



**MONARCH**  
JOINT VENTURE

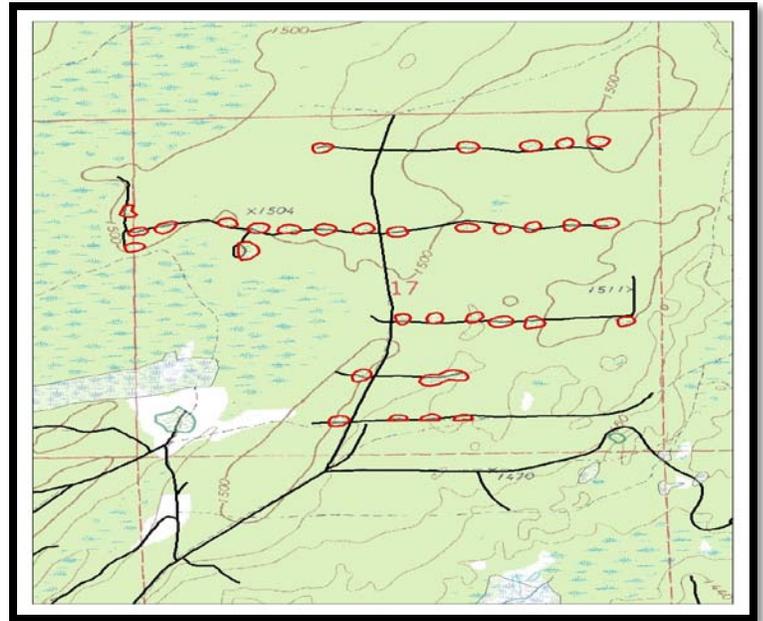
# Catwillow Monarch Project

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
Lakewood-Laona Ranger District

## 2010 Accomplishments

In 2010, we identified this 4.5 mile (Fig. 1) section of the Catwillow Hiking Trail System as having high potential for butterfly management. Set within a large block of upland hardwoods are 33 forest openings (Fig.2) that average about 0.5 acres each and contain variously sized patches of Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). Some of these small openings had up to 8 monarch butterflies in them as did the gated road system. These milkweed plants will be a great seed source to spread within other openings that lack milkweed, both in this area and across the District.

To improve this area for pollinators, we will also spread seeds from local native flowering plants, including Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Purple Giant Hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariaefolia*), Flat-top Aster (*Aster umbellatus*), and Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*). This will take place in all openings and along the trail system (butterfly travel corridors). To increase species diversity, we will mow some small sections (mainly fern patches) to reduce their size and create opportunities for more desirable plants to grow and benefit the butterflies.



**Figure 1.** Map of 33 openings with varying amounts of milkweed patches and monarch butterfly activity.



**Figure 2.** Wildlife opening with trail and patch of milkweed.

**Year Project Initiated :** 2010

**Project completion:** On going

**Report number:** 1 of 1

**Expenditures (through 10/2010):** \$400

**FY10funding:** NFWF

**Partners/Contractors/Coop:**

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