Over the last ten years there has been a frightening trend in monarch butterfly population. The number of monarch butterflies in the U.S. has been in sharp decline. In 2003, 27.48 acres were inhabited by these insects (this measurement is a reflection of population). Just ten years later, the population is a fraction of that with the number of acres inhabited during seasonal hibernation at 1.65 acres, an all-time low. One of the largest threats facing monarch butterflies today is the destruction of their habitat and the loss of milkweed throughout the nation, a plant vital to the survival of the insect.

Unlike the dwindling monarch butterfly population the number of people living in the United States has risen from 290.1 million in 2003 to an estimated 313.9 million in 2013. This rising population has presumably been met with construction, more housing units, and ultimately more destruction of wildlife habitats. All of these factors are likely to affect monarch butterflies. This calls into question what the relationship between rising human population has on the fate of the monarch butterflies. If this trend continues and the U.S. population in these areas continues to grow, it is possible the monarchs will continue to disappear.

As previously stated, the biggest threat to monarch butterflies is the destruction of their habitat. This map not only has implications in the relationship between human population and the monarch butterfly population but what can be done in order to counteract the downward trend in the population. Citizens and developers within these regions can take steps to help maintain the monarch butterfly population, such as planting milkweed and avoiding the destruction of milkweed on a local scale and educating communities on the effects of human impact on the butterflies.