Why would a 4-wheeler help with this survey?

a. The Karner Blue Butterfly will probably affect areas that we like to wheel. If we don't get involved in this process at the beginning, we could possibly see a lot of areas closed to wheeling because of it.

b. To make sure the information is collected accurately and properly.

c. To have input into the areas that are going to affect us.

d. If we are not part of the solution, it will become part of the problem.
Volunteers participating in the Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Program make a difference!

The U.S. Forest Service Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger District (District) is looking for volunteers to assist in monitoring the Karner blue butterfly, a federally endangered species, within the Manistee National Forest in 2009 and beyond.

Volunteer participation in 2007 and 2008 was incredible! Individuals from numerous private and public partner organizations provided 281 volunteer days (~$37,000 in contributed volunteer time). To those who supported our 2007 and 2008 survey effort, thank you for being so generous with your time!

With your support, the District not only met, but surpassed its monitoring goals. Together, we inventoried 436 acres; locating 34 new Karner blue butterfly subpopulations. In addition, we estimated Karner blue butterfly abundance and assessed habitat conditions within 78 subpopulations covering 580 acres, and examined the influence of weather on Karner blue butterfly overwintering survivorship by collecting hourly temperature and weekly snow depth data within 20 selected subpopulations. We also conducted habitat surveys on an additional 104 acres to evaluate the effectiveness of different mechanical treatments at restoring Karner blue butterfly habitat.

Those participating in the 2007 and 2008 survey effort made an invaluable contribution to conserving the Karner blue butterfly by helping the District dramatically improve its understanding of the Karner blue butterfly's status within the Manistee National Forest, and how to restore suitable Karner blue butterfly habitat. However, there is still much to learn if we are to prevent this species from disappearing from our local landscape.

During the 2009 survey effort, the District will continue to monitor the Karner blue butterfly to determine: how far designated metapopulation areas within the Manistee National Forest are from meeting recovery goals; develop a habitat suitability model for Karner blue butterflies within the Manistee National Forest; identify high priority areas to target management; and evaluate the effectiveness of different management strategies for restoring Karner blue butterfly habitat.
Volunteers are needed to conduct Karner blue butterfly survey from late May to early June and from mid July to early August. There are opportunities for individuals of all skill levels to participate. Interested parties can volunteer during weekdays, for a few days, or a week or more. Reimbursement for mileage and housing is available.

Paid internships also are available. Between May and August, interns will help inventory, assess habitat, and manage for a variety of endangered, threatened, and sensitive fish and wildlife species, including the Karner blue butterfly.

If you are interested in participating in the 2009 field season, please contact Dr. Heather Keough at the Baldwin/White Cloud Ranger District.

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Your assistance is vital to meeting our recovery goals! Please choose to volunteer this year!