Pat Ward,Ecologist, Inventory and Monitoring Program,USFWS
- Pauline Drobney, Restoration Ecologist,USFWS
- Darius Semmens, Research Physical Scientist, USGS
- Jake Weltzin, Phenology Program Coordinator, USGS
- Jay Diffendorfer, Research Ecologist, USGS
- Richard Erickson, Postdoctoral Fellow, USGS
- Steven Hilburger, Assistant Program Coordinator for Wildlife, USGS
- Wayne Thogmartin, Research Statistician, USGS
- Víctor Manuel G. Sánchez Cordero Dávila, Director, University of Mexico, Instituto de Biología
- Elizabeth Howard, Director, Journey North
- Carol Davit, Executive Director, Missouri Prairie Foundation
- Scott Black, Executive Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
- John Pleasants, Assistant Professor, Iowa State University
- Chip Taylor, Professor, Kansas University
- Gary Nabhan, Professor, University of Arizona
- Laura Lopez-Hoffman, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona
- Ruscena Wiederholt, Assistant Research Scientist, University of Arizona
- Brice Semmens, Assistant Professor, University of California at San Diego
- Sonia Altizer, Professor, University of Georgia
- Karen Oberhauser, Professor, University of Minnesota
- Susan Galatowitsch, Professor, University of Minnesota
- Laura Jackson Professor, Director, University of Northern Iowa

DESCRIPTION: The U.S. Geological Survey is hosting a year-long partnership designed to produce scientifically based information and inform the management and conservation of monarchs. The goal of the partnership work group is to develop actionable habitat restoration and conservation strategies for monarchs. Key objectives were defined as:

- Refine an existing monarch demographic model (previously developed by USGS and

partners).

- Produce a target population size for recovery and estimate the amount of habitat required to meet this goal within a set time frame. (How many individuals are needed to sustain the population and migration? How much habitat do we need to maintain a minimum population target or better?)
- Develop an approach for prioritizing areas for targeted habitat restoration within the broader regions associated with the monarch life cycle. (Where to restore monarch habitat?)
- Synthesize and summarize effective habitat restoration strategies within the monarch range. (How to best restore monarch habitat?)
- Identify knowledge and data gaps necessary to better conserve and manage monarchs. For top priorities, describe methods to fill these gaps.
- Identify threats to monarch populations, develop approaches for assessing the impacts of these threats, and prioritize actions to address these threats based on importance and likelihood of success.

BACKGROUND: Monarch butterfly populations have declined significantly since recorded observations began in the mid-1990s. A number of factors are contributing to declines, including breeding habitat loss, overwintering habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. The majority of monarch breeding takes place in the Midwestern United States, where loss of habitat agricultural settings is a primary issue. The U.S. Geological Survey Monarch Science Partnership was established in response to the population declines, and the need for information to conserve the species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Working table members are informed on progress and results. Potential collaboration opportunities may be discussed

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR:

- Darius Semmens, U.S. Geological Survey, Geosciences & Environmental Change Science Center, Denver, CO, 303-578-6966, dsemmens@usgs.gov
- Wayne Thogmartin, U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, La Crosse, WI, 608-781-6309, wthogmartin@usgs.gov

SUBMITTED BY: Steve Hilburger, US Geological Survey, Pollinator Science Coordinator, shilburger@usgs.gov, 703-648-4036

3:00 pm

AGENDA ITEM 19: Presentation of the study: "Identification of priority sites in Mexico for the conservation of the Monarch´s migratory route and its connectivity with wintering sites"

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: IB-UNAM (Victor Sánchez, Francisco Botello, Esteban Martínez), Gloria Tavera and Andrew Rhodes (CONANP), Martín Cadena (Resilience Project)

DESCRIPTION: This study, realized by a team of the Institute of Biology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (IB-UNAM) was divided in three components: 1) Preliminary report of the fauna inhabiting the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR), 2) Description of the flora in the MBBR 3) Connectivity analysis along the migratory route. Main results and recommendations for wintering habitat management and factors affecting the Monarch along the migratory route will be presented.

BACKGROUND: Carried out in the framework of the CONANP-GEF project "Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Resilience of Protected Areas to Safeguard Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change", the study responds to two main priorities for the country in terms of investigation – identifying priority sites for the conservation of the Monarch along the migratory route and increasing our knowledge on the MBBR´s biodiversity.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Inform about main results of the study and recommendations for further studies and decision-taking
- Get recommendations for coordinating further investigations in Mexico with studies about Monarch population and extinction risk model carried out in the United States

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Victor Sánchez (IB-UNAM)

3:20pm
AGENDA ITEM 20: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multi-Region Western Monarch Habitat Suitability Assessment and Modeling Project

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS Regions: Pacific (R1), Pacific Southwest (R8), and Southwest (R2); Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation; Institute for Applied Ecology; universities; other federal and state partners; and Monarch Joint Venture partners.

DESCRIPTION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multi-Region Western Monarch Habitat Suitability Assessment and Modeling Project

BACKGROUND: In recent decades, the Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) has been severely impacted by a variety of threats. The eastern population, which overwinters in Mexico, has shown a population decline of roughly 90% over the last 20 years. Similarly, the smaller western population, which overwinters in sites along the California coast, has decreased in number by over 50% since 1997.

However, significant data gaps for the western population have been identified regarding migratory pathways and summer breeding locations. This limits the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to identify priority areas for monarch habitat restoration and enhancement projects, and also makes it difficult to prioritize milkweed and monarch surveys. To address these data gaps, a team of biologists and GIS analysts from the USFWS and the Xerces Society will produce spatial models to help identify migratory pathways and suitable breeding habitat for western monarchs. The project will build off of methods currently being developed by USGS for the eastern monarch population, however significant differences in

regional variation, data quality, quantity and other environmental variables will require a different approach.

High resolution milkweed and monarch occurrence data is lacking for much of the western United States. This project aims to identify, collect, and integrate current biotic and abiotic data into a GIS database, for a suite of habitat and species-specific variables across the FWS Regions that support the western population of monarchs.

GIS information for this project, once assembled, will be used to model habitat suitability, and identify priority habitats, corridors, and areas that can be further evaluated for restoration or enhancement purposes. This overall assessment will serve as a foundation to prioritize conservation actions for the western population of monarchs, and it will be applicable to all agencies and organizations focused on monarch conservation.

The multi-regional approach of this project will allow us to target the entire known U.S. range of the western monarch and provide uniformity in habitat analyses and modeling efforts, data collection, and effective cross-regional prioritization of habitat and flight corridor restoration and protection. Implementation of a holistic approach is critical in that the western population of monarchs resides almost entirely within the continental Unites States with almost all overwintering sites occurring along the California coast.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing and identification of opportunities for collaboration.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Scott Black, Executive Director, The Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

3:45-4:00 pm BREAK

4:00 pm
AGENDA ITEM 21: Twenty years of Monarch outreach, conservation and research at the Montreal Insectarium, Canada.

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Maxim Larrivée, Montreal Insectarium
Maxim Larrivée, Ph.D.
Chef de section - Collections entomologiques et recherche
Insectarium de Montréal / Espace pour la vie
4581, rue Sherbrooke E., Montréal, Québec, H1X 2B2
T. 514 872-0474 / F 514 872-0662
maxim.larrivee@ville.montreal.qc.ca

DESCRIPTION: The Montreal Insectarium has been a national leader in Monarch outreach, education and conservation for over twenty years now. Programs such as Monarch's without borders, Monarch's Odyssey, Monarch Oasis gardens have connected hundreds of thousands of

citizens to the uniqueness and fragility of the Monarch's migration. The recent addition of a scientific research department focused on continental insect distribution patterns and of the citizen science project eButterfly to the Montreal Insectarium strengthens the commitment of the Institution to the conservation of the migratorial Monarch populations. We present here how each initiative provides a powerful synergy and augments the capacity of the Montreal Insectarium to make significant positive contributions in the international efforts to improve the situation of the migratorial Monarch population while connecting citizens to their natural environment.

BACKGROUND: We will describe how each Monarch outreach initiative at the Montreal Insectarium raises awareness about the Monarch's migration and its increasing fragility. We will show how eButterfly has contributed significantly to increasing our knowledge of monarch distribution and abundance in Canada since 2012 and how we plan on using the eButterfly citizen science platform to collect scientific quality data about monarchs across Canada to monitor and evaluate the efficiency of future national conservation actions.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Inform the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table about current and upcoming monitoring, conservation and outreach actions performed by the Montreal Insectarium in collaboration with the many partners including the federal government.
- Discuss about the best ways to include Canadian conservation and monitoring efforts with American and Mexican partners.
- Discuss open data sharing and access and standardize international data gathering protocols and quality standards.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Maxim Larrivée

SUBMITTED BY: Canada

4:25 pm
AGENDA ITEM 22: NaturaLista Monarca: Contribution of Citizen Science to the Monitoring of the Monarch Butterfly Flyway in Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Carlos Galindo (CONABIO), Gloria Tavera and Martin Sánchez-Vilchis (CONANP)

DESCRIPTION: The objective of this agenda item is to share the way NaturaLista works in order to envisage regional collaborations on citizen-based monitoring protocols. During the first year of the NaturaLista project, we have gathered records of monarchs through their flyway. A major result of the monarch project is that the information is readily available for decision making and the management to preserve their migratory path in and out of Natural Protected Areas in Mexico.

BACKGROUND: There have been different initiatives aiming at documenting the Monarch flyway in Mexico. However, unsufficient amount of data and funds has impeded to provide robust results that could be used for effectively protecting priority sites along the migratory

route. Therefore, in October 2013, the Division for Priority Species Conservation at CONANP, in collaboration with the Division for Science Communication at CONABIO launched, within the "NaturaLista" platform hosted and managed by CONABIO, a specific platform to gather Monarch observations done by any citizen willing to share pictures and sites where Monarch butterflies have been observed.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Identification of activities that could be carried out in collaboration with US and/or Canadian collaborators
- Build-on domestic efforts (such as e-butterfly and NaturaLista) to progress on harmonization of monitoring initiatives of Monarch butterflies across North America

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Carlos Galindo (CONABIO) - tentative

4:50 pm

AGENDA ITEM 23: US Farm Bill Programs & Opportunities for Monarch & Pollinator Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, The Xerces Society, and USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Overview of U.S. Farm Bill Programs & Opportunities for Monarch & Pollinator Conservation

BACKGROUND: The Farm Bill is a law that allows Congress to periodically examine and modify American agriculture programs. Although the first Farm Bill was developed in the 1920s to specifically address agricultural commodities, today it also includes important provisions supporting conservation on farms, ranches and private forest land. Approximately 70% of the United States is privately owned–making private land owners invaluable partners in fish and wildlife conservation efforts.

The USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) provide financial and technical assistance to support conservation efforts for pollinators and other wildlife on farms and rangelands. Voluntary incentive-based conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Agricultural Land and Wetlands Reserve Easements Program, Grasslands Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, and Conservation Reserve Program all provide support for farmers who want to establish pollinator-friendly habitat on their land. Many of these programs rely on conservation practices that can be used to create or improve monarch habitat.

The Xerces Society works closely with the NRCS and FSA to support pollinator conservation efforts throughout the United States. With support from the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program, Xerces has developed technical tools and demonstration sites on how to establish pollinator habitat in multiple regions of the U.S. Xerces and the NRCS share several joint pollinator specialist staff positions based at NRCS National Technology Support Centers across the country. Through these shared staff positions, Xerces Society scientists help NRCS

staff conduct conservation planning for pollinators on farms nationwide. Xerces also develops state and regional technical guides, including plant lists for supporting pollinators and beneficial insects, habitat assessment guides, habitat creation instructional manuals and forms, pesticide risk reduction guidelines, and technical notes on the conservation of other beneficial insects that help in crop pest management.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Share information on US programs and strategies for monarch conservation on private agricultural lands.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Scott Black, Executive Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

5:10 pm
AGENDA ITEM 24: Managing Rights-of-Ways to Benefit Pollinators Utilizing Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Techniques

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Richard Johnstone, IVM Partners, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: This presentation will focus on documented best Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) practices that meet safety and reliability needs of electric and natural gas utilities and highways while partnering with agencies and communities to implement the US federal strategy on pollinators and control invasive weeds, lower risk of wildfire, improve bird, bee, butterfly and other wildlife habitat, improve aesthetics, community relations and economics.

BACKGROUND: Rick Johnstone has 38 years' experience in utility vegetation management having served as System Forester for 2 electric utilities; and as President of the 501-C-3 non-profit corporation IVM Partners, Inc., conducts IVM research and presents findings at conferences and workshops for federal, state and tribal land management agencies along with electric and natural gas utilities, conservationists and academia. He provides consultation to utilities, agencies and land managers under VMES, LLC and is a past President of the Utility Arborist Association and a Registered Professional Forester with a Bachelor Degree in Forest Resources Management from West Virginia University.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:
- Information sharing
- Identification of opportunities for collaboration

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: Rick Johnstone

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

5:40 pm
AGENDA ITEM 25: U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Monarch Conservation Fund

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: NFWF, USFWS, others

DESCRIPTION: For more than 20 years, NFWF has brought together federal and non-federal entities to pool and leverage resources to constructively address conservation challenges. A similar concentrated effort from the public and private sector is needed to bring back the monarchs. NFWF is launching the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund to bring funders together to implement a monarch recovery strategy.

NFWF is currently working with funders and outside experts to develop a targeted strategy to support the recovery of monarchs while providing benefits to a broader group of pollinators. In spring of 2015, NFWF will solicit proposals that seek to produce the required conservation outcomes. Funding for habitat restoration; outreach and education; and native seed production and distribution will support on-the-ground conservation projects around the country with a focus on the central United States. It is anticipated that an initial round of selected projects will commence this fall and early winter.

BACKGROUND: 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.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: TBD

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-Chair

6:00 pm ADJOURN

Thursday, April 16, 2015
Room: Cortez1B

9:00 am
AGENDA ITEM 26: U.S. Monarch Joint Venture (MJV): 2015 Progress & Priorities

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Monarch Joint Venture Partners include: U.S. Forest; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bureau of Land Management; National Park Service; U.S. Geological Survey; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Cibolo Nature Center; Cincinnati Nature Center; Green Schools Alliance; Journey North; Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; Monarch Alert; Monarch Butterfly Fund; Monarch Health; Monarchs in the Classroom; Monarch Watch, University of Kansas; National Wildlife Federation; Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History; Pheasants Forever-Quail Forever; Pollinator Partnership; Southwest Monarch Study; Tallgrass Prairie Center; University of Minnesota Monarch Lab; North American Butterfly Association; The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation; Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

DESCRIPTION: Monarch habitat conservation is a significant and growing priority across the US, involving numerous federal and state agencies, NGOs, and private citizens through a coordinated, collaborative partnership-based effort known as the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV), (www.monarchjointventure.org). Dr. Karen Oberhauser, MJV Steering Committee Chair will present on the conservation efforts and accomplishments of the MJV.

BACKGROUND: Established in 2009, the work of the MJV is based on the North American Monarch Conservation Plan (Commission for Environmental Cooperation 2008), which provides a solid scientific foundation upon which monarch conservation efforts can be built. The MJV is pursuing three strategies to address habitat needs of the eastern migratory monarch population: (1) habitat restoration and enhancement; (2) increasing milkweed availability for habitat enhancement on public and private lands; and (3) providing tools and guidelines to inform monarch conservation efforts. Work is in progress to increase milkweed and nectar plant availability on vast acreages of public and private land. These efforts include promoting mowing, burning, thinning, and harvesting regimes designed to restore ecosystem structure and species composition; milkweed propagation for seed increase work; inclusion of milkweed in habitat restoration plantings; and seeding utility right-of-ways with native plants, including milkweed.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing; identification of opportunities for trinational collaboration; Trilateral Committee support for the efforts of the MJV

SUBMITTED BY: US Co-chair, ECWT

9:20 am
AGENDA ITEM 27: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) 2015-2016 Operational Plan: Monarch Projects

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: CEC, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, CONANP, USFWS

DESCRIPTION: Update on Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) 2015-2016 Operational Plan: Monarch Projects

BACKGROUND: Two monarch project proposals are included in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation's 2015-2016 Operational Plan: Engaging Farmers and Landowners to Support Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Conservation ($300K) and Monarch Flyway: Communication, Participatory Conservation, and Education Programs ($300K). The 2015-2016 Operational Plan will be approved at the CEC Council meeting in Boston, MA, July 14-15. For more information on the CEC go to: www.cec.org

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing.

AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR: CONANP, USFWS

9:40 am

AGENDA ITEM 28: Roundtable Discussion: Native Milkweeds and Nectar Plants for Monarch Habitat Restoration – State of Knowledge Regarding Species, Distribution, Propagation, Supply and Availability in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ECWT & Monarch HLWG Participants

BACKGROUND: Milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) are the required host plants for caterpillars of the monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) and thus play a critical role in the monarch's life cycle. The loss of milkweeds plants in the monarch's spring and summer breeding areas across the United States is believed to be a significant factor contributing to the reduced number of monarchs recorded in overwintering sites in California and Mexico. Adult butterflies feed on nectar from a variety of wildflowers found in native grasslands, urban and suburban gardens, and other areas throughout the breeding and migration range. Nectar sources are especially important during the fall to fuel their migration and sustain them during overwintering. The protection of existing milkweed stands, restoration of native milkweed populations, as well as habitat restoration and enhancement to ensure the availability of adequate nectar sources are key components of monarch conservation.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing, and identification of trinational priorities and opportunities for collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY: ECWT Co-Chairs

10:20 am
AGENDA ITEM 29: Roundtable Discussion: Trinational Priorities for Monarch Conservation

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: ECWT & Monarch HLWG Participants

DESCRIPTION: Roundtable Discussion: Trinational Priorities for Monarch Conservation

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information sharing, and identification of trinational priorities and opportunities for collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY: ECWT Co-Chairs

11:00-11:15 am BREAK

11:15 – 1:00 pm
ECWT Closeout and Preparation of Report to the Executive Table
ECWT Adjourns