

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release: September 29, 2021



CONTACTS:

Amanda Egertson, Stewardship
Director
Deschutes Land Trust
(541) 678-2066
amanda@deschuteslandtrust.org

Robert Coffan, Chair
Western Monarch Advocates
rcoffan@gmail.com



**Deschutes Land Trust and Western Monarch Advocates partner
to boost monarch butterfly habitat in Oregon**

Bend, OR—The Deschutes Land Trust and Western Monarch Advocates have joined forces to boost habitat for the imperiled Western monarch butterfly in Oregon. Thanks to funding from the USFS Wings Across the Americas Program, the Land Trust and Western Monarch Advocates will launch a statewide effort to help build new habitat by planting more native milkweed and other pollinator plants for monarch butterflies in Central Oregon, Southern Oregon, the Umpqua River Valley, and in Portland.

The two groups have partnered with several regional groups that are located within the monarch butterfly migration route and where projects can make an immediate impact in the quality of habitat for the butterflies. All projects will boost and create new habitat by planting native milkweed, and nectar-bearing plants selected to continuously provide nectar throughout the migrating season. Projects include:

- **Central Oregon:** Deschutes Land Trust will distribute free native milkweed and other native pollinator-friendly plants to be planted in backyard gardens, schools, and local parks throughout Central Oregon (Bend, La Pine, Sisters, Madras, Prineville, and Warm Springs). The Land Trust will also plant more native milkweed and other native pollinator-friendly plants in two of their major Central Oregon restoration projects: one along Whychus Creek at Rimrock Ranch and in Prineville at Ochoco Preserve.
- **Southern Oregon:** The Bear Creek Restoration Initiative will create new pollinator waystations as part of the restoration of the portion of Bear Creek that burned in the devastating fires of 2020 between Ashland and Central Point. This region provides critical resting and fueling resources to second generation and super generation monarch butterflies.
- **Umpqua River Valley:** The Elkton Community Education Center will grow and give away native milkweed plants and seeds to the emerging network of pollinator advocates in Umpqua River Valley around Elkton.
- **Northern Oregon:** The Pittock Mansion in Portland will create a new monarch waystation and pollinator garden to increase habitat connectivity and awareness in the Portland region. This garden will be built with Portland Parks and Recreation, the Pittock Mansion Society, Master Gardeners, and Portland Monarchs.

The Western monarch butterfly population is in steep decline. Overwintering populations are less than 1% of historic population sizes, dropping from numbers in the millions to fewer than 2000 recorded individuals this past year. Many factors are contributing to this precipitous decline, including climate change, loss of overwintering habitat, pesticide use, and migration/breeding corridor habitat fragmentation.

In the state of Oregon, the most important thing we can do to help Western monarchs is to improve and expand migration and breeding pathways by planting pesticide-free native milkweed and other native pollinator-friendly plants that provide nectar resources from early spring through late fall. That's why the Deschutes Land Trust and Western Monarch Advocates have joined forces to help plant habitat throughout Oregon.

The Deschutes Land Trust envisions a future of strong and healthy natural and human communities—where we work together to conserve and care for the lands that make Central Oregon an incredible place to live, work, and grow. As Central Oregon’s locally-based, nationally-accredited land trust, the Deschutes Land Trust has conserved and continues to care for more than 17,523 acres since 1995. For more information on the Deschutes Land Trust, contact us at (541) 330-0017 or visit www.deschuteslandtrust.org.

The Western Monarch Advocates serve as an overarching entity to encourage and facilitate communication and interaction of groups and individuals committed to restoring the western monarch butterfly population—regardless of their affiliation or location—in the hope that the shared knowledge will empower each of them to improve and better achieve restoration goals within their own respective affiliation or location. For more information, visit www.westernmonarchadvocates.com

NOTE: Photos of monarch butterflies and native plantings are available.

###