



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) | 2012 Action Plan Summary

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly is historically known to occur in western Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. It is currently restricted to one site in BC, two in Oregon and less than ten in Washington. Occurring in grassland and grass/oak woodland sites where food plants and nectar sources are available, the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly population has declined greatly with the loss of prairie habitat in the region and the spreading of invasive plants. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has published a proposed rule to list the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Conservation Status of Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly



State of WA
Threatened



Federal
Endangered*

* Proposed

CPOP and the Species-Specific Working Groups

The Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership (CPOP) is an ecoregional group that brings together conservation focused professionals that represent state, federal and local government, military, conservation groups and other entities interested in prairie-oak conservation. CPOP was created to increase coordination between these groups in order to promote conservation action, leverage funding, and expand recovery efforts. The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly working group first convened in 2010 and meets annually to discuss and prioritize recovery actions.



What is an Action Plan and what is its purpose?

Each CPOP working group maintains an Action Plan, a document that lists the 'next best tasks' that can be taken to improve the status of the species and ranks the highest priority actions. Each year at the annual meeting the list is updated to reflect completed work, new opportunities and changes in urgency. The Action Plan is meant to encourage dialogue and consensus among the group as well as to inform entities that work with conservation policies and funding, such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, as to what actions are priorities to support the recovery of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

2012 Action Plan Top Priorities*

Action to be taken

- Minimize direct impacts to occupied sites.
- Pursue acquisition or conservation easement with willing sellers
- Assess and control/remove invasive species (e.g. Scot's broom, tall oatgrass, sulfur cinquefoil)
- Assess and enhance larval food and nectar plants at occupied, proximate, and unoccupied sites
- Improve larval and nectar plant materials production
- Optimize and refine captive rearing and reintroduction efforts
- Define habitat restoration targets through research
- Develop management/restoration plans at occupied and unoccupied sites
- Survey suitable habitat at historic locations and survey sites adjacent to occupied sites
- Annually monitor all known populations
- Share information between entities, establish partnerships, and maintain a working group
- Share information about listing to potentially affected landowners

* Although the Action Plan has been updated, these top priorities have not been specifically ranked yet.

Threats

Although progress has been made, threats such as development, climate change and habitat degradation are still very real for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Continued efforts will be necessary to ensure their recovery and survival.



This document was created by the Center for Natural Lands Management on behalf of the Taylor's Checkerspot Working Group. Email ehilton@cnlm.org for further info.



Recently Completed Actions

Since the first Action Plan was created in 2010, the following notable tasks have been completed or have made substantial progress:

- Taylor's checkerspot butterflies have been reintroduced to three sites in south Puget Sound.
- Captive breeding programs have provided a reliable population for reintroduction efforts.
- An increased amount of land has been protected through purchase or conservation easement, allowing for restoration work to begin.
- Direct impacts to occupied sites have been reduced.
- Coordination with the US Forest Service has reduced threats to occupied checkerspot sites and has led to increased site enhancement.
- Genetic studies have been funded and research has begun.
- Larval and nectar native plant production has increased, providing greater support for habitat enhancement projects.
- Monitoring methods were refined, allowing for trend detection.
- Oviposition research has allowed for improved understanding of breeding habitat requirements.
- An integrated strategy to enhance suitable habitat is being implemented on multiple protected lands in in preparation for reintroduction.