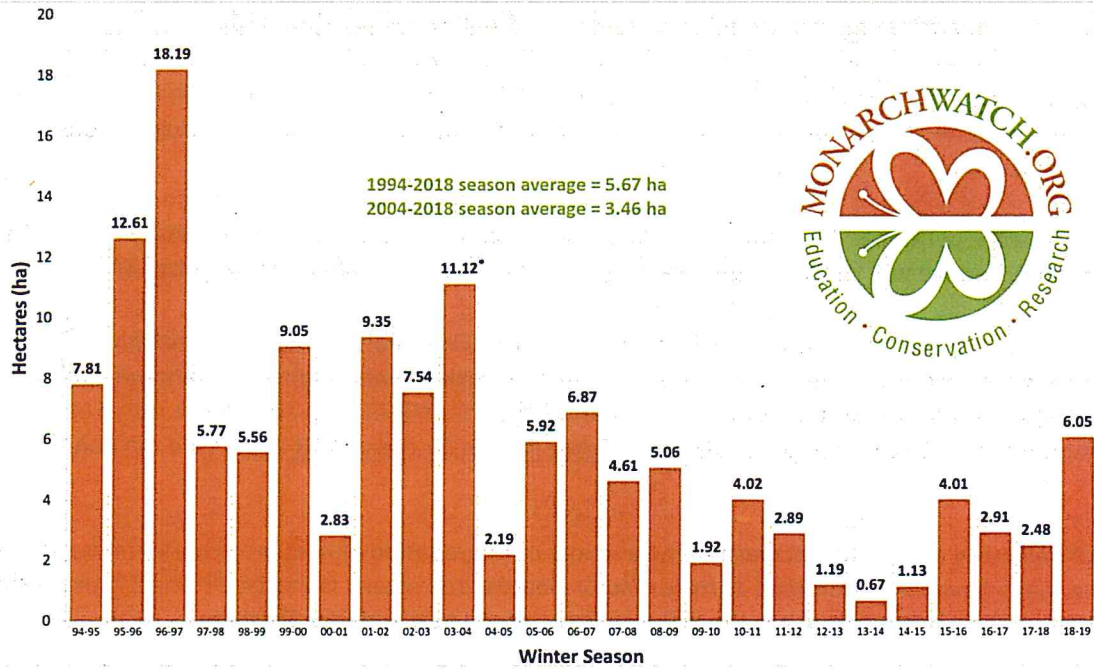


## Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy: Background Information

### *Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*

- The eastern monarch population has declined by over 80 percent in the past 20 years, although the latest counts show a recent increase (see chart on reverse side). Western monarch populations remain in decline.
- Monarchs were petitioned for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act in 2014. **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be deciding whether monarchs should be listed by December 2020.**
- The Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) has provided a leadership role for monarch butterfly conservation in its eastern range and worked with Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas; the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA); and a wide range of partners to complete a [Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy 2018-2038](#). (see map on reverse side)
- Loss of milkweed across the northern range and loss or degradation of nectar resources in the south-central range have been identified as major factors leading to eastern monarch declines; thus **habitat restoration and enhancement are the primary focus of the Mid-America Strategy.**
- The Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy is **based on voluntary, incentive-based approaches with a goal to avoid a regulatory outcome or minimize its impacts** (such as monarchs becoming listed under the federal Endangered Species Act).
- The goal of the strategy is to coordinate state and partner efforts to achieve habitat restoration and enhancement to support an average overwintering eastern monarch population occupying six hectares in Mexico, consistent with international goals.
- State agencies and partners will be implementing plans designed to add stems of milkweed where lacking – and to ensure diverse, nectar-plant-rich landscapes with blooming species during seasons when monarchs are present across the mid-section of the United States from Canada to Mexico.
- The Strategy has **established a goal of 1.3 billion additional milkweed stems over the next 20 years in the North Core Monarch Conservation Unit**. Specific monarch conservation needs and goals for the south-central monarch range are still under development.
- MAFWA established a Board of Directors consisting of state fish and wildlife directors and ex-officio members from key partner agencies and organizations to oversee the development and implementation of the Strategy. More information is available at [www.mafwa.org](http://www.mafwa.org).
- Support for this work has been provided by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by cash and in-kind contributions from cooperating states and nongovernmental organizations.

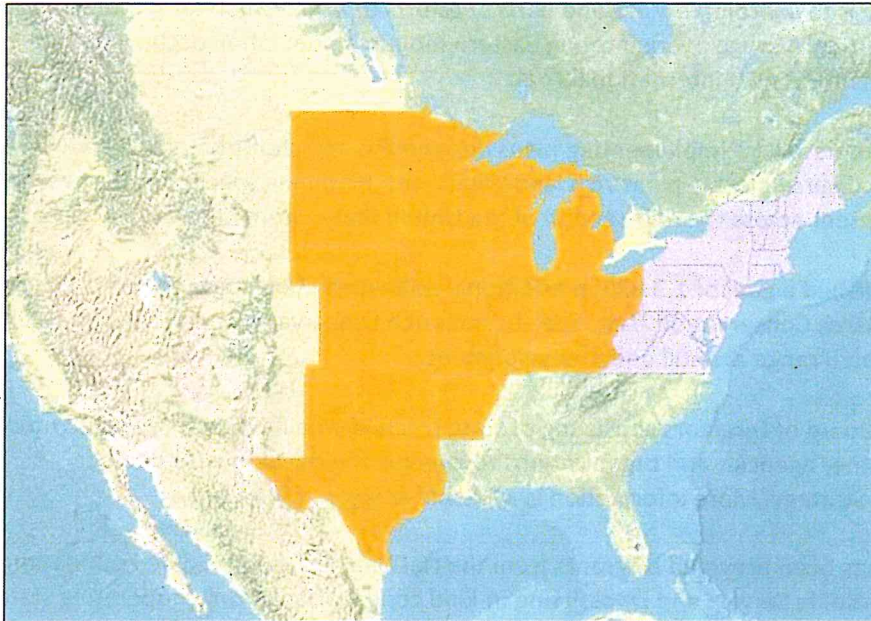
### Total Area Occupied by Monarch Colonies at Overwintering Sites in Mexico



Data for 1994-2003 collected by personnel of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR) of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) in Mexico. Data for 2004-2017 collected by World Wildlife Fund Mexico in coordination with the Directorate of the MBBR.

\* Represents colony sizes measured in November of 2003 before the colonies consolidated. Measures obtained in January 2004 indicated the population was much smaller, possibly 8-9 hectares. CT

### Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy: Project Area and Participating States



- States participating through State fish & wildlife agencies
- States participating through NEAFWA