

Native Lupine Seedbed Establishment for Federally Listed Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat

2006 Accomplishments

Restoration of habitat for the federally Threatened Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) is a top priority for the Manistee National Forest. Successful restoration requires the presence of lupine and other nectar plant species typical of fire-dependant savanna/barren ecosystems. Use of Michigan genotype native plant species is also a priority for Forest plantings and restoration. Fewer than 120 plants have native seed available for restoration uses in Michigan. Some plant species, such as lupine, are available but not at the quantities needed for restoration projects.

Lupine is a required plant for survival of the Karner Blue Butterfly. The Forest plans to restore approximately 4,000 acres of KBB habitat in the next ten years. Over the next two years, this project will establish four acres of Michigan native genotype lupine in a permanent bed on federal property. This lupine plot will serve as a seed source for future restoration projects for the butterfly.

In FY2006, the Forest contracted installation of deer exclosure fencing around the future lupine seed bed. Forest personnel and a native nursery contractor began control of invasive plants on the site using mechanical and chemical treatments. A second year of invasive plant treatment will occur early in the 2007 growing season, followed by lupine seed planting late in the season. Garden Club Volunteers have assisted in the project by collecting native lupine seed from nearby locations.



Newly fenced seedbed mowed and undergoing first herbicide treatment.



Seedbed prior to project implementation..

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2007

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$28,800, expended \$11,721;
- \$17,079 remaining

Contractors: Straight Fence,
Michigan Wildflower Farm
Partner: Michigan Garden Clubs

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