

Taylor's Checkerspot South Sound Population Status Updates



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Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

SPS Taylor's Checkerspot Meeting
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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Agency Mission

Preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Diversity Division

The Wildlife Diversity Division leads efforts statewide to manage, conserve and recover Washington's nongame wildlife and plays an active role in protecting and improving their habitats. We focus our effort on over 200 wildlife species of greatest conservation need, including those listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. We assess species distribution, abundance, population trends, and threats, and we make recommendations for their recovery. This conservation mission is our trust responsibility to the current and future peoples of Washington.



Captive Rearing Facility Update



Partnered with SPP & DOC to develop a proposal and budget for the new facility at WCCW.

Will be working with the ELG in the coming weeks to get approval for the project via REPI funding in partnership with the CNLM.

Likely not up to full rearing capacity until 2028 releases, with wild capture in the 2027 flight season.

For 2027 releases we will shift to a “refugia” model and release lower numbers.

2025 TCB Release Season Updates



Pre-diapause releases took place at 2 sites in spring of 2025.

- *Scatter Creek South received 2066 larvae including enclosures.*
- *Tenalquot received 2,176 larvae including enclosures*
- *TA-15 TRI received no supplemental releases outside of 120 in enclosures.*
- *TA-15, 43 larvae left from TRI release.*

2025 TCB Release Season Updates



- *Post breeding adults were released at Scatter Creek South to supplement the larval releases in May.*
- *Pre-diapause releases took place at 2 sites in July.*
 - *Scatter Creek South received 2,854*
 - *Tenalquot received 2,880*
 - *250 larvae at each site were released into enclosures.*

Enclosures: What did we learn?



Sand slugs are great, but they take a lot of work to make. Make friends with those who own sewing machines! Thanks to the sewing masters and EJ!

Check your enclosures for wild larvae before conducting releases!



Elk prefer natural systems with no artificial structure

Enclosures: What did we learn?



- *Really helped us determine post diapause survival (~40%)*
- *Spotted a single marked individual from TA-15 TRI at TA-15 South.*
- *Need to have dedicated effort to re-observe marked individuals, not during distance sampling.*
- *Where did all the TNQ larvae go?*
- *Soon to come...pre-diapause survival!*

Effective Biologist Capture Technique



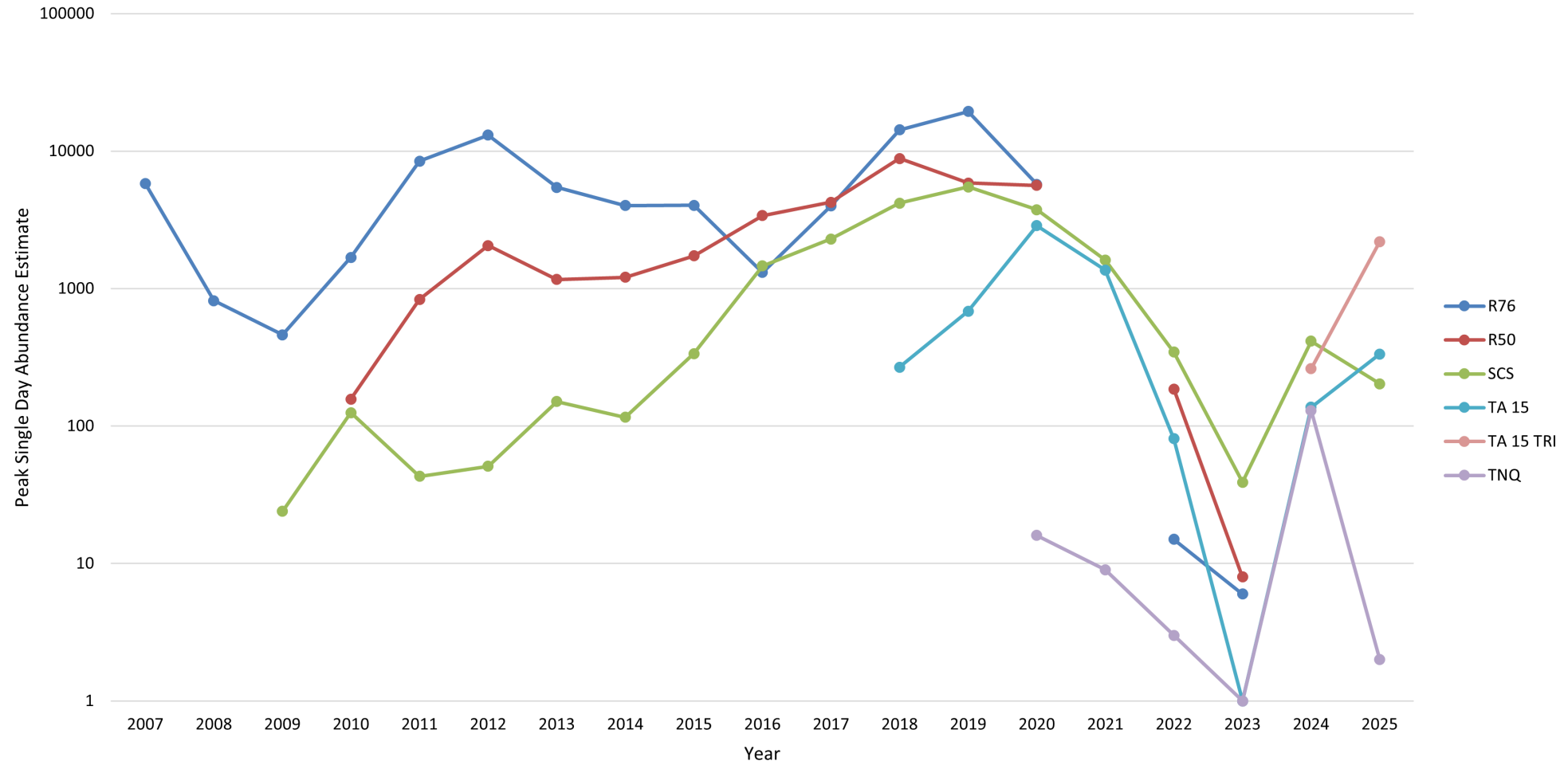
The Cunning Use of Flags...



2025 Season Population Updates

Taylor's Checkerspot Peak Single Day Abundance*, 2007-2025

*2022-2023: too few individuals to calculate abundance estimates, raw peak counts displayed



2025 Season Population Updates

	SCS	TA 15	TA 15 TRI	TNQ
2009	24	NA	NA	NA
2010	125	NA	NA	NA
2011	43	NA	NA	NA
2012	51	NA	NA	NA
2013	151	NA	NA	NA
2014	116	NA	NA	NA
2015	336	NA	NA	NA
2016	1463	NA	NA	NA
2017	2298	NA	NA	NA
2018	4188	268	NA	NA
2019	5484	685	NA	NA
2020	3741	2867	NA	16
2021	1611	1363	NA	9
2022	345	81	NA	3
2023	39	1	NA	1
2024	414	137	261	130
2025	203	334	2196	2

- Some highs and lows!
- Tenalquot remains a mystery?
- TA-15 TRI & South saw a huge boom after good larval nest indications in 2024, with little supplemental releases.
- We still have higher numbers than the low post-2021 when the population declined precipitously.
- Releases at so many life stages the SCS data can be difficult to interpret.

Thank you to all the partners that made this possible and have helped get us back to this stage to see success on the prairies!

2026 Season Planning



- Sites - Maintain SCS & TNQ
- Release Numbers - 4000+ anticipated
- Monitoring and Related Plans
 - Enclosures
 - Boundary Behavior
 - Marking
 - Camera Traps? - TNQ
- Other considerations beyond 2026
 - Rearing Capacity - Refugia
 - CBA Development
- Recovery Planning and Implementation

QUESTIONS?