



Native Seed and Pollinator Resource Areas Hoosier National Forest 2010 Accomplishments

Ten species of *Asclepias* occur on the Hoosier National Forest with common milkweed most abundant where it exists readily in old fields, pastures, roadsides, power right-of-ways, and in Forest wildlife openings. Butterfly milkweed is likewise common in similar habitats.

Since 2007, the Hoosier National Forest has established several native seed and pollinator resource areas. These areas have ranged in size from about 10 acres to 100 acres. At the project sites, the Forest has included butterfly milkweed and/or common milkweed species in our native seed mixture or when planting native plant container stock. The inclusion of several other native forbs will increase plant diversity in these areas and provide nectar sources for monarch butterflies.

Through 2010, these three areas total about 140 acres of ecosystem restoration and habitat enhancement, providing a valuable resource for monarch butterflies and other native pollinator species. Project sites prior to implementation were weedy pastures of tall fescue grass or agricultural row-crops that provided little, if any, habitat for monarchs and other pollinator insects.

Forest personnel will use these sites as collection areas to expand milkweeds and other native plant species to other locales where they are less abundant.

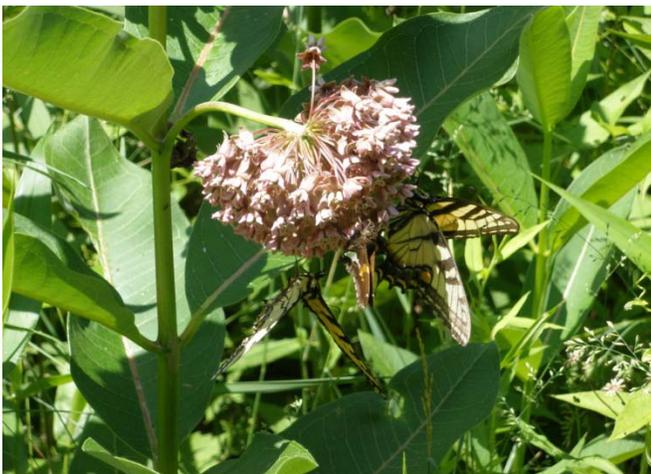


Figure 1. Near Mifflin Project – Butterflies on *Asclepias syriaca*. Photo by Kirk W. Larson



Figure 2. Haskins Project – *Rudbeckia hirta*, site previously a row-crop field. Photo by Steve Harriss

Year Projects Initiated: Haskins (2007 – 100 acres), Mifflin (2009 – 10 acres), Stillion (2010 – 30 acres)

Report number: 1 of 1

FY10 funding: NFN3 - \$27,000 (native seed mixture), NFWV - \$4,100 (native wildflower plugs)

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources - Division of Fish and Wildlife, Roundstone Native Seed, JFNew Native Plant Nursery, Spence Restoration Nursery
Indiana State Vallonia Nursery

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