



NATIONWIDE MONARCH CCAA

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**THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
AT
CHICAGO**



Rights-of-Way as Habitat WG



Engaging diverse stakeholders in a collaborative environment that promotes **pollinator habitats** and **healthy ecosystems** along rights-of-way by providing **expertise**, **cost-effective** best management practices, and **industry-driven** tools and resources.



Managing ROW

- For as long as there have been roads, rail, electric lines, and pipelines there has been a need to maintain those facilities
- Vegetation management has evolved over time
 - Currently trending towards Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)
- Early successional habitat supports a variety of wildlife species



Managing ROW

- From a business operations perspective:
 - Endangered species and their habitat complicate operations and add costs
 - “Why would we want to promote monarchs and create more habitat on our lands?”
- **The challenge:** How do we conserve monarchs while maintaining operational flexibility for needed infrastructure?



Image: Monarch butterfly on swamp milkweed. Jim Hudgins, USFWS

Why pursue a CCAA?

CCAA: Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances

Voluntary Conservation



Regulatory Assurances

Monarch CCAA Overview

- First nationwide CCAA
- Initial 40+ industry partners
- Aims to create more than 2 million acres of habitat on energy and transportation lands



BENEFITS

- Provides immediate and long-term benefits to monarch butterfly
- Demonstrates conservation commitments that can inform the listing decision
- Offers regulatory certainty and operational flexibility for ongoing maintenance and management
- Provides partnership value
- Generates positive public recognition

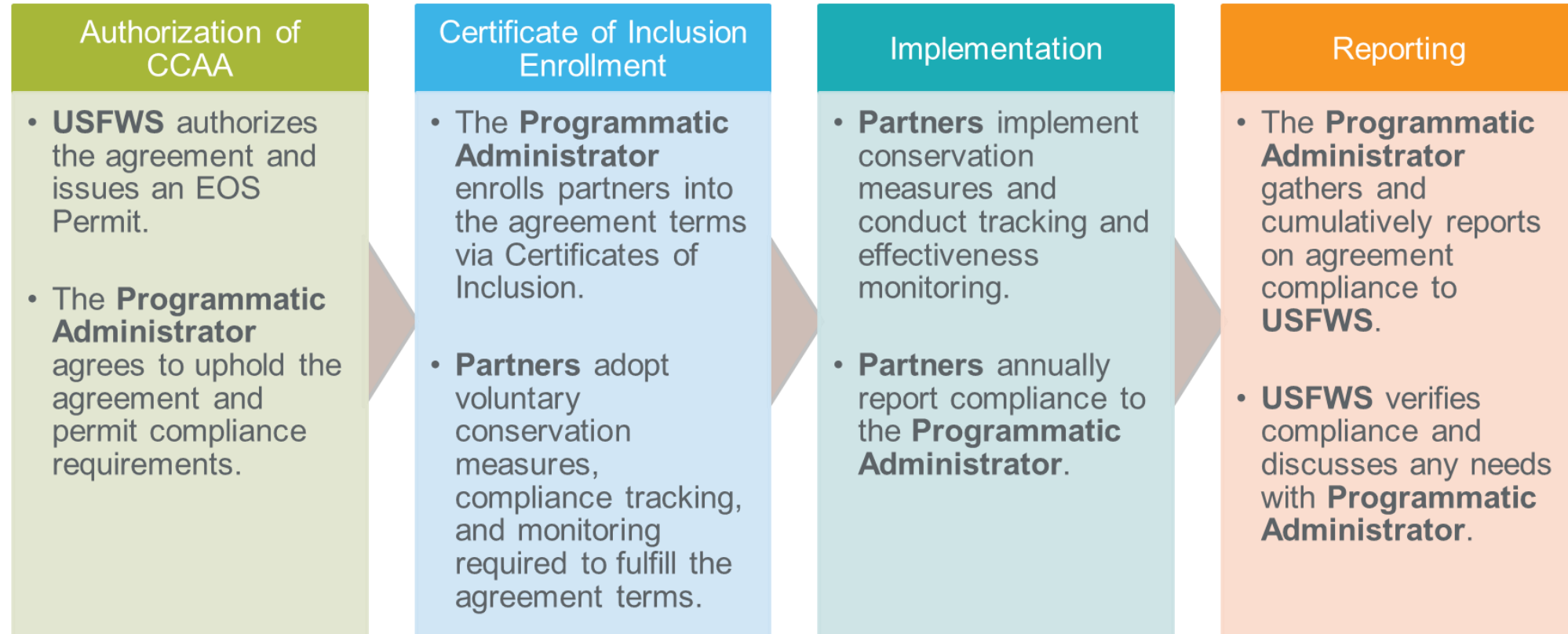
CCAA Advisory Team





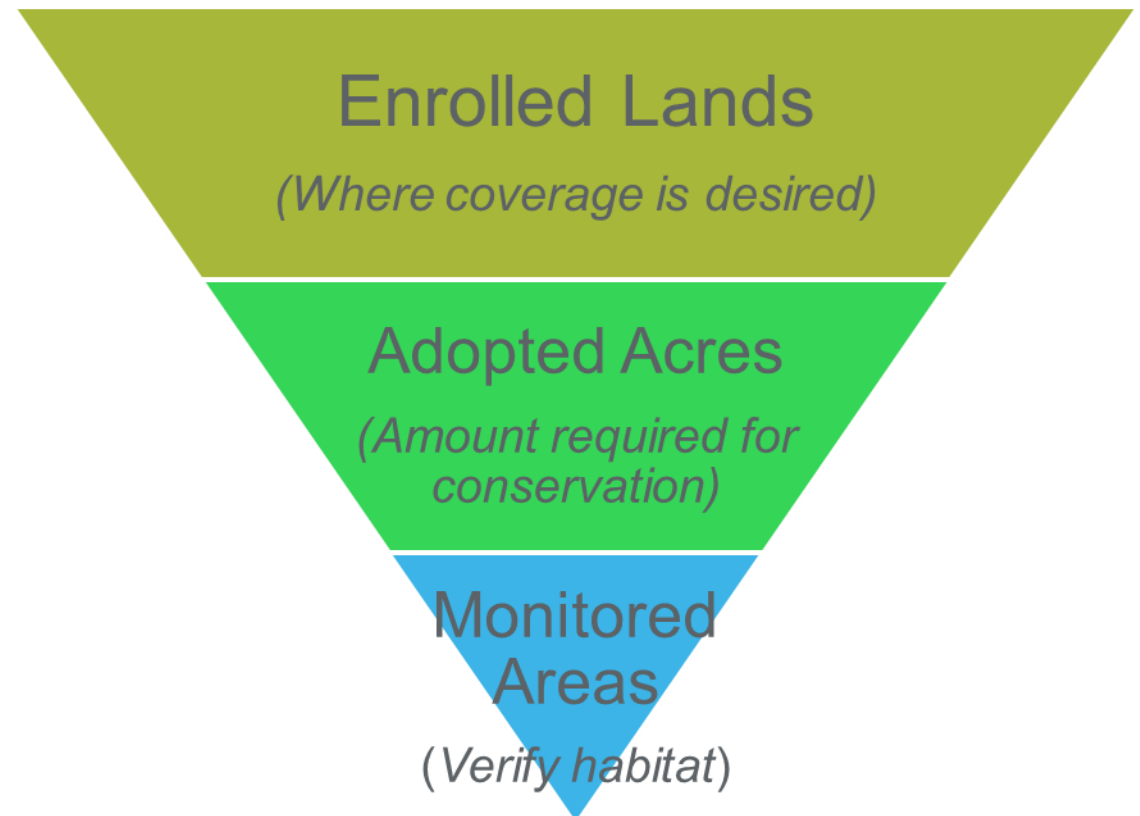
How does it work?

How does it work?



What do we do?

- **Enroll lands (i.e., entire system or portion of managed lands)**
 - Owned
 - Leased
 - Easements
- **Commit to:**
 - Implement conservation measures
 - Track where implemented
 - Monitor and report effectiveness
 - Supporting the Program Administrator



What do we do?

Select conservation measures that address manageable threats to suitable habitat on your system:

- Habitat conversion or loss
- Mowing
- Herbicide use

Possible Conservation Measures

Seeding and planting to restore or create habitat

Conservation mowing to enhance floral resource habitat

Targeted herbicide treatments

Prescribed burning to promote suitable habitat

Controlled grazing to promote suitable habitat

Brush removal to promote suitable habitat

Suitable habitat set-asides (temporary or permanent)



How much do we do?

Adoption Rate Approach	Transmission	Distribution	Generation	Highways (Interstate, U.S., State)	Highways (County, Local)	Rail
CCAA/CCA Adoption Rates	18%	1%	9%	8%	5%	5%

Example:

- Company enrolls 100,000 acres of ROW easements and owned parcels.
- Of this 100,000 acres,
 - 50,000 acres are distribution @ 1% = 500 acres
 - 40,000 acres are transmission @ 18% = 7,200 acres
 - 10,000 acres are generation @ 9% = 900 acres
- Total combined **adopted acres** includes = 8,600 acres



What else is required?

- Monitoring occurs on a subset of adopted acres.
- For our example, 8,600 adopted acres requires 30 monitoring points.

Estimated Adopted Acres	Anticipated No. of Samples
Less than 1,000	10
1,001 to 10,000	30
10,001 to 30,000	50
30,001 to 60,000	70
60,001 or more	70

Milkweed Present **Required.** Are numerous milkweed plants present within the sample plot area? (Yes/No)

Milkweed Count *Optional.* Select from a dropdown list of ranges for number of milkweed plants present in the sample area.

Nectar Resources Present **Required.** Is greater than 10% cover of nectar plants present within the sample plot area? (Yes/No)

Nectar Resources Cover *Optional.* Select from a dropdown list of ranges for percent cover of nectar plants present in the sample area.

Monarchs Observed *Optional.* Yes/No. Indicate whether monarchs (adult, larvae, or eggs) were observed within the sample area at the time of survey.

What do we get?

Once approved, the USFWS will:

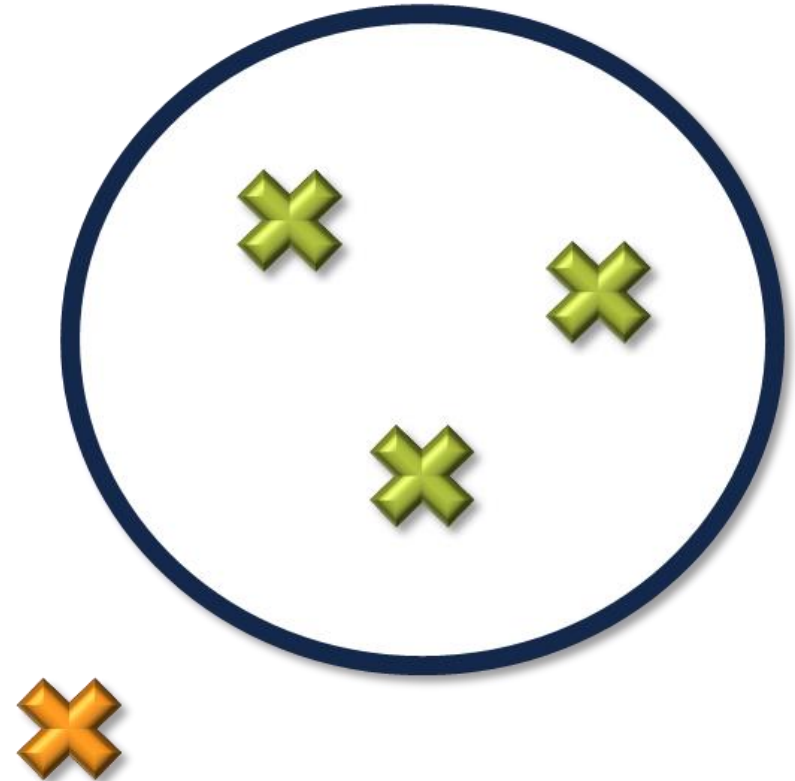
- Not require additional conservation measures
- Not impose additional land, water, or resource use restrictions beyond those voluntarily agreed to and described as
 - **Conservation Measures**
 - **Covered Activities**

Covered Activities
General operations
Survey and inspections
Vegetation management as part of conservation measures
Vegetation management that may impact habitat
Minor structural maintenance
Facilities management and maintenance
Construction within existing ROW
Emergency response activities



What is excluded?

- Any activity conducted outside of areas included in “Enrolled Lands”
- Construction projects on new ROW easements or acquired lands
- Activities that may pose:
 - Loss of other federal-listed species
 - Significant environmental impact
 - Controversial projects



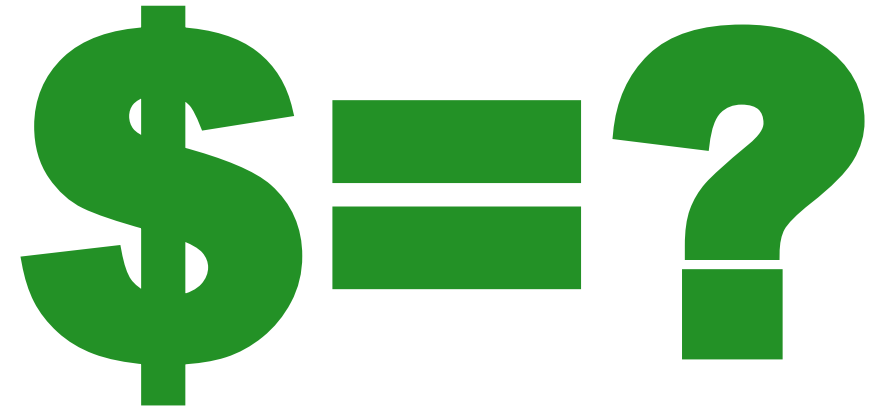


Costs and benefits

How much will this cost?

Primary Costs:

- Administrative fee
- Internal review and application preparation
- Implementation costs
 - Training and communication
 - Tracking conservation measures
 - Effectiveness monitoring
 - Annual reporting



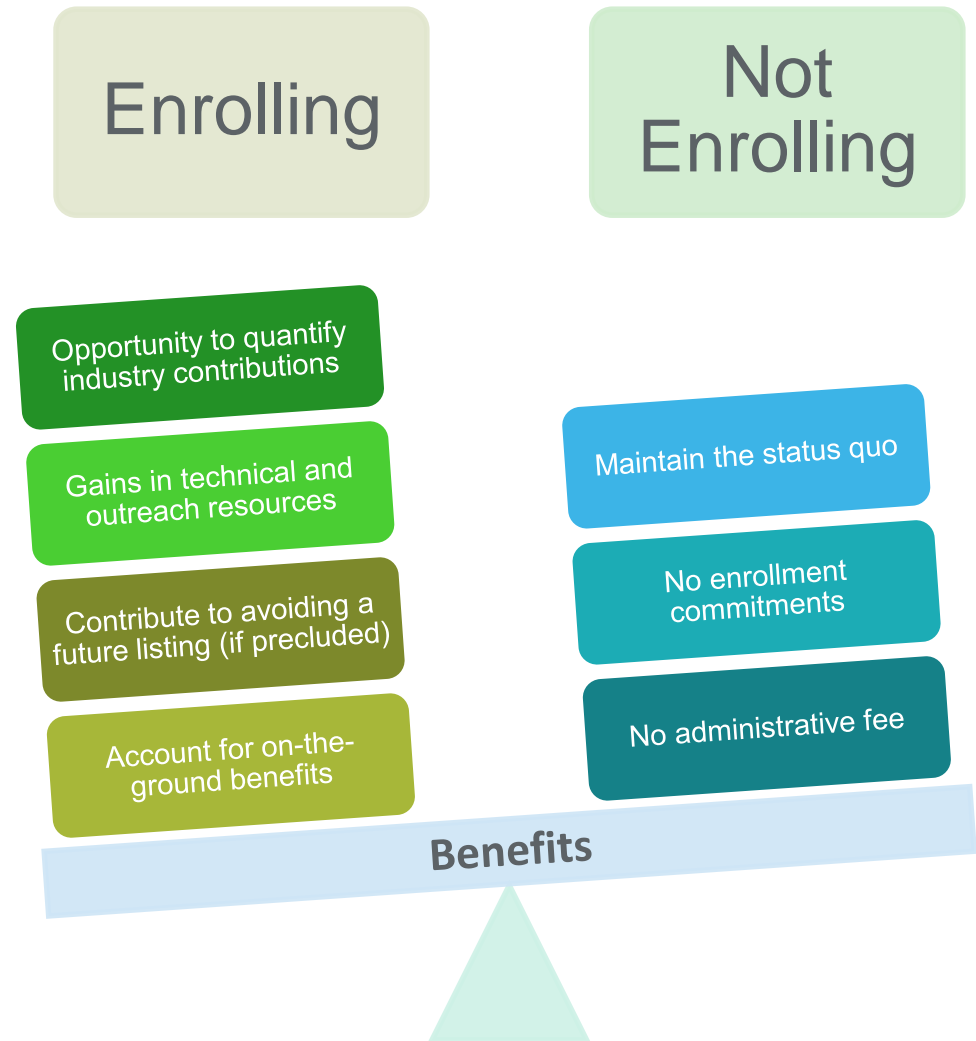
Annual Administrative Fee

- Administrative Fee =
(Application Fee + Base Fee + Cost Per Acre) – (Deductions Per Acre)
- **Application Fee** covers the cost of review and processing the COI application (*first year only*).
- **Base Fee** supports general program administration.
- **Cost Per Acre** accounts for scale differences among Partners to support administration.
- **Deductions Per Acre** provides financial incentives for contributions above and beyond baseline compliance.

Typical fee range averages \$5,000 - \$30,000 per year

Consider the benefits

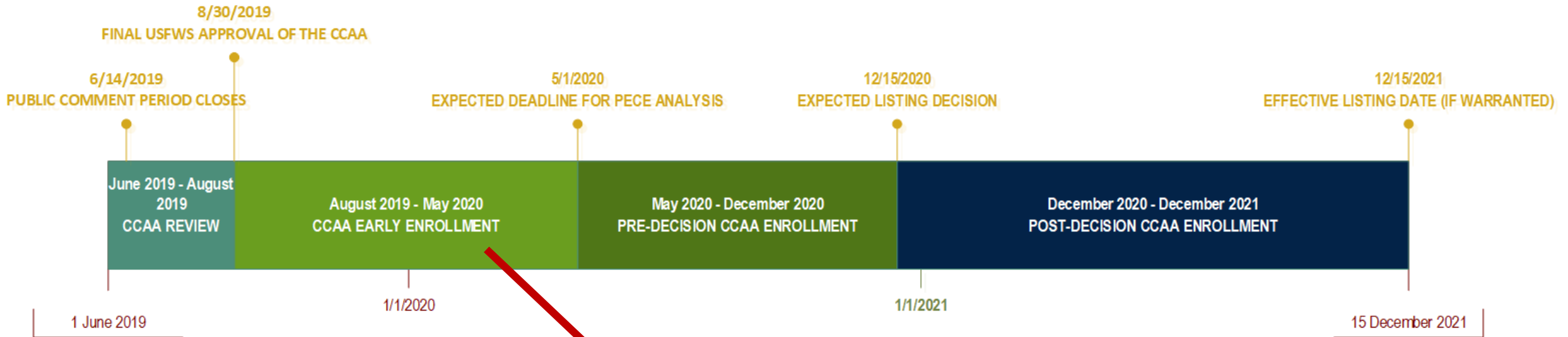
- Weigh the costs and benefits of enrolling vs. not enrolling:
 - Value of technical resources and certainty
 - Contributions to conservation targets, listing avoidance
 - Conservation or sustainability commitments





What's next?

Timeline for enrollment



**Discounts available for early enrollment!
Between 5 and 20% off annual fee for
first 3 years**



More Information

- Find more information here: <http://rightofway.erc.uic.edu/>
 - Webinar recordings
 - FAQs
 - Talking Points
 - Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Stay in the loop with the Rights-of-Way as Habitat WG
 - Next meeting: **September 9 – 10, 2019** in Cincinnati, OH
- Contact UIC to get a draft application, estimate administrative fees, or set up your pre-application meeting



The Monarch CCAA: What You Need to Know and How to Enroll

The Monarch CCAA is expected to be finalized in June and open for enrollment immediately thereafter. Tune in to the upcoming webinar to learn more about this conservation opportunity and how your organization can participate.

Thank you!

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