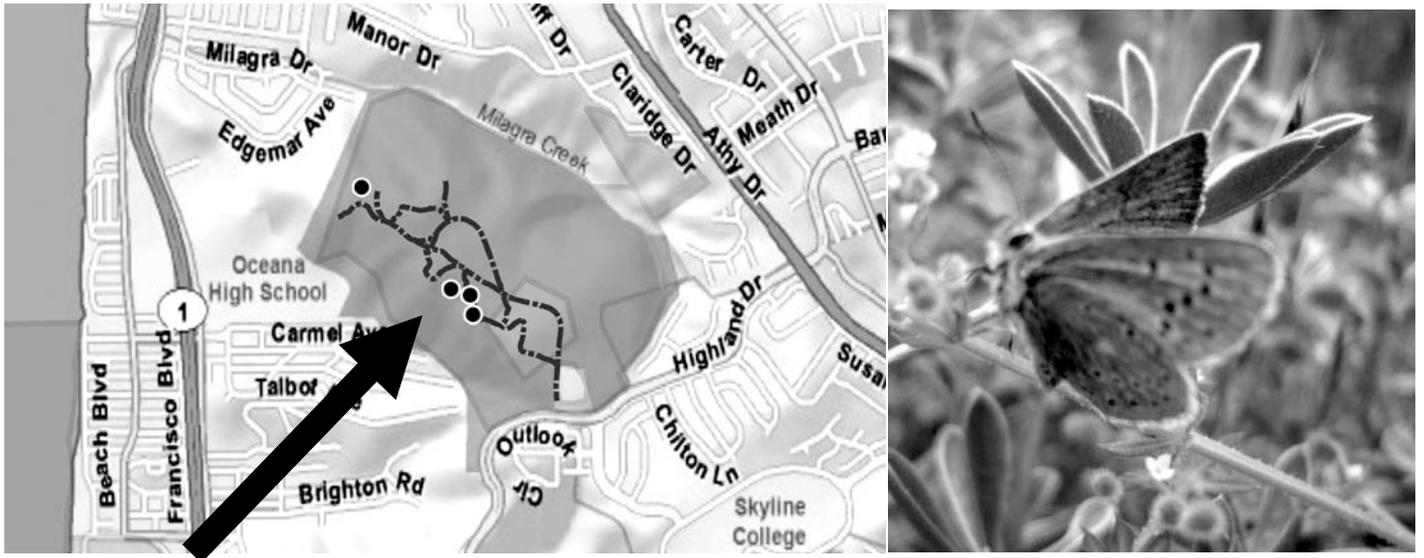


Prescribed Fire on Milagra Ridge

2010 Restoration Project



Golden Gate National Recreation Area is experimenting with restoration techniques aimed at improving habitat for endangered Mission blue butterflies. One day of burning in small customized burn boxes at Milagra Ridge near Pacifica is expected to take place in mid to late August. Burning will only take place if weather conditions allow. Smoke from this project will be very minimal, but traces of smoke may be seen or smelled from a distance. Burning will be confined to metal boxes which are 2.5 meters by 2.5 meters in area and 1 meter in height. Burn boxes will be rotated to treat 75 square meters total. Fire management personnel and equipment will be present during all phases of burn operations.

Managers will compare the effects of fire with vegetation removal and soil scraping to determine if either treatment is more effective at stimulating lupine germination. Lupine plants are critical to Mission blue butterflies because they are the sole food source for developing larvae.

This project was originally scheduled for fall 2009, but was cancelled last year due to early heavy rainfall. Sections of the Milagra Ridge Trail may be closed while burning is in progress. For more information, contact Park Ranger George Durgerian at 415-601-1620.