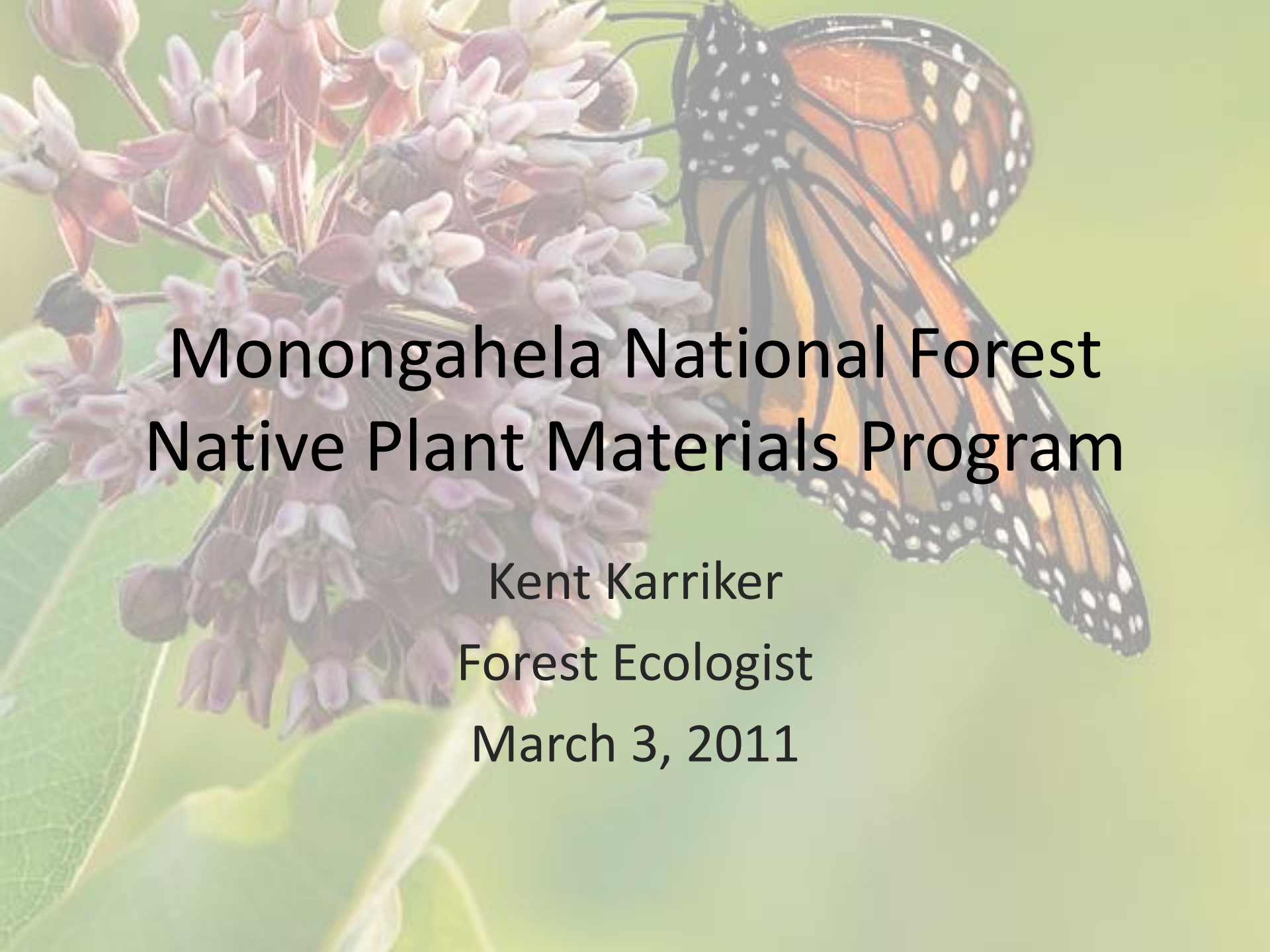

Monongahela National Forest Native Plant Materials Program

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Forest Plan Direction for Native Plants

- Echoes National and Regional Policy
- Native species preferred in most situations
- Non-invasive non-native species allowed on permanently altered sites or if appropriate natives are not available
- Non-persistent non-native cover crops can be used for quick stabilization while native plants get established

Current Uses of Native Plants

- Wildlife/Terrestrial Ecology programs
  - Strip mine restoration
  - Wildlife openings/habitat enhancement
  - Red spruce & balsam fir restoration

Current Uses of Native Plants

- Aquatic Ecology program
  - Riparian habitat enhancement
  - Road decommissioning

Current Uses of Native Plants

- Botany Program
  - Native plant/pollinator gardens
  - Restoration after NNIS control

Current Uses of Native Plants

- Engineering, Recreation, Timber, Fire, and Minerals programs use native seed for erosion control

Who Pays for Native Plant Material?

- NFN3 – pollinator gardens, much of the strip mine restoration work
- NFWF – spruce/fir restoration, strip mine restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement
- NFVW – riparian habitat restoration, road decommissioning
- NFRW – recreation site stabilization
- Timber purchasers – timber sale roads/skid trails
- Natural gas operators – well sites, pipelines

Sources

- Availability of locally native material is a big issue
- Seed transfer zone defined by Ecological Section (Allegheny Mtns.) – eastern WV, western MD, part of SW PA
- No commercial vendor routinely grows plants from this zone
- Seeding for erosion control typically uses central Appalachian material

Sources

- NRCS Appalachian Plant Materials Center
  - Major source of locally native material
    - Strip mine sites
    - Pollinator gardens
    - Cooperative effort between FS and NRCS to collect seed from the Forest

Sources - Partnerships

- NRCS Appalachian Plant Materials Center locally native plant production effort
  - Produced over 8,500 locally native plants to date
  - NFN3 funding has been critical
  - NFWF and NFVW have funded salary time for seed collection and planting
  - Substantial contributions of staff time and materials from NRCS
  - WV DNR, USFWS, TNC, WV Highlands Conservancy, The Mountain Institute contributed staff time for seed collection

Sources - Partnerships

- WV Highlands Conservancy has propagated red spruce and balsam fir from local seed since 1999
- Over 150,000 seedlings produced to date
- Used for restoration projects on USFWS, FS, and private land

Future Needs for Native Plant Materials

- Several thousand acres of old strip mines could be restored
- Spruce ecosystem restoration needs are expanding
- Riparian restoration planting opportunities expected to increase from a few acres to 100+ acres per year
- Backlog of road decommissioning opportunities expected to increase to over 100 miles

Future Needs for Native Plant Materials

- Estimated annual demand for the near future
  - 59,000 tree and shrub seedlings
  - 1,000 lbs of seed
  - Undetermined number of herbaceous plant containers or plugs
- NRCS Plant Materials Center is near capacity for containers, may have some room for seed production

Native Plant Materials Working Group

- Spin-off from Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative
  - FS
  - NRCS (PMC and local RC&D council)
  - WVDNR
  - WV Division of Forestry
  - WV Native Plant Society
  - The Nature Conservancy

Native Plant Materials Working Group

- Estimate native plant material needs of the various partners
- Demonstrate existing demand to encourage private producers
- Develop our own seed production area?
- Help NRCS PMC increase their capacity?
- Potential for state to require native plants for reclamation, erosion control?