



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

Hoosier National Forest Early Successional Habitat And Pollinator Resource Areas 2011 Accomplishments

Since 2007, the Hoosier National Forest has established several native seed and pollinator resource areas. The project areas have ranged in size from about 10 acres to 100 acres. At the project sites, the Forest has included butterfly milkweed and common milkweed, as well as lesser quantities of two other 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 2011, these four areas total about 140 acres of ecosystem restoration and habitat enhancement, providing a valuable resource for monarch butterflies and other native pollinator species.



Haskins Area – Top Left: September 2011
Bottom Right: July 2011. Photos by Kirk W. Larson

Additionally, these areas also function as early successional habitat (ESH) areas that benefit many wildlife species. The Forest maintains these areas by using prescribed fire on a 2-4 year rotation, which stimulates native grasses and wildflowers that improves habitat for local species. The Hoosier National Forest has expanded beyond the pollinator areas to include larger projects, which includes activities such as tilling, native seeding and planting, and conducting landscape burns to improve native plant diversity.

Wildflowers are an important source for pollinators such as native bees and butterflies, plus improving habitat for other wildlife species such as quail, turkeys, songbirds, and bats.



Haskins Area – Monarch on *Bidens aristosa*.
Photo by Kirk W. Larson

Year Projects Initiated (NFN3 Native Plants/Pollinator Areas: Haskins (2007 – 100 acres), Mifflin (2009 – 10 acres), Stillion (2010 – 30 acres), Tincher (2011 – 10 acres)

Other ESH areas: Mifflin (124 ac), Upper Moffatt (13 ac), Oriole Opening (16 ac), Hunter Creek Wetland (30 ac)

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

- FY11 funding: NFN3 - \$23,000 (native seed, plugs, interpretive sign/kiosk, bee habitat structures, mowing/seeding, partial cost – herbicide spraying)
- NFWV – \$41,790 (native seed, plugs and shrubs, mowing and seeding, herbicide spraying)
- NFWF – \$41,190 (native seed, plugs and shrubs, herbicide spraying)
- WFHF – \$34,875 (prescribed burning)

Partners/Contractors:

Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources - Division of Fish & Wildlife,
Roundstone Native Seed, JFNew Native Plant Nursery, Spence Restoration Nursery, Indiana State Vallonia Nursery, Eco Logic, Knight's Construction, K & K Dirtworks

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