



## U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

### Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert

## Frequently Asked Questions 12-Month Status Review for Four Great Basin Butterflies

**Q. What are the four Great Basin butterflies that are included in the 12-month status review?**

**A.** The Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly (*Euphilotes bernardino minuta*), bleached sandhill skipper (*Polites sabuleti sinemaculata*), Steptoe Valley crescent-spot (*Phyciodes cocyta arenacolor*), and White River Valley skipper (*Hesperia uncas grandiose*).

**Q. Where do the four Great Basin butterflies occur?**

**A.** All of the subspecies are native to the Great Basin of Nevada. The Baking Powder Flat blue butterfly occurs in Lincoln and White Pine Counties, the bleached sandhill skipper occurs in Humboldt County, the Steptoe Valley occurs in White Pine County, and the White River Valley skipper occurs in Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties.

**Q. What is the result of the Service's 12-month status review for the four Great Basin butterflies?**

**A.** After a thorough review of the best available scientific and commercial information, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) determined that listing the four Great Basin butterflies as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not warranted.

**Q. How did the Service reach a not warranted determination?**

**A.** The potential threats analyzed for the subspecies in this status review include: habitat modifications due to water development, fire, livestock grazing, nonnative plant invasion, agriculture, recreation (off-highway vehicles), mining and energy development, and climate change, overutilization due to collecting, disease and predation, limited distribution and small population size, and inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms to minimize potential threats. The Service's analysis found none of these potential threats alone or in combination threaten the four subspecies across all or in any significant portion of their ranges.

**Q. Why did the Service complete the status review for the Great Basin butterflies?**

**A.** On January 29, 2010, the Service received a petition from WildEarth Guardians requesting that 10 Great Basin butterflies in Nevada and California be listed as threatened or endangered and critical habitat be designated under the ESA. Primary threats to these butterflies, asserted in the petition include: water development, agriculture, livestock grazing, non-native plant invasion, climate change, inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms, small populations, and limited distribution.

On October 4, 2011, the Service published a 90-day finding on the petition and determined that listing the four Great Basin butterflies might be warranted. The Service also determined no further action would be taken on the following six butterflies: Mattoni's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes pallescens mattonii*), Mono Basin skipper (*Hesperia uncas giulianii*), Carson Valley silverspot (*Speyeria nokomis carsonensis*), Carson Valley wood nymph (*Cercyonis pegala carsonensis*), and Railroad Valley skippers, (*Hesperia uncas fulvapalla*) and (*Hesperia uncas reeseorum*).

**Q. Where can I find more information about the 12-month status review?**

**A.** For further information about the Great Basin butterflies and this status review contact: Ted Koch, State Supervisor, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office by mail at 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, NV, by telephone (775-861-6300), or by facsimile (775-861-6301). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339, or visit the Service's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada>.