



# Openings for Butterflies Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

This project was initiated to restore 26 overgrown forest openings to benefit butterflies, birds and other wildlife. Many of the forest openings on the Washburn Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest are being encroached by trees and shrubs due to fire suppression and natural succession. Selected openings with dense cover were treated in 2010 by cutting most of the saplings and shrubs (Figure 1), primarily leaving scattered cherries and other soft mast producing shrubs.

To date, seven openings have been burned to further set back encroachment, as well as stimulate native species of forbs and grasses. Seed collected from native species on the district was used to restore vegetation on former roads in some openings. In addition, 100 milkweed plants, grown from Chequamegon seed at the J.W. Toumey Seed Orchard in Michigan, were planted along the former roads to re-establish Monarch butterfly habitat in the openings (Figure 2). An additional 150 milkweeds were planted in rain gardens at the Washburn District Office and the Valhalla Recreation Area.



Figure 1. Cutting dense brush to restore opening habitat.



Figure 2. Planting milkweed and seeding native species

Year Project Initiated: 2009

Project completion: Ongoing

Report number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2011): \$ \$25,000

FY11 funding: NFWF and K-V

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