

**State of California  
Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Branch**

April 2024 Meeting Notes for  
Multi-Agency Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative

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**Wildlife Diversity Program, 2024-04**

# Monarch MOG

4/23/2024

Attendees: Scott Gardner (CDFW), Michelle Selmon (CDFW), Brigitte Tafarella (DPR), Rebecca Frisk (WCB), Darrin Thome (USGS), Pete Figuera (CDFW), Adam Johnson (USFWS), Melissa Burns (USFWS), Carolyn Cook (CDFA), Patricia Bohls (CDFA), Frank Giles (BLM), Christina Lund (BLM), Patti Krueger (USFS), Luz Quinzel (CalTrans), Michelle Pausch (Coastal Commission), John Gustafson (NRCS), Hillary Sardiñas (CDFW), Julea Shaw (CDFW)

## Announcements

Hillary Sardiñas:

- **The Priority Action Zones in California for Recovering Western Monarchs map** was developed by Xerces and various agencies and NGO partners to guide and prioritize management actions throughout the state. A new version with refined zones was recently released: <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/priority-action-zones-in-california-for-recovering-western-monarchs>
- **WAFWA Native Insect Pollinator Working Group is Holding the Take Flight Meeting.** Virtual, held over 3 days: Sept 5, 10, 12. Registration information coming soon: <https://wafwa.org/committees-working-groups/monarch-working-group/>
  - o Hillary is giving a talk about the MOG – will share with group for feedback before presenting.

## MOU

Scott: The non-binding MOU has been reviewed by legal counsel of agencies. The changes were sufficiently minor that we did not think it needed to go out again for review. Is it ready for signature?

- Consensus was reached on MOU being ready for signature
- **Action Item:** Send signatures to Hillary to compile. Each agency has their own signature page – please insert signatories' names and agency authorities if not already present.

## Monarch and Pollinator MOG Website Draft Review

Hillary: The TAC has created a mockup of webpage for the Monarch MOG, which will be hosted by CDFW. The goals are to provide information about our group and to serve as a clearinghouse for MOG and TAC members to access information. Proposed content: summary of the MOG purpose, brief info about Monarch decline, report (once ready),

partner logos, and resource center. TAC members will providing Hillary with official logos and gathering links to additional helpful resources. Goal is to have the website live by July.

The MOG discussed posting meeting notes on the website. They decided to post high-level notes. MOG members will have the opportunity to review and approve notes before they are posted to ensure accuracy.

- **Action Items:** *Send edits to the webpage.*

## Conceptual model for Report

Brigitte: The TAC has finished conducting the synthesis and gap analysis of the WAFWA Plan and Washington Summit goals. Based on the actions that came out of that analysis, they created a concise conceptual model that illustrates our overall goals for the collaborative and highlights the interconnectedness among our actions. The majority of actions fall into 3 major bins: Habitat; Research and Monitoring; and Outreach, Education and Engagement. The conceptual model will be used to structure the summary report the TAC is writing.

The TAC used the bins to write a “mission statement”: Working collaboratively to protect monarchs by influencing the quality and quantity of habitat through partnering and outreach efforts and by promoting priority research and monitoring

The MOG generally approved of the conceptual model. They requested more time to think about the best use for the mission statement – it may be more appropriate as a report “purpose statement”.

## Action Prioritization Table Overview

Melissa: The TAC is creating a table to sort each of the potential actions identified from the synthesis into a bin from the conceptual model. The goal of the table is to identify priority levels, timeframes, dependencies, and success metrics for each action. There is a column for each agency to list their priority level for each action. The priority levels will then be combined to determine group priorities.

The MOG provided recommendations for additional columns to add to the table: immediacy of species benefit, community/ecosystem benefit, funding/resource availability, and uncertainties. The TAC clarified that this table is meant to be an initial prioritization to help the group find actions they can collaborate on and that will serve as fodder for discussion on how to move forward (identify shared resources, funding, etc.) The group priorities do not preclude individual agencies from focusing on actions that are priorities for their agency.

**Next Steps:** The TAC will update the table based on feedback from the MOG. Then the TAC will fill out the table, work on prioritization for their agency, and begin writing the summary report.

### ***Tribal Discussion***

Scott: The MOG would like to create opportunities for tribal engagement. Each agency has their own tribal consultation policies and procedures, which usually operate on a project-by-project basis. At which stages should this group engage tribes? The TAC previously held a meeting with agency Tribal Liaisons to discuss best practices when engaging with tribes.

Through discussion, the MOG determined that main next step is spreading awareness that our group exists, is committed to consultation and partnership with tribes, and will be seeking input on a project-by-project basis. Engagement opportunities that were discussed include: communicating with tribes about existing opportunities related to monarchs and pollinators and holding Listening Sessions about the report once it is drafted. The importance of being respectful of tribal members' time and ensuring that we are approaching them with specific asks and a commitment to relationship building was emphasized. The MOG also discussed existing tribal working groups and newsletters where we could spread awareness about the group's existence, purpose, and opportunities for engagement.

**Next Step:** TAC will take this discussion and develop an outreach plan.

### ***Member Updates***

USGS – Darrin presented to the Monarch Plant Materials Working Group about their study on pesticide levels in milkweed. Looking for milkweed adjacent to agricultural lands to test.

USFWS – PAL Center workgroup – Report: Status of Butterflies in the US – looked at all butterflies across US and their population trends. About ¼ are declining at a nationwide level. ¼ are increasing in certain areas. We could invite them to give a talk to this group

CDFW– Applied for and received a cSWG with OR, ID, and WA to update the Motus network in the west and study monarch migration pathways. Hillary will be giving a talk about work happening with monarchs across the West for Monarch Joint Venture on July 23 from 10:30 am PT.