

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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News Release



For Immediate Release
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Endangered Species Act protection not warranted for Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly

LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has determined that the Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly (*Chlosyne acastus robusta*) does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The Service's decision will be published in the *Federal Register* on Thursday, September 27, 2012.

The Service completed a comprehensive review, known as a 12-month finding, and found that the best scientific and commercial data available indicates the Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly is not warranted for listing as threatened or endangered at this time.

This finding was prepared in response to a petition the Service received on September 18, 2009, from Bruce M. Boyd, asking the Service to list the Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly as an endangered species under emergency listing provisions of the ESA. The Service determined that an emergency listing action was not warranted; however, the ensuing 90-day finding determined that the butterfly might warrant protection under the ESA and the in-depth 12-month status review was conducted.

“While we are not listing the Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly at this time, the Service wants to hear from anyone who has new information concerning threats to the butterfly or its habitat,” said Ted Koch, the Service's state supervisor. “We will accept additional information and comments from interested parties, no matter when the new information is gathered.”

The Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot butterfly is a subspecies of the sagebrush checkerspot butterfly (*Chlosyne acastus*) belonging to the Nymphalidae family (brush-footed butterflies). The subspecies is only known to occur in the Spring Mountains in Clark and Nye counties, Nev., at elevations ranging from approximately 5,900 to 8,900 feet above sea level.

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The butterfly occurs throughout the Spring Mountains and has been observed in 17 areas. Four areas are considered colony sites, while the other 13 locations are considered incidental observation areas. Sightings at incidental observation areas, and the potential for subsequent dispersal¹ of individual butterflies, could indicate the presence of undiscovered additional colonies.

The finding is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> (Docket Number FWS-R8-ES-2010-0077) and at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada/>. Supporting documents used in preparing this finding are available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Service's Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130, telephone (702) 515-5230, facsimile (702) 515-5231. New information, materials, comments, or questions concerning this finding should be sent to the above address.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.cno. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/usfws and download photos from our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw/.

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¹ **dispersal** – (Biological dispersal) refers to species movement away from an existing population or from one habitat patch to another.

NOTE: *Photos of the butterfly is available on Flickr at: http://flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw*