



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

DIANA FRITILLARY BUTTERFLIES

The Diana fritillary (fruh•ti•lr•ee) butterfly populations have been greatly declined in areas that were once within their range. A survey of Diana fritillary butterflies in West Virginia is underway to:

1. Establish the presence of the species
2. Quantify the conservation contributions of active forest management to the species' habitat and survival

This project marks an important step in ensuring the survival of the species in the mid-Atlantic and Appalachia regions for generations to come.

KEY COLLABORATORS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI)
- National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO)
- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR)



3 FACTS ABOUT THE DIANA FRITILLARY



Diana fritillary are large butterflies with wingspans of about 3.5 - 4.5 inches.



The butterflies rely on robust concentrations of violets, which are the only known larval host plants — which commonly grow in forests.



Females are black and blue on the outer parts of their hind wings. The upper sides of male wings are black at their bases with orange outer portions.

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

The project began in 2023 with pilot field protocols. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is now preparing for a comprehensive survey may occur in 2024.

In addition to quantifying the relationships between active forest management and Diana fritillary butterflies in West Virginia, the results will serve as a baseline for understanding the distribution of this species, information which is critical for conservation efforts.

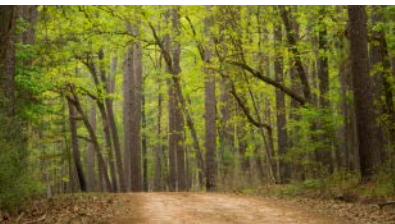
ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Active forest management creates a beneficial diversity of age classes across the landscape, which supports many wildlife species, including the Diana fritillary butterfly.



WHAT'S NEXT?

The USFWS will use this work to refine survey methods for this species and the results will help inform future conservation recommendations. The study may be extended into additional states.



CONSERVATION SUCCESS STARTS WITH KEEPING FORESTS INTACT

We all have a hand in ensuring conservation of wildlife. When we purchase wood and forest products, we support the sustainable cycle of growing, harvesting and replanting that keeps our forests as forests. Thousands of species call working forests home, and wildlife thrives in actively managed working forests.



This project is made possible by the Wildlife Conservation Initiative (WCI), a collaborative partnership between NAFO, the USFWS, NCASI, and other stakeholders to conserve fish and wildlife species in private working forests. The WCI was founded on the recognition that private working forests are an important conservation tool. NAFO members own and manage more than 43 million acres of private working forests in 32 states — the scale needed to achieve meaningful conservation success. Through the WCI, the proactive and voluntary conservation efforts of government and private working forest owners are delivering positive outcomes for wildlife across the United States.

WildlifeConservationInitiative.org

NAFO
National Alliance
of Forest Owners