

# Canada's Monarch Management Plan under the *Species at Risk Act*

Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management

**Ecosystem Conservation Working Table** 

San Diego, California April 14, 2015



## Background



 The Monarch is listed as a species of Special Concern under Canada's Species at Risk Act.

 Environment Canada is the lead <u>federal</u> department for the Monarch management plan and Parks Canada is a "SARA Participating Agency". Other federal departments have also been engaged.

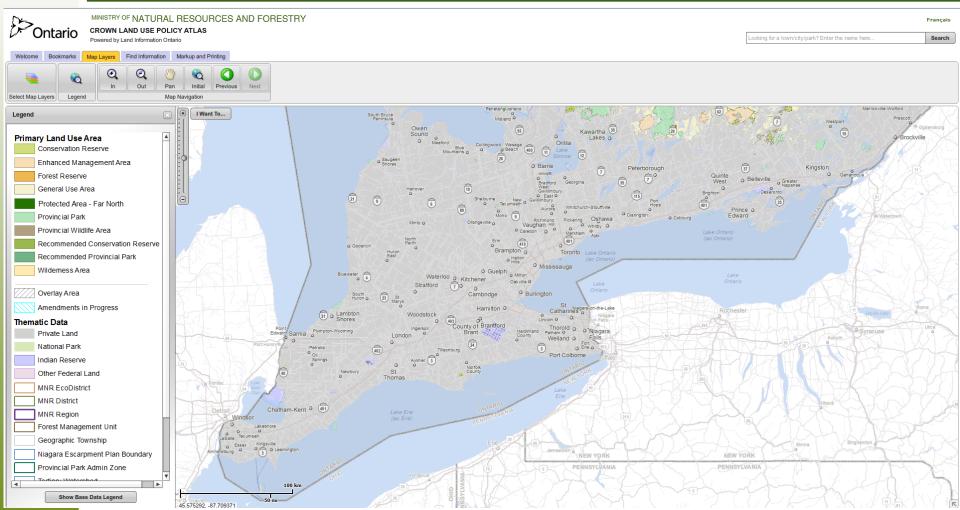
• In Canada, provinces have the primary management responsibility for Monarch and they were engaged in developing the plan.





## Background







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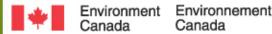
Canada







- Section 65 of SARA sets out the requirements for a MP:
  - If a wildlife species is listed as a species of special concern, the competent
    minister must prepare a management plan for the species and its habitat. The
    plan must include measures for the conservation of the species that the
    competent minister considers appropriate and it may apply with respect to more
    than one wildlife species.
- Contents of a Management Plan:
  - Species status, biology, habitat requirements
  - Limiting factors and threats to the species and its habitat
  - Management objectives
  - Broad Strategies and Conservation Measures
  - Measuring progress









#### Primary threats (overall):

- Loss and degradation of overwintering habitat
- Widespread use of pesticides and herbicides
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Succession and land conversion

The primary threats in Canada are likely the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides and succession/land conversion.

Other threats







## **Key sections – Mngt Objectives**

### (version posted for public comment period)

- to mitigate threats to Monarch and ensure that there is sufficient breeding, nectaring and staging habitat in Canada to maintain the current Canadian contribution to the overall North American Monarch population; and
- to support the conservation and management of overwintering, staging, breeding and nectaring habitat by international partners throughout the Monarch's migratory range, in order to allow for continued Monarch persistence in Canada.
- Will be revised to focus on <u>recovery</u> of migratory populations
- Coordinated tri-national objectives









### International cooperation

 Sister Protected Areas Network, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) projects, N. American Monarch Conservation Plan

### 2. Domestic action on breeding and nectaring habitat

 Funding programs, Best Management Practices, native grassland conservation, incorporate Monarch into multi-species planning

### 3. Domestic action on staging areas

Expand network and improve management of staging areas

#### Research and monitoring

Determine milkweed resources in Canada, impacts of herbicides and pesticides

#### Outreach and education

Citizen science, classrooms, agricultural community, butterfly gardens





## **Proposed Posting**





**Species Profile** 

Monarch

#### Scientific Name: Danaus plexippus

Taxonomy Group: Arthropods

Range: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia

Last COSEWIC Assessment: April 2010 Last COSEWIC Designation: Special Concern SARA Status: Schedule 1, Special Concern

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Quick Links: | Photo | Description | Distribution and Population | Habitat | Biology | Threats | Protection | Other Protection or Status | National Recovery Program | Documents

#### Image of Monarch



Photo/image: Bob Graham, Point Pelee National Park

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#### Description

The adult Monarch is a bright orange butterfly with heavy black veins and a wide black border containing two rows of white spots. The wingspan is about 10 cm. Males can be distinguished from females by the presence of black coloured scent glands on each of their hind wings. Monarchs can be distinguished from the smaller but similar Viceroy by the absence of an inner margin of black on the hind wings. Monarch larvae or caterpillars are striped yellow, black and white; they grow to about 5 cm in length. The distinctive goldgreen chrysalis suspends from a milkweed leaf or branch.

Proposed Management Plan Posted October 9, 2014

- 54 individual sets of comments received
- Letter writing campaign initiated by **Ontario Nature**









- EC has reviewed the 60-day comments received and updated the management plan. Will post the Final Management Plan in 2015.
- Revise the management objective trilateral coordination
- Use federal mechanisms to support Monarch conservation
- Provinces, stakeholders, researchers, etc to implement conservation measures



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