



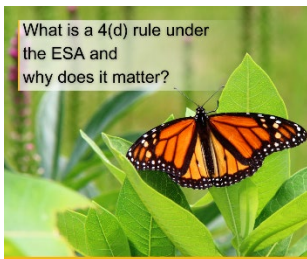
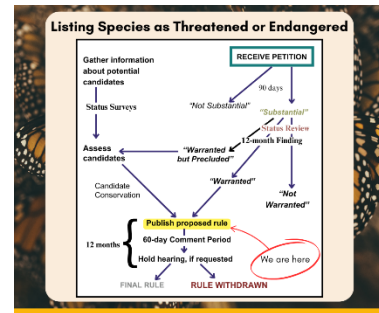
The Monarch Butterfly is Proposed to be Listed as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act

What Does the Proposed ESA Listing Mean?



1. **Proposal Status:** This proposed rule does not immediately list the monarch under the ESA but marks a significant step in the decision-making process for its protection.

2. **Public Input:** With the monarch's proposed listing as "Threatened," the USFWS opens a 90-day public comment period, inviting input from farmers, landowners, Native American Tribes, the scientific community, and other interested parties. Your voice matters in sharing perspectives for balanced species protection strategies!



3. **4(d) Rule Proposal:** The proposed rule includes a 4(d) provision, designated to balance conservation efforts with the continuation of certain human activities.

4. **Proposed Critical Habitat Designation:** The proposal identifies overwintering sites in California as "critical habitat," essential for the monarch's survival and recovery, though this designation would not impose new restrictions on most private land.



Why Protecting Monarchs is Crucial

1. **Population Declines:** Monarch butterfly populations have declined by over 80% in some regions due to habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and other threats. Without intervention, this species is at risk of becoming endangered.

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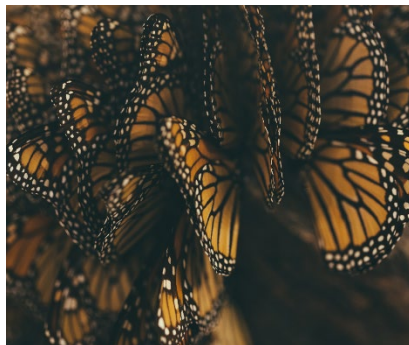
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- Ecosystem Role:** Monarchs serve as an indicator species for ecosystem health, with their decline signaling broader challenges to biodiversity and the environments we depend on.
- Cultural and Educational Value:** Monarchs are iconic, inspiring people worldwide with their incredible migration and beauty, making them symbols of resilience and the interconnectedness of nature.
- Ripple Effects:** Protecting monarchs also benefits other species, including pollinators and wildlife that share their habitats, promoting biodiversity and preserving vital ecosystem services.
- A Call to Action:** The proposal is an opportunity to unite communities, industries, and policymakers in proactive conservation efforts to prevent the species' status from becoming more critical.



How Would a Final Rule Impact Monarch Butterflies?



- Potential Protections:** If finalized, the listing would formalize efforts to protect monarchs and the habitats essential for breeding, migration, and overwintering. It would also require federally supported projects to account for monarch consideration.
- Science-Based Recovery:** It would guide conservation strategies to incentivize proactive conservation measures and minimize and mitigate primary threats.
- Awareness and Support:** The proposal highlights the urgency of monarch conservation, drawing attention to the need for public and private sector engagement.

How Would a Final Rule Impact People and Landowners?

- No Immediate Restrictions:** As this is a proposed listing, there are currently no new regulatory requirements. If the listing is finalized, routine activities (e.g.,

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conservation land management, agricultural production, gardening, etc.) may be exempted under the proposed 4(d) rule.

2. **Focus on Voluntary Actions:** Landowners can participate in existing programs that support monarch-friendly practices, such as planting milkweed or managing land for pollinators.
3. **Incentives for Conservation:** ESA funding is not specific to each individual listed species. If the monarch proposal becomes law, existing ESA funding support mechanisms would then include monarch conservation activities in addition to those of other previously listed species.
4. **Community Empowerment:** Fosters opportunities for individuals, schools, businesses, and local governments to engage in conservation through habitat creation and advocacy.

What Can People Do to Support Monarch Conservation?



1. **Provide Public Input:** Participate in the **90-day** public comment period to share insights, ask questions, or express concerns about the proposed listing and rules.
2. **Create Habitat:** Plant milkweed and nectar-rich native plants to support monarchs during their lifecycle.
3. **Adopt Sustainable Practices:** Reduce pesticide use and unnecessary land management activities and follow integrated pest management strategies that protect pollinators.
4. **Join Conservation Programs:** Engage with conservation organizations to restore monarch-friendly landscapes and support conservation efforts.
5. **Support Monitoring Efforts:** Contribute to community science projects like the [Monarch Larva Monitoring Project](#), [Monarch Watch](#), [Southwest Monarch Study](#), [Western Monarch Count](#), [Project Monarch Health](#), [Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program](#), or [Journey North](#) to help track monarch populations and migration patterns. Visit monarchjointventure.org/community-science for more information and opportunities.

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