

## Arizona Monarch Conservation Partnership 2016 Summary Report

**Initiated:** 10/1/2015 (applying for continuing funding)

**Funder:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund

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**Partners:** Southwest Monarch Study  
Southwest Center, University of Arizona  
Borderlands Restoration  
Sky Island Alliance



### Summary of Accomplishments

Monarch butterflies are excellent conservation messengers. They are well known along their migratory route and help connect people from different walks of life, from the US Southwest to overwintering sites in California and from the US Midwest and Southern Canada to the overwintering sites in Michoacán, Mexico. Many ASDM visitors have first-hand experience with monarchs and can relate directly to their conservation story.

The AZ Monarch Conservation Partnership had two major goals: **public outreach/education and monarch habitat restoration and improvement** in public and private lands in Arizona.

### Public Outreach/Education

The Partnership reached 20,000 people through 119 outreach events including workshops, guided visits, public talks and meetings. We also engaged new conservation partners in Mexico, and helped create the new Northwest Mexico Monarch Monitoring Network, coordinated by CONANP. The partners developed and piloted a bilingual short course on milkweed propagation and planting that can be given in the field or on-line; this course has now been presented twice in Mexico.



### Habitat Restoration and Improvement

The project significantly increased native milkweed and nectar plant availability in the state, and restored and enhanced monarch butterfly habitat in public lands managed by the US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pascua Pueblo Yaqui Reservation, Pima County Parks and Recreation, one unit of the AZ State Prison Complex, two units of the University of Arizona, the Valley of the Moon Park and a few Tucson



schools. We propagated over 15,600 native host and nectar plants, including 13 native species of *Asclepias*. The partnership restored a total of 247 acres of butterfly habitat in public lands in AZ and created butterfly gardens for a total of 353 acres of restored or enhanced habitat in private lands. 20 new Monarch Waystations were registered.

### Connecting with Art

The ASDM Art Institute helped expand and diversify the audience for monarch conservation education by hosting two butterfly-themed exhibits during this project. The first, Butterfly Whirl: Fine Art Quilt Exhibition was presented from May through July



2015. Attendance was over 4000 people including visitors from 21 different US states and 6 different countries. The second exhibit, titled “Departure and Return: the monarch butterfly as metaphor” was presented from Sept to Nov 2016 and was also attended by approximately 4000 people. A third art event was a pollinator mural organized by our



Volunteer Manager, Allison Miller, and painted in collaboration with Tucson Electric Power. This engaged over 100 volunteers who learned about monarchs and other pollinators while painting.