

Mardon Skipper Habitat Enhancement: Native Bunchgrass Meadows on the Klamath National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

This project was initiated to enhance short statured bunchgrass meadows that are habitat for the Mardon skipper, FWS Candidate species. The Mardon skipper (Figure 2) depends on native graminoid species specifically, Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), for oviposition and larval food.

Botanists from the Klamath NF and the Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata Field Office, visited the closest known Mardon skipper populations in southern Oregon and Del Norte County to look at Mardon skipper habitat (Figure 1). Surveys on the Klamath NF were then conducted to look for similar habitat that may be in need of enhancement.

The location chosen is on the Scott River Ranger District. This location is ideal in that it very closely resembles known Mardon skipper habitat, is within the historical range of the species, is in need of enhancement through grass planting, and is a good match geologically to the source of the foundation seed. This project will also benefit a population of a FS R5 Sensitive Plant Species, *Ivesia pickeringii*, by reducing ATV traffic into the meadows.

Idaho fescue foundation seed was obtained from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest to produce plugs. The plugs will be planted throughout 5 acres of meadows to revegetate bare areas from old mining disturbance and cover an old road that goes through the meadow. Signs prohibiting traffic into the meadow will also be posted at a nearby dispersed camping site. In FY2012, the Klamath NF will develop a monitoring plan and conduct monitoring.



Figure 1. Mardon skipper habitat in Del Norte County



Figure 2. Mardon skipper, Del Norte County

Year Awarded: FY2011

Project completion: FY2012

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures (FY2011): \$11,000

Partners: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service – Arcata Field Office; Shasta Trinity National Forest.



Klamath National Forest
1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097