



LANDOWNERS' GUIDE TO ISLAND MARBLE BUTTERFLY HABITAT

Linking habitat together in the San Juan Islands for endangered species recovery

BACKGROUND

The island marble butterfly was rediscovered after 90 years in 1998 at American Camp in San Juan Island National Historical Park. Following loss of habitat in the late 2000s, one population remains, supported by captive rearing efforts and consisting of approximately 200–500 individuals.

Such a single small population is particularly vulnerable to extinction and was listed as a federally endangered species in 2020. Without conservation, it is thought that fluctuation in the number of island marble butterflies will drop below a recoverable threshold. Adding habitat to your property can contribute to species recovery by providing a place for island marbles to reproduce and disperse.

SOLUTION

- Private landowners are needed to volunteer to add protected habitat to their properties — a key step in species recovery.
- Continue to expand habitat on San Juan and Lopez Islands! Continue to link the American Camp population with new habitat trending on San Juan and Lopez Islands.
- Over 30 plots beyond American Camp now exist, protected, maintained, and monitored mostly by private landowners!

Habitat plots are built voluntarily in partnership with the San Juan Islands Conservation District and US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

<https://www.fws.gov/program/partners-fish-and-wildlife>

Landowners can work with the local Island Marble Butterfly Volunteer Program to help maintain habitat.

<https://www.islandmarblybutterflyhub.org>

BENEFITS

1. Provide vital habitat on your property

1,000–5,000 square feet of open field or grassland

For larger plots, up to 5 acres may be conserved.

2. Fully funded opportunity

All habitat plots are fully funded by the SJI Conservation District and US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

3. Technical assistance

Technical support provided by SJI Conservation District, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife for the life of the butterfly plot

For more information, please join us online at:

www.sanjuanislandscd.org/island-marble-butterfly



Photo credit: Karen Reagan



Photo credit: Sam Martin, Ecostudies Institute

AT A GLANCE CHALLENGES

- 200–500 individuals remaining
- Single known population
- Habitat loss

BENEFITS

- Benefits species recovery
- Increased habitat connectivity
- Host plants provide a place for adult females to lay eggs and larvae to develop. Chrysalises over-winter in protected habitat.



ISLAND MARBLE BUTTERFLY HABITAT PLOT

Photo credit: Walt Andrews SJI Conservation District, courtesy San Juan Preservation Trust

If you are interested in adding butterfly habitat to your property or for a site visit, please contact Walt Andrews at walt@sjicd.org or (360) 355-0854.