

Regional News

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FWS Field Offices in Bloomington, Indiana, and Green Bay, Wisconsin, are engaged in interagency conferences to protect the Karner blue butterfly (*Lycæides melissa samuelis*), which has been proposed for listing as Endangered. The Bloomington Office is conferring with the National Park Service on a proposed fire management plan for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Indiana Dunes includes Inland Marsh, a 40-acre (16-ha), high quality complex of wetlands and prairie savannah, along with some disturbed areas that currently contain the largest population of Karner blue butterflies on the lakeshore. Dr. Dale Schweitzer of the National Park Service has characterized the Karner blue population at Inland Marsh as globally significant and probably the third largest in the world.

Inland Marsh experienced an extensive wildfire in 1986, followed by a controlled burn in 1987. Portions of the area are now experiencing rapid succession of secondary growth. It is generally believed that if fire suppression continues, the area will eventually become unsuitable or only marginally suitable for the Karner blue butterfly, which needs open habitat. The fire management plan is intended to counter the effects of vegetational succession and help maintain suitable habitat for the butterfly.

The Bloomington Field Office is also conferring with the Environmental Protection Agency on a permit application from Midwest Steel Company that may affect Karner blue butterfly habitat along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Both EPA and Midwest Steel are interested in conserving and enhancing Karner blue habitat, and are preparing a biological assessment to evaluate the effects of alternative actions on butterfly habitat on the company's property.

The FWS Green Bay Office has been working with the Department of Defense and several private landowners to help preserve Karner blue butterfly habitat in Wisconsin. Fort McCoy, a Department of Defense installation in central Wisconsin,

is preparing a biological assessment on winter training activity and a proposed habitat management plan. The Defense Department has been concerned about Karner blue butterfly habitat on Fort McCoy and is working to maximize protection for the butterfly while maintaining operations.

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Region 3 is continuing to formulate a plan to protect Threatened and Endangered mussels from an invasion by the zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*). The zebra mussel, a species native to Europe, was first discovered in North America in Lake St. Clair in 1986 and has since spread to all five Great Lakes and several major river systems, including the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Ohio, Tennessee, and Mississippi. In the past few years, the very prolific zebra mussel has extirpated all native unionid mussels in Lake St. Clair and on the Canadian side of the Detroit River.

In October 1992, police divers from the City of Detroit, Michigan, and community volunteers conducted an operation to salvage northern riffleshell mussels (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) from the American side of the Detroit River. The northern riffleshell has been proposed for listing as Endangered. The volunteers removed all zebra mussels from the riffleshell mussels, packed the riffleshells in holding cages, and placed the cages in two holding areas for the winter. One group was placed in the St. Clair River, which is still uncontaminated by the zebra mussel. The other group was placed in the boat basin of the Consumer's Power Company's Monroe Power Plant. Both groups will be monitored to ensure that no zebra mussel larvae survived the transfers. The mussels will be held in the two basins throughout the winter and relocated to suitable inland sites during the spring of 1993.

During the summer of 1992, zebra mussels were found in the St. Croix River, which forms part of the boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin and is the last stronghold for the Endangered winged mapleleaf pearly mussel (*Quadrula fragosa*). Region 3 is trying to

(1) determine the extent of zebra mussel invasion into this river system and (2) develop a strategy to protect both the winged mapleleaf pearly mussel and the Higgins' eye pearly mussel (*Lampsilis higginsii*), an Endangered species that also occurs in the St. Croix River.

This fall, zebra mussels were also found in the East Channel of the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. This area of the Mississippi River currently supports the largest known colony of the Higgins' eye pearly mussel. Region 3 will work with the Fisheries Laboratory in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to develop a response to the zebra mussel invasion at this site.

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Region 5 — The FWS New England Field Office held an awards ceremony on August 30 to recognize citizens' work in environmental conservation. Awards were presented to three landowners, the Board of Selectmen for Alton, New Hampshire, and the Alton Land Conservation Initiative Program Task Force. Over 300 acres (121 ha) of the world's largest population of the Endangered small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) will be protected as a result of their substantial donations and conservation easements. Additionally, FWS recognized the outstanding contribution of time and personal resources by a volunteer who has monitored over 1,300 small whorled pogonia plants for the past 10 years.

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In May, a controlled burn was conducted on habitat of the Endangered Peters Mountain mallow (*Iliamna corei*), a rare relative of the hibiscus whose entire range consists of only one site, Peters Mountain, in Giles County, Virginia. The burn followed laboratory investigations showing that this species will not germinate unless its hard seedcoats have been broken, and that this can be accomplished through careful burning. A series of 10-by-10-meter (33-by-33-foot) plots were burned or left unburned in a carefully controlled design. To date, nine Peters Mountain mallow seedlings have ap-

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