



MONARCH
JOINT VENTURE

Catwillow Monarch Project

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Lakewood-Laona Ranger District

2012 Accomplishments

Catwillow Monarch Area (CMA) is a gated system of trails and wildlife openings managed for pollinators by focusing on Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) and Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*).

In FY12, we herbicided non-native invasive species (NNIS) in May, primarily European Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*) and Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). We conducted 8 pollinator surveys between May and September to tally species and monitor phenology and nectar preferences. In addition to documenting all stages of Monarchs, we also identified 20 other butterfly species, including West Virginia White (*Pieris virginiensis*) and Krautwurm's Fritillary (*Speyeria cybele krautwurni* - a subspecies of the Great Spangled Fritillary) plus several species of bees, moths, and many other insects. A mid-September nocturnal Moth Survey added another 26 species to the site's running Lepidoptera total while an AnaBat Ultrasonic Bat Detector recorded almost constant bat calls. Another round of NNIS control in late September focused on Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). We also collected seeds from a variety of native plant species.

We've assembled a flowering timeline and pollinator preference list to guide future seed collection and sowing efforts, with the goal of having nectar-filled flowers available throughout the growing season.



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



Figure 2. Two male Monarchs, a partially-hidden Krautwurm's Fritillary, a Yellow-banded Bumble Bee (*Bombus terricola*), and a Dunn Skipper (*Euphyes vestris*) nectar on Common Milkweed in a CMA wildlife opening during the July 18th pollinator survey.

Year Project Initiated : 2010

Project completion: On-going

Report number: 3 of 3

Expenditures (through 09/2012): \$9,816

FY12 funding: NFXF5T, NFXFC6, NFWF13, NFWV13

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