



## Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot Butterfly *Questions and Answers*

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) <http://southwest.fws.gov>

The following are some of the most frequently asked questions about Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly.

### **Q. What action is the Service taking?**

**A.** After a thorough 12 month review of all available scientific and commercial information, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has determined that listing the subspecies is not warranted at this time.

### **Q. How has the Service reached this conclusion?**

**A.** The Service evaluated existing and potential threats to determine what effects on the species were currently occurring, and whether these threats are likely to increase or decrease in the future. No current significant threats to the butterfly were found.

### **Q. Why is the Fish and Wildlife Service working on this action?**

**A.** The Service is responding to a petition from WildEarth Guardians (formally Forest Guardians) and the Center for Biological Diversity requesting that the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas anicia cloudcrofti*) be listed as endangered, and that critical habitat be designated concurrently with the listing. In December 2008, the Service initiated a status review to determine whether listing the subspecies is warranted.

### **Q. What is the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly?**

**A.** The Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly is a member of the brush-footed butterfly family. The adults have a wingspan of approximately 5 centimeters (2 inches (in)) and they are checkered with dark brown, red, orange, white, and black spots and lines.

### **Q. Where is the butterfly found?**

**A.** The Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly inhabits meadows within the mixed-conifer forest at an elevation above 7,800 ft. in the vicinity of the Village of Cloudcroft, Otero County, New Mexico. The caterpillars are generally found feeding on New Mexico penstemon or valerian. The adult's nectar primarily on sneezeweed.

**Q. What are you doing to conserve the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly?**

**A.** The Service, Otero County, Village of Cloudcroft, and Forest Service finalized a conservation plan for the species in November 2005. The conservation plan categorizes actions into four types: 1) protecting and managing checkerspot butterfly habitat on public lands; 2) managing and promoting conservation through education and outreach; 3) conducting research to fill in information gaps; and 4) providing adequate regulatory protection.

In addition, the Service is asking the public to continue to submit any new information that becomes available concerning the status of or threats to the subspecies. This information will help in future monitoring efforts.

**Q. What can I do to help prevent the extinction of the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly?**

**A.** You can learn more about the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly and other threatened or endangered species. Understand how the destruction of habitat leads to loss of endangered and threatened species and our nation's plant and animal diversity. You can increase your understanding about local native plant species and the species that depend on them by joining or volunteering at a local chapter of a native plant society. To learn more about issues involving endangered species, contact the New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office for details.

**More questions?**

Write or call:  
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