



ARTICLE

Mission Blue Translocation Project Enters Year Three

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (<https://www.nps.gov/goga/>)



This year, the Mission Blue Butterfly Translocation Project aims to translocate 20 female and 10 male Mission blues from San Bruno Mountain to Milagra Ridge.

Sean Correa / Parks Conservancy

April 2018 - Park partners and staff were alarmed when only three federally endangered [Mission blue butterflies](https://www.nps.gov/rlc/pacificcoast/mission-blue-butterflies.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/rlc/pacificcoast/mission-blue-butterflies.htm>) were recorded in 2015 at Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Milagra Ridge. So they took action, doubling down on habitat restoration work in the area, and starting the Mission Blue Butterfly Translocation Project in 2017. In the project's first season, teams translocated 30 Mission blues from San Bruno Mountain to Milagra Ridge. Another 45 butterflies were translocated last year.

The project's third season got off to a strong start on April 10, thanks to the efforts of interns and staff from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service, as well as support from San Mateo County. The team collected six female and three male Mission blues from San Bruno Mountain, the maximum they can translocate in one day. Translocations will continue until early June, or until the team reaches this year's goal of translocating 20 females and 10 males. The project has one more year of funding. Monitoring is ongoing to gauge the project's success, and will continue to inform management efforts in the years ahead.



Releasing a mission blue butterfly captured on San Bruno Mountain at Milagra Ridge.

Sean Correa / Parks Conservancy

In related news, the translocation project has led to an important discovery about Mission blue biology. Existing literature on Mission blues states that their eggs hatch in around 7-10 days. But in 2017, staff at Milagra Ridge noticed that the eggs they were monitoring were taking longer than that. In 2018 they planned for this, and monitored individual eggs over time. To their surprise, they found that the eggs hatched an average of about 14 days after they were deposited. In some cases, hatching took almost a month. This new data may help improve the accuracy of Mission blue population models going forward.

Email [Sean Correa](mailto:SeanCorrea@nps.gov) (<https://www.nps.gov/common/utilities/sendmail/sendemail.cfm?o=5886D4A98FD6AE9CA4BA01A4EA34A4A3559854995DB88F861110BC80&r=/articles/mission-blue-translocation-project-enters-year-three.htm>) or [Christina Crooker](mailto:ChristinaCrooker@nps.gov) (<https://www.nps.gov/common/utilities/sendmail/sendemail.cfm?o=68A6C9B492D8AAAE4B12BDF204A8A2488E439D4AB7829C4651A19519&r=/articles/mission-blue-translocation-project-enters-year-three.htm>) to learn more, or to assist with field work on this project.

[See more from the Bay Area Nature & Science Blog](https://www.nps.gov/rlc/pacificcoast/blog.htm)
(<https://www.nps.gov/rlc/pacificcoast/blog.htm>).



golden gate national recreation area

sfan

pcslc

blog

san francisco bay area

california

butterflies

mission blue butterfly

threatened and endangered species

translocation

Was this page helpful?

☐ Yes

☐ No



An official form of the United States government. Provided by [Touchpoints](https://touchpoints.app.cloud.gov/)
(<https://touchpoints.app.cloud.gov/>)