

The Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly

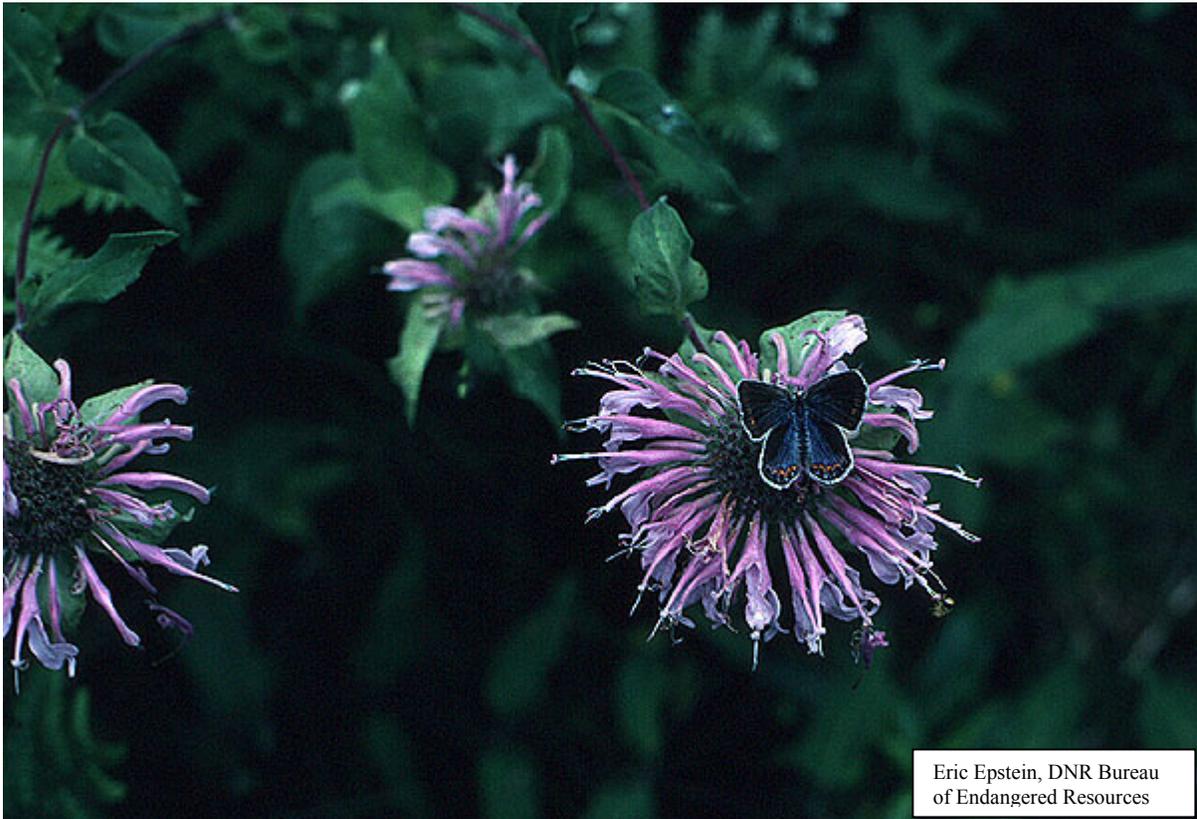
HCP

Annual Report

2000

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Introduction

The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Karner blue butterfly (Kbb) in Wisconsin establishes a statewide program for Karner conservation. Wisconsin DNR is authorized to oversee implementation of this plan and activities described in the implementing agreement conducted according to the terms of Permit # TE0100064 for incidental take of Karners. This report is a summary of information from twenty-one partners and two DNR staff about activities conducted on lands included in the HCP.

Results of Activities Conducted on Partner Lands

Seventeen partners reported surveys for lupine and Karners. One thousand and five sites were reported surveyed for lupine, with 189 of them showing presence. One hundred eighty sites were reported surveyed for Karners, with sixty-three indicating presence.

The names of surveyors were crosschecked with the list of effectiveness monitoring training attendees, to ensure that all were properly trained on survey technique. A common problem with data sheets is still that the surveyor name was left blank. The importance of completing the **entire** form was emphasized at training in 2000, and for the most part, the forms were much more complete than last year. Survey dates were consistent among partners; however, it is to be expected that in a few cases each year variables of personnel, weather, or butterflies will cause a few surveys to fall outside the peak period.

There was a vast improvement in completion of the forms from last year. Most forms I received were accurately and appropriately completed.

JCF, BCF, and DNR reported activity on occupied habitat, encompassing approximately 25 acres of habitat and several miles of trails. Activities conducted ranged from prescribed burns and timber sales to trail maintenance and clean up of windstorm damage. Pre-management surveys were conducted by all but one of these partners, because their conservation agreement does not require that level of survey. No permanent take was reported.

Five partners reported transfers of land during the report period. Appendix A contains the details of location, transferee, and relationship to SPA/ACE boundaries. Approximately 256,789 acres are currently included for coverage under the HCP. Of the handful of partners reporting land transfers, there were still a few with incomplete information. For the most part this entailed not reporting to whom the land was sold, or whether it was land purchased.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) conducted surveys for associated species. They found *Asclepias ovalifolia* on one site, and *Callirhoe triangulata* at both sites surveyed for it.

DNR, in conjunction with the IOC, recommended last year that future reports contain a separate page for reporting proactive conservation measures, i.e. those activities conducted to enhance or feature Karners and their habitat. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) reported many activities beneficial to Kbb habitat on several of their properties. They cut brush, conducted prescribed burns, and collected seed. DOT assisted with burying of optic cables along I-94, which was done by boring under the lupine. Some disturbed sites were then seeded with dry prairie/lupine mix.

Again, the highlight of the partnership's activities is the wealth of outreach and education (O&E) conducted by 18 different partners. Appendix B details the activities conducted by partner staff.

The report from one DNR property, the Glacial Lake Grantsburg unit, was submitted in the form of a GIS map, which is attached to this report. It is an ideal way to accurately report large-scale ecosystem management, and should be encouraged in the future for partners that have the technology available to them and manage large tracts of land.