

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5920

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

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Appropriations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Monarch Action, Re-
3 covery, and Conservation of Habitat Act of 2020” or the
4 “MONARCH Act of 2020”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

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

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

14 (3) in 2019, the population of western monarch
15 butterflies maintained a historic low of approxi-
16 mately 29,000 butterflies, falling below the predicted
17 extinction threshold;

18 (4) the extinction of the population of migra-
19 tory western monarch butterflies is now likely to
20 occur within the next 2 decades if urgent action is
21 not taken;

22 (5) actively restoring native milkweed and nec-
23 tar plants, monarch overwintering habitat, and other
24 pollinator habitat, and ensuring that key habitats
25 are protected from destruction, are critical to ensur-
26 ing the survival of western monarch butterflies and

1 can also help facilitate conservation of other essen-
2 tial pollinators; and

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

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

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

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

18 (C) community outreach and education.

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

22 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of the Interior.

24 (4) WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY.—The
25 term “western monarch butterfly” means the mon-

1 arch butterfly population that overwinters along the
2 coast of the State of California and breeds across
3 the States of California, Arizona, Nevada, Wash-
4 ington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

5 **SEC. 4. WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION**
6 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
8 funds and in consultation with other Federal officials, the
9 Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the
10 “Secretary”) shall use amounts in the Fund to provide
11 grants for projects for the conservation of western mon-
12 arch butterflies for which project proposals are approved
13 by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

14 (b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

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

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

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

1 (2) FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.—

2 A State or Federal agency—

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

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

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

10 (A) a statement of the purposes of the
11 project;

12 (B) the name of the entity with overall re-
13 sponsibility for the project;

14 (C) a description of—

15 (i) the qualifications of the entity that
16 will conduct the project;

17 (ii) methods for project implementa-
18 tion and outcome assessment; and

19 (iii) anticipated outcomes;

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

1 (E) assurances that the conservation ef-
2 forts outlined in the proposal do not conflict
3 with food safety measures or practices;

4 (F) information that demonstrates the
5 clear potential of the project to contribute to
6 the conservation and recovery of western mon-
7 arch butterflies; and

8 (G) such other information as the Sec-
9 retary may require.

10 (c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—The Sec-
11 retary shall annually—

12 (1) solicit project proposals for funding under
13 this section; and

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

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

1 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 provide technical assistance for a project that receives a
3 grant under this section.

4 (f) PROJECT REPORTING.—

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

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

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

21 (A) each report submitted under para-
22 graph (1); and

23 (B) any other documents relating to
24 projects for which a grant is provided under
25 this section.

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

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

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

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$12,500,000
11 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

12 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTERN MONARCH**
13 **BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION PLAN.**

14 Of amounts available to the Secretary that are not
15 otherwise obligated, the Secretary shall transfer to the Na-
16 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation \$12,500,000 for each
17 of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to facilitate the imple-
18 mentation of the Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation
19 Plan prepared by the Western Association of Fish and
20 Wildlife Agencies and dated January 2019.

21 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31 of
23 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
24 describing the status of western monarch butterflies, in-
25 cluding, with respect to the year for which the report is
26 submitted—

1 (1) a summary of the projects for which the
2 Secretary of Agriculture has provided funding under
3 section 4 and an evaluation of those projects; and

4 (2) a summary of the projects for which the
5 Secretary has provided funding through the Western
6 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan prepared by
7 the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agen-
8 cies and dated January 2019.

9 (b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY THE DEPART-
10 MENT OF THE INTERIOR.—To facilitate the preparation
11 of each report under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agri-
12 culture shall provide to the Secretary information relating
13 to projects described in paragraph (1) of that subsection.

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