



**MONARCH  
JOINT VENTURE**

# Monarchs and Milkweeds White Mountain National Forest 2011 Accomplishments

This project was initiated in 2008 with the installation of the native plant garden at the Saco Ranger Station in Conway, NH. A conscious effort was made to install native plant materials that would be beneficial to local pollinators, especially the monarch butterfly. Native Plant Gardens now exist at three administrative sites on the White Mountain National Forest (WMAC): the Saco Ranger Station, the Androscoggin Ranger Station and the new White Mountain Administrative Complex (WMAC). The common milkweed at the Saco and Androscoggin Ranger Station gardens has become so abundant that it is being thinned so that it does not choke out other pollinator plants nearby. The thinned stock is then transplanted to wildflower meadows nearby at each site.

In 2011, additional milkweed stock was added to the WMAC gardens and included as a component of the seed production meadow plug plantings taking place in the fall of 2011. All the planting stock was provided by a local nursery and is of local New England genetic type. These plantings total approximately 1 acre.

The WMNF has for many years maintained dozens of wildlife openings on the WMNF through the use of fire and mowing. Despite staffing limitations and problems with our primary mower we were able to maintain approximately 183 acres of land in an open state. These sites a strong component of common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), as well as other milkweed species. These openings are critical to the future of the Monarch butterfly on the WMNF. By maintaining these areas in an open state with a component of common milkweed we are providing habitat and



*Ripe and dispersing pods of swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata) at the White Mountain National Forest seed production meadow.*



*Common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) beginning to establish in the seed production meadow.*

Year Project Initiated: 2008

Project completion: The project is on-going and variable with actions and funding be utilized to enhance habitat for monarchs as available. The funding listed below is related to the planting of milkweed species in native plant pollinator gardens. Additional funding from multiple appropriated funds was utilized to support the mowing and burning of wildlife openings to achieve multiple targets.

Expenditures (through 10/2011): \$2,456.26  
FY11 funding: \$956.26

Partners/Contractors/Coop:  
Clements Nursery

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