



Catwillow Monarch Project

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Lakewood-Laona Ranger District

2011 Accomplishments

In 2010, we identified this 4.5 mile section of the Catwillow Hiking Trail System as having high potential for butterfly management because of 33 forest openings with Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).

In FY11 we did planning, surveying, clearing, seed collecting, and sowing. We conducted a vegetation survey of the entire Catwillow Monarch Area in October, planned future management, and assembled a list of butterfly species and host plants. Cool spring weather hampered non-native invasive species control.

We conducted three butterfly surveys (06/01, 08/11-12, and 09/08) in select openings. In addition to many Monarch caterpillars, chrysalises, and adults, we also found several other butterfly species, including West Virginia White (*Pieris virginiensis*), and many bumblebees and other insects. All trails were cleared of downed trees during summer.

We collected seeds from many local native nectar and host plants including Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Great St. John's-wort (*Hypericum pyramidatum*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*). We sowed seeds in openings to provide more nectar plants, and we added Common Milkweed to all openings that lacked it.



Figure 2. Male Monarch Butterfly nectaring on Common Milkweed in a Catwillow Monarch Area wildlife opening during the August 12th butterfly survey



Figure 1. Google Earth satellite photo (06/23/2008) of the Catwillow Monarch Area

Year Project Initiated : 2010

Project completion: On going

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures (through 09/2011): \$5,400

FY11 funding: NFN313

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