



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Web site: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
FAX (603) 271-1438
E-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

February 7, 2013

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) to accept \$10,200 from New Hampshire Distributors for conservation actions to benefit the state and federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Funding to be deposited into:

03-75-75-751520-2125 Wildlife Program –Nongame Species Management
20-07500-21250000-402766 Donations-Nongame Program \$10,200.00

FY13
\$10,200

EXPLANATION

As part of construction related to New Hampshire Distributors, habitat for the Karner blue butterfly, which is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Conservation Act (RSA 212-A), was lost. New Hampshire Distributors and NHFG mutually agreed to a plan that details measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate for impacts to Karner blue butterflies. In addition to agreeing to maintain and enhance a habitat corridor adjacent to the development area, New Hampshire Distributors will make a financial contribution of \$10,200 to NHFG for the specific purpose of implementing research and/or conservation for Karner blue butterflies in NH. The habitat had been reduced by previous development within the area of the small population, and remaining habitat after construction may restrict movement between existing sub populations. Funding habitat and species conservation efforts on adjacent parcels to improve the likelihood of the Karner blue butterfly using the habitat corridor and be the best strategy to enhance the species' survival.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

Kathy Ann LaBonte
Chief, Business Division

93
38



Glenn Normandeau
Executive Director

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500
Headquarters: (603) 271-3421
Web site: www.WildNH.com

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2664
FAX (603) 271-1433
E-mail: info@wildlife.nh.gov

January 2, 2013

Rebecca Hebert
Concord Planning Division
Concord, NH 03301

Ms. Hebert:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) has reviewed information provided by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) on sensitive species at the NH Distributors property at 65 Regional Drive in Concord, and has evaluated the site plan to be submitted to the Concord Planning Division for approval. The NHB records show that the Karner blue butterfly (*Lycæides Melissa samuelis*) occurs next to the project site.

The Karner blue butterfly is a state and federally protected species that inhabits the globally rare pine barren community. Since 1996, NHFG has worked diligently to restore the species and its habitat. The proposed project area is important to the recovery of the species. Habitat on the site is contiguous known occupied habitat patches and serves as a link between these two occupied patches. Any decrease in the total amount of open habitat reduces the success of dispersal between them and limits the viability of the fragile population of the species.

NHFG has a long-standing cooperative relationship with NH Distributors, Inc. and both parties intend to proceed in this manner. Contingent upon the continued maintenance of the habitat corridor located along the west side of the proposed building expansion and new driveway, as described below, the impact of the project was proposed will be reduced. Therefore, the Department recommends that the Planning Division approve the amended site planning document that includes the following two items:

- 1) Stipulatory Note: NHFG requires the maintenance of an unpaved habitat corridor (herein referred to as "Habitat Corridor"), a 30 foot wide vegetative buffer, lying between the edge of pavement of the proposed development and the adjacent lot (4520-D-7), bounded on the southwest by

Regional Drive, and on the northwest by Public Service Company of NH (V. 688 P. 411). NHFG is hereby granted permission to enter the Habitat Corridor in order to conduct management to minimize impacts of the project area on Karner blue butterfly habitat, and to ensure the perpetuation of the natural features thereon including, but not limited to, propagate native habitat plants and monitor rare species populations including, but not limited to, Karner blue butterflies, Frosted elfin butterflies, Persius duskywing skippers, and Wild lupine. This agreement shall be void upon cessation of Karner blue butterfly recovery efforts and/or the mutual written consent of NHFG and NH Distributors, Inc.

- 2) NH Distributors, Inc. will provide funding for habitat improvement within the corridor and in areas adjacent to the corridor at the cost of \$10,000 per acre of habitat lost in the previously defined management buffer. Habitat improvement will increase the attractiveness of the corridor for dispersing butterflies.
- 3) NH Distributors will provide \$5000 for butterfly monitoring to document the effectiveness of habitat improvement within the corridor and conservation parcels in proximity to the corridor.
- 4) Habitat Area Boundaries: See attached map.

Sincerely,



Glenn Normandeau
Director
New Hampshire Fish and Game

NH Distributors Expansion
65 Regional Drive, Concord NH

Calculation of Reduced Habitat Area

Prior Management Zone Area	39,163 SF
New Management Zone Area (30' x 547')	<u>16,410 SF</u>
Loss of Habitat Area	22,753 SF 0.52 Acres

\$10,000 per acre of lost habitat \$ 5,200

Total Cost

Habitat Improvement Cost	\$ 5,200
Butterfly Monitoring Cost	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total Due NH Fish & Game	\$ 10,200



Habitat Currently Managed and Occupied by Karner blue butterfly

Habitat Corridor

Habitat Currently Managed and Occupied by Karner blue butterfly
US Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation easement

0 100 200 300
meters