



# Monarch Butterfly Projects - Superior National Forest 2013 Accomplishments

Although northeast Minnesota is marginal habitat for monarch butterflies, in 2011 the Superior National Forest collected common milkweed seed and planted it in suitable habitat at district offices. Monitoring in 2013 showed that unfortunately none of these plantings succeeded, nor was any feeding by monarch caterpillars detected on milkweed leaves at other locations on the Superior where common milkweed is known to occur.

In 2013 the Superior National Forest burned 11 acres of wildlife openings to maintain the openings and benefit early successional species. These prescribed burns indirectly benefited any nectar-gathering pollinators including monarchs by helping to maintain the openings and maintain nectar-producing wildflowers like flowering dogbane, black-eyed susan, and evening primrose.



Figure 2. Wildlife opening prescribed burn



Figure 1. Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) fruit

Year Project Initiated: 2011  
Project completion: Ongoing  
Report number: 1 of 1  
FY13 Expenditures(through 9/30/2013): \$3,000  
FY13 funding: WFHF09  
Partners/Contractors/Coop: None  
Contact Person & phone number:  
Jack Greenlee, 218-229-8817



**Superior National Forest**  
8901 Grand Ave. Place  
Duluth, MN 55808