This project was initiated in 2010 to inform the public about one of nature’s most remarkable phenomena - the Monarch Butterfly. Artist Erica Fielder’s watercolor captures the story of this amazing insect – its life cycle and epic journey. The original painting was digitally imaged at 600 dpi onto sheets of low acid paper and printed with UV resistant inks. The sheets were then embedded in fiberglass resin. Four interpretive exhibits with frames and pedestals were installed near native pollinator gardens at National Forest visitor centers and offices.

It is anticipated that over 150,000 visitors will have an opportunity to view these exhibits each year. Additionally, varieties of native milkweeds were planted in gardens to draw the Monarch Butterflies in for closer viewing and provide the host plants needed by caterpillars and adults.

Figure 1. Original artwork prepared by Erica Fielder Studios, California, illustrates the life cycle and epic journey of Monarchs.

Figure 2. Mark Jaunzems, Washburn Ranger District, installs new Monarch wayside exhibit by native pollinator gardens.