

## **Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources Receive State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Funds for Karner Blue Butterfly Restoration**

In 1992 the Karner blue butterfly was listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Populations of this pollinator are believed to have declined by as much as 99 percent in the upper Midwest and are considered extirpated in Minnesota. Using a 2015 SWG Program award and other funds, the partnering State agencies enhanced oak savanna and butterfly habitat on more than 5,600 contiguous acres in Minnesota, and continued enhancements across habitat parcels on 86,000 acres of public lands in Wisconsin. Enhancements have included invasive plant control, native lupine planting, mechanical brush maintenance and prescribed burning. The partners restored previously occupied barrens habitat, and used modeling techniques to map sites for future management on nearly 500,000 acres of State and private lands. Population estimates on four recovery units in Wisconsin suggest a significant increase in Karner blue butterfly occurrence as a result of management activities.



**St. Croix State Park in Wisconsin Was Targeted for Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Enhancement**