
Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization Grassland and Savanna Protocols

Swamp Metalmark (*Calephelis mutica*)

This Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization (BITP/A) has been issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to allow landowners to conduct certain grassland and savanna management activities while remaining in compliance with the state's endangered species law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.). This BITP/A allows for the incidental taking (mortality) of the state endangered swamp metalmark (*Calephelis mutica*) that may occur as a result of the grassland and savanna management activities listed below.

Background information/criteria on this BITP/A must also be reviewed and followed:

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP_Overview.pdf

Protocols for all other species covered under this BITP/A can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/ItGrasslands.html>

Note: If carrying out a given protocol is not feasible, or multiple listed species in a given management area pose conflicts, contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) at DNRRERreview@wisconsin.gov. Staff in NHC will work with species experts and managers to establish an acceptable protocol for a given site that will allow for incidental take without further legal consultation or public notice.

I. Species Background Information

State Status: Endangered

Background information on the swamp metalmark can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' web page for the species:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=IILEPH2060>

II. Management Protocols for Permitted/Authorized Incidental Take

If the management activity is for the purpose of recovering, maintaining or improving the grassland, prairie or savanna ecosystem that includes habitat for swamp metalmarks, then incidental take is allowed if the conditions listed below are followed:

If screening indicates that swamp metalmarks may be present on the management area, then **pre-treatment presence/absence surveys must be conducted** over a minimum of 2 flight seasons by personnel with the expertise to identify swamp metalmark adults and larvae. Post-treatment presence/absence surveys must also be conducted.

1. If multiple surveys indicate that swamp metalmarks are not present within the management area, then there are no restrictions on the activity.
2. Given the rarity of this species, if swamp metalmarks are found to be present within the management area or near enough to allow dispersal to a potential site within the management area, then you should **contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation's Endangered Resources Review Program at DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov before conducting any management.** Staff in the Endangered Resources Review Program will work with managers and species experts to determine the best course of action for a given site. The population level and portions of the management area that are critical to avoid jeopardizing the recovery of the species must be determined, and depending on the circumstances at the given site, incidental take may be allowed under the following conditions:

A. Burning

Consult with Endangered Resources Review Program - use of fire may be allowed in some circumstances.

B. Mowing/Haying

Consult with Endangered Resources Review Program re: type of equipment to be used. No more than 20% of the site may be mowed annually. Mowing at a height of 6-8" in late autumn or spring when host plants are small and metalmark larvae are close to ground level is preferable since specific mowing protocols have not been tested.

C. Selective Brush/Tree-cutting

Consult with Endangered Resources Review Program re: type of equipment to be used and extent of vegetation to be cut. (Benefit of some tree cover/edge effect has not been determined yet.) Host plants must not be buried under cut materials.

D. Grazing

Grazing must not be applied within the site.

E. Herbicide Use

Consult with Endangered Resources Review Program - appropriate herbicides may be used for spot treatment of woody growth but contact with swamp metalmark larval host plants and adult nectar plants must be avoided.

Survey Protocols

For Presence /Absence Surveys or to determine extent of the population site:

Surveys must be conducted by personnel with the expertise to identify swamp metalmark adults, immatures, and host plants. Survey at least 20 minutes per acre of habitat, and over a minimum of two flight seasons.

Adults: Presence of swamp metalmark adults can be assessed by conducting 2-3 surveys during the peak flight period. Surveys must be conducted under appropriate flight conditions (contact NHC at DNRERReview@wisconsin.gov).

Larvae: Search for swamp metalmark larvae in late summer (August through September) and spring (May through early June) when larvae will be at least 3 mm in length. Examine non-flowering host plants for characteristic feeding damage and locate any metalmark larvae present. Host plants should *not* be searched in late autumn through winter when the turgidity of the leaves is so high that they are likely to break off when examined.

Definitions

Definition of “Site” for swamp metalmarks: The habitat supporting swamp thistle and nectar plants that could be utilized by a swamp metalmark population for reproduction and feeding. “Site” will refer to habitat within a given property ownership, or across ownerships where survey and management agreements for the species are in place.