

Applicant: WingsRising, Inc.

### **REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW**

We respectfully request expedited review for two reasons of critical importance to the non-profit's purpose:

1. We have an opportunity, if granted 501 (c) 3 status on an expedited basis, to receive a grant of property for the purpose of preserving it as a Monarch Land Preservation Trust. The land currently supports an abundance of indigenous milkweed and nectar flora that serves as a primary natural preserve for the Monarch butterfly along its migratory path (and is also a beneficial habitat for other indigenous pollinators). The owner has indicated that he intends to list the property for sale as farmland early this spring. If the property sells for farming purposes, this natural Monarch preserve will be plowed under and completely lost. The loss of this preserve would further stress the Monarch population in the area (which is already teetering at critically low levels). However, we believe this owner has expressed openness to set aside a portion of the property (either by outright grant, or alternatively, as a conservation easement) for the purpose of creating a Monarch preserve. Time is of the essence in obtaining 501 (c) 3 status so we can save at least a portion of this land as a Monarch preserve (benefiting all indigenous pollinators).
2. As discussed in Part IV ("Narrative Description of Your Activities") of this application, we are in the second year of an entomological science project in southeastern Idaho (Blackfoot and Pingree, Idaho) to determine with as much specificity as possible, the exact migratory corridors the Monarch butterfly uses to migrate into Idaho in the spring, and where it migrates to (Mexico, or California, or both, or elsewhere) in the fall as it moves to its overwintering enclaves. What makes this matter urgent this year is the fact that this winter season in California has been marked by unseasonably heavy rains and cold, which has lowered the Monarch populations in these overwintering locations. It is imperative that we accelerate, if possible, our efforts to complete this important field study this summer and fall. To do that, we must dramatically increase the raising of Monarch adults in the coming weeks for tagging and release. To the extent we can identify common migratory corridors for the Monarch, we can then target the restoration of indigenous milkweed and nectar plants along these corridors to increase Monarch migration success. This is of critical importance for the survival of the Monarch species.