

Karner Blue Butterfly

Karner blue butterfly habitat.
Cathy Carnes/USFWS



Wild lupine habitat critical for the Karner blue butterfly. Niagra Mohawk Power Corporation

Karner Blue Butterfly

Location: Wisconsin

Acreage: Statewide

Species Covered: Karner blue butterfly

Challenge: This statewide HCP is still in the development stages but is considered one of the best approaches for landscape planning and is an ideal approach to the protection and conservation of the Karner blue butterfly. A statewide approach allows for large-scale ecosystem planning and alleviates the need for processing multiple individual permits. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the lead agency in this planning effort and is working with 28 partners, including the county forests, utility companies and forest products industry, along with The Nature Conservancy and the Wisconsin Departments of Agriculture and Transportation. The draft HCP is expected to be completed in 1998.



Karner blue butterfly. Richard Fields/USFWS

Benefit: This plan will allow the Karner blue butterfly to be conserved while the habitat it depends on is still used and is managed on an ecosystem scale, which in turn will help conserve other species.

"The Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly HCP is an opportunity to illustrate to the public that a complex landscape-scale HCP involving several public and private partners can be accomplished. This plan will ensure specific Karner blue butterfly protection and yet give the opportunity to particular partners to employ ecosystem management."

*Chuck Pils, Chief, Bureau of Endangered Resources
Department of Natural Resources
State of Wisconsin*



Karner blue butterfly. Niagra Mohawk Power Corporation

The Potlatch Corporation

Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat.
John and Karen Hollingworth/USFWS



Red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. John and Karen Hollingworth/USFWS

The Potlatch Corporation

Location: Arkansas

Acreage: 15,000 acres

Species Covered: Red-cockaded woodpecker

Challenge: The Potlatch Corporation, a timber products company, approached the FWS regarding the potential impact its timber management program had on the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The company believed that its current management activities benefited the RCW and complied with the law, but wanted certainty that its future plans could proceed without hampering survival of the woodpecker.

Benefit: The approved Potlatch HCP provides the company with flexible management options while ensuring that forty-four groups of RCWs on the company's lands will be maintained and protected. The HCP also provides the foraging areas necessary for the species' recovery as defined by the RCW recovery plan. Potlatch anticipates that the RCW population will expand on their lands because of the management regime used by the company. This agreement protects Potlatch's long-term investment in its timberlands and provides incentives to actively conserve the endangered woodpecker.



Red-cockaded woodpecker. John and Karen Hollingworth/USFWS

"The Potlatch Habitat Conservation Plan is part of the continued Potlatch corporate-wide effort to practice responsible environmental management of our timberlands. Our partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created a plan that truly strikes a balance. It protects an endangered species while enabling our foresters to continue appropriate forest management to support our wood and paper products operations. At Potlatch, we are proud to have set new standards for red-cockaded woodpecker protection on a large industrial forest land."

*John M. Richards, Chairman and CEO
The Potlatch Corporation*



Central and Coastal Orange County

Coastal California
sagebrush habitat. USFWS



Coastal California gnatcatcher habitat in San Diego County. USFWS

Central and Coastal Orange County

Location: California

Species Covered: Listed species conserved by this HCP include the California gnatcatcher, peregrine falcon, Riverside fairy shrimp, arroyo toad, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Pacific pocket mouse, and 37 other rare species.

Acreage: 208,000 acres

Challenge: The FWS, along with Orange County, the Irvine Company and 11 other participating landowners worked to develop the first California Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP)/HCP aimed at providing continued economic development and the protection of plant and wildlife populations and the habitats upon which they depend. This NCCP/HCP brought local stakeholders together to cooperatively develop a plan that considers the whole ecosystem and the needs of many species. This plan was a biologically sound alternative to attempting to save small, disconnected parcels of habitat for just one species at a time. This plan is an initial pilot project that focuses on conserving the coastal sage scrub ecosystem of California and its complement of listed and rare native species.



Willow flycatcher. ©S. and D. Maslowski/USFWS

Benefit: The implementation of the HCP provides a long-term growth plan for the area and establishes a 37,400 acre Reserve System containing approximately 18,500 acres of coastal sage scrub, 7,000 acres of chaparral, 5,700 acres of grasslands, and other habitat types. The Reserve System will be managed by its public owners according to comprehensive management plans, including habitat restoration and management of fire, grazing, and public recreation. The NCCP/HCP also includes guidelines to ensure that any future development in this area protects the reserve.



Least Bell's vireo. © B. Moose Peterson/ Wildlife Research Photography

"Simply put, our goal all along has been certainty. Having something that you can depend on is very important to development companies, which traditionally have long lead times for their projects. You decide that there are areas that need to be protected and there are areas that don't need to be protected."

*Monica Florian, Senior Vice President
The Irvine Company*