



A PROGRAM OF  
LA CRUZ HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT

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**Project Update with Monitoring Results for LCHPP and MHAIA Partnership**

**May 15, 2026**

**2025 Data & Project Information**

La Cruz Habitat Protection Project (dba: Forests for Monarchs) has planted 1,800,000 trees as part of the MHAIA partnership. 200,000 trees were planted during the 2025 planting season (June-September). The trees planted through this partnership include **1,423,500** *Pinus pseudostrabus* (“Pseudostrobus Pine” or “Smooth-Bark Mexican Pine”), **226,550** *Pinus Greggii* (“Gregg’s” Pine), **70,000** *Pinus Leiophylla* (“Chihuahua Pine” or “Smooth-leaf Pine”), **26,750** *Oyamel fir* (“Abies religiosa”), **20,800** *Pinus Ayachuite* (“Mexican White Pine), **15,000** *Lawson Cypress Trees*, **8,750** *Pinus Michoacana* (“*Pinus devoniana*”), **7,000** *Pinus montezumae* (“Montezuma Pine” or “Rough-branched Pine”), and **2,900** *Cupressus Lindleyi* (“Cedro Blanco” or “White Cedar”).

The 2017-2025 trees were planted in the following project areas and communities:

**Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Area:**

1. Comunidad Indígena San Cristobal	78,000
2. Ejido Ocampo	54,000
3. Ejido El Paso	6,000
4. Comunidad Indígena Cerro Cacique, Zitácuaro	23,500
5. Comunidad Indígena Carpinteros, Zitácuaro	27,000
6. Comunidad Indígena Zirahuato, Zitácuaro	12,000
7. Comunidad Indígena Senguio	92,700
8. Ejido Asoleadero, Ocampo	19,000
9. Ejido El Rosario	1,300
10. Comunidad Indígena Laguna Verde	108,350
11. Hervidero y Plancha, Ocampo	49,150
12. Comunidad Indígena Turicato	5,000
13. Ejido San Jose de Gracia	5,000
14. Comunidad Indígena San Juan, Zitácuaro	30,000
15. Municipio de Aporo	149,000
16. Ejido Zicata de Morelos, Benito Juarez	10,000
17. Ejido Jesus del Monte, Palomas, Maravatio	25,000
18. Ejido San Francisco Epunguio, Irimbo	20,000



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19. Ejido Hacienda de Soto, Rancho el Sapote, Senguio	10,000
20. Ejido Clicerio Villafuente el Grande, Maravatío	2,000
21. Ejido Chincua, Senguio	30,000
22. Ejido San Nicolas Tarimoro, Senguio	20,000
23. Comunidad Indígena San Felipe de los Alzati, Zitacuaro	58,250
24. Ejido San Miguel el Alto, Maravatío	7,000
25. Ejido Santiago Puriatzicuaro, Maravatío	1,000
26. Ejido el Rincon de San Felipe, Zitacuaro	41,500
27. Ejido Rincon de Nicolas Romero, Zitacuaro	10,000
28. Ejido Nicolas Romero, Los Alamos, Zitacuaro	14,000
29. Ejido Tuxpan	48,000
30. Ejido el Paso	24,500
31. Ejido Tupataro	90,000
32. Ejido Angangeo	2,000
33. Ejido Tuxpan	50,000
34. Ejido Ciudad Hidalgo	6,000
35. Ejido Zitacuaro	46,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,175,250</b>

**Highland Lakes Area (Lakes Pátzcuaro and Zirahuén watersheds):**

36. Comunidad Chapa	9,000
37. Ejido Casas Blancas	31,000
38. Cerro Jicalan Uruapan	27,000
39. Ejido Tzurumutaro, Pátzcuaro	1,000
40. Cerro Blanco, Pátzcuaro	10,000
41. Comunidad Capacuaro	2,000
42. Campamento Zirahuen	1,000
43. Cerro del Aguila Quinceo	10,000
44. Ejido Tzintziro Erogaricuaro	4,000
45. Ejido de San Isidro	14,600
46. Comunidad Indígena Paracho	11,000
47. Comunidad Indígena Ihuatzio, Tzinzuntzan	5,000
48. Comunidad Indígena Puacuaro, Erongaricuaro	20,000
49. Comunidad Indígena San Andres Tzironديو	27,000
50. Comunidad Indígena Fontezuelas, Lagunillas	1,000
51. Pedernales Tacámbaro	22,000
52. Comunidad de Santa Cruz Tanaco	38,400

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53. Comunidad Indígena de Turicuario	70,000
54. Ejido Zirahuen	41,200
55. Municipio de Zinapécuaro	15,000
56. El Carmon Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	3,000
57. Sevina Municipio de Nahuatzen	82,000
58. La Cruz Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	20,000
59. La Española Salvador Escalante, Michoacán	3,000
60. Comunidad Indígena de Capacuaro, Uruapan	15,000
61. Narcisco Mendoza Primary School, Salvador Escalante	1,000
62. Zinapécuaro	3,000
63. Ejido Auga Verde	2,500
64. Comunidad Indígena Huecorio	23,000
65. Ario de Rosales	30,000
66. Ejido Hervidero y Plancha	6,300
67. Municipio de Pátzcuaro	40,000
68. Ejido de Santa Cruz, Zinapécuaro	1,000
69. Ejido Turirán, Municipio de Salvador Escalante	10,000
70. Morelia, Michoacán	2,000
71. Comunidad Indígena San Felipe Tzintzun, Salvador Escalante	12,000
72. Ejido Ixtaro, Mesa Alta, Salvado Escalante	1,000
73. Ejido Turiran, Salvador Escalante	14,600
74. Comunidad Indígena Turicuario, Nahuatzen, Michoacán	38,400
<b>Total:</b>	<b>627,000</b>

**Monitoring Results Monarch Area 2025 Trees:**

In 2025, 8 communities at 23 sites received 200,000 trees. Eight sites were monitored. Monitoring results for these sites are summarized below:

Community	Project Area	Reforestation Project Type*	Number of Trees Monitored	Number of Hectares Monitored	Survival Rate (Percentage)
Ejido Cerro de la Somera, Tlalpujahua	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	30,000	30	70%
Comunidad Indígena San Cristóbal	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	10,000	10	75%



Ejido Rincón de Soto, Aporo	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	5,000	5	70%
Ejido La Zarzamora (1)	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	5,000	5	73%
Ejido La Zarzamora (2)	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	5,000	5	65%
Ejido Aporo	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	3,000	3	70%
Comunidad Indígena el Aguacate, Zitácuaro	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	6,000	6	60%
Ejido el Aguacate, Tuxpan	Monarch Overwintering Area	Forest Restoration	8,000	8	60%
		TOTAL:	78,000 trees	72 hectares	69%

\* **Forest Restoration:** trees planted to restore degraded or thinned forestland.

**State of the Monarch Butterfly:**

In December 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed listing the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The initial public comment period closed on March 12, 2025, and was later reopened through May 19, 2025. To date, more than 70,000 public comments have been submitted. As of this report, no final decision has been made.

If listed, monarchs would receive protections and regulatory flexibilities under Section 4(d) of the ESA, allowing USFWS to implement conservation measures that are “necessary and advisable” for threatened species. While these protections apply only within the United States, they are expected to complement broader, international conservation efforts.

Encouragingly, the eastern monarch population has shown signs of recovery. During the 2025 - 2026 winter season, monarchs occupied 2.93 hectares (7.25 acres) of forest in Mexico, up from 1.78 hectares (4.42 acres) the previous winter - a nearly 64% increase. This follows a prior rise from 0.9 hectares in 2024, continuing a pattern of short-term rebounds.

However, this progress must be viewed in context. Monarch populations remain well below historical levels and far short of the estimated 5-hectare (15-acre) threshold needed for long-term resilience. In the mid-1990s, monarchs occupied nearly 45 acres of overwintering habitat. Today, the population remains vulnerable



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to threats such as deforestation, climate change, agricultural expansion, pesticide use, and the continued loss of native milkweed and nectar sources.

There are also encouraging signs on the habitat front. Forest degradation within the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve has declined in recent years. The most recent data (February 2024 to February 2025) shows 6.3 acres of degraded land, down from over nine acres the previous year. This suggests that conservation efforts - including reforestation and improved forest management - are having a measurable impact.

While this progress is meaningful, it also underscores the need to maintain momentum. Monarchs are resilient - but their long-term survival depends on sustained, coordinated conservation efforts across North America.

**Partnership Accomplishments to Date:**

Since 2017, the MHAIA and LCHPP partnership has positively impacted communities and forestland in the following ways:

- 1,800,000 native trees have been planted in high-need areas around the Monarch Biosphere Reserve and the Highland Lakes Watershed areas.
- 7,779 volunteers have supported our nursery efforts by transporting the seedlings to planting sites and planting trees.
- Forest restoration efforts have directly impacted 74 communities.
- 1,852 hectares of land has been reforested (4,577 acres).
- We have an overall tree survival rate of 75% over seven years of monitoring.

**Planting Priority for the 2026 Season:**

Entering into the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our partnership, LCHPP will prioritize restoring sites in and around the monarch winter habitat for the 2026 season. All 200,000 trees will be planted in this area as the need to conserve the habitat is great. This shift will also help balance APEAM forest restoration efforts in and around the greater Uruapan area.