ALBANY PINE BUSH

PRESERVE COMMISSION

July 26, 2004

David Stilwell
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, New York 13045

Dear Mr. Stilwell:

On behalf of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, I would like to thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all the staff who work to provide the Hydro-Axe to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. It is exciting to work with conservation partners where resources are combined to reach common objectives.

Specifically, over a period of nine days approximately 19.6 acres were mowed to expand and improve endangered Karner blue butterfly and native pine barrens habitat in the Pine Bush Preserve in addition to preparing for safe future fire management. The positive impacts of treating these areas mechanically, during the growing season, have been dramatic over the past few years, especially as it relates to our ability to burn these areas effectively and safely.

A special thanks to Karl Schwartz for coordinating the details for us and to Eric Rozowski for once again doing an excellent job of operating the axe. We look forward to continuing our relationship in the future towards managing and restoring native species habitat. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Hecht
Stewardship Director

cc: Karl Schwartz
Steve Flanders
Dianna Ellis
Ira McCoy
Jeff Graves
Eric Rozowski
Christopher Hawver

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