



Insects

Sleepy Duskywing

Erynnis brizo

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Insects (*Insecta*)

Order: Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths (*Lepidoptera*)

Family: Skippers (*Hesperiidae*)



General comments:

The Sleepy Duskywing is an early spring-flying butterfly within the skipper family (Hesperiidae). Its preferred habitat is dry oak-pine woodlands, barrens, and rocky outcrops with Scrub Oak, the larval food plant. Listed as state Threatened, this skipper is at risk because of its limited distribution (York County) and close association with a rare habitat in a rapidly developing part of Maine.

Species Conservation Range Maps:

Town Map: [Erynnis brizo Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Erynnis brizo_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:	Maine Status: Threatened	Federal Status: None	IUCN Red List Status: None
High Regional Conservation Priority:	NatureServe: Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S2		

No Habitat Associations

Threats

Threat Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High		High
	Moderately Actionable		Medium		Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty		Low		Low

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Fire and Fire Suppression

Severity: High Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: Fire suppression is causing some barrens to succeed to other vegetation types

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance

Severity: High Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: ecological succession is an important threat on some sites

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly Actionable

Notes: Some uncertainty remains about the number of host plants in the Northeast; lack of comprehensive survey effort and monitoring to identify additional occurrences and determine species status/trends

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Resource Needs

Severity: High Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: lack of funding and staff for implementing conservation actions

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Housing and Urban Areas

Severity: High Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: Habitat restricted to southern ME where loss and fragmentation to development is on-going

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Mining and Quarrying

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: Barren habitat is often targeted for mining

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Education & Outreach

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: some threats and challenges can be minimized through enhanced public outreach and advocacy

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Other Threat

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: Aerial insecticide spraying is a periodic threat, especially control efforts for spongy moth in southern ME

IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Commercial and Industrial Areas

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Notes: Habitat restricted to southern ME where loss and fragmentation to development is on-going

IUCN Level 1 Threat Transportation and Service Corridors

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Roads and Railroads

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately Actionable

Species Level Conservation Actions:

Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority threats are summarized here.

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Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Complete a statewide butterfly atlas and use it to increase public and partner awareness of the state's Lepidoptera and their conservation challenges	Research	high	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Lack of knowledge
- Education & Outreach

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
More populations are likely to be detected with directed survey effort	Survey and Monitoring	moderate	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Lack of knowledge

Conservation Actions Associated with the Dry Barrens Lepidoptera Guild:

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Communication with Maine Forest Service and Bureau of Pest Control is necessary to prevent unintended mortality from aerial pesticide spraying (e.g., for spongy moth and spruce budworm)	Species Management	high	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Other Threat

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Conduct a statewide review of potential high quality barrens habitat that is threatened by ecological succession and identify strategic habitat restoration actions for implementation by key conservation partners.	Habitat Management	critical	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression

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Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
A concerted effort should be made to conserve as much of the remaining unprotected sandplain grasslands and PP/SO barrens as possible.	Habitat Management	critical	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Commercial and Industrial Areas
- Roads and Railroads
- Housing and Urban Areas
- Other Threat
- Removing or Reducing Human Maintenance
- Fire and Fire Suppression
- Mining and Quarrying

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Increase MDIFW staff capacity for survey and conservation of SGCN invertebrates.	Policy	critical	new

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Education & Outreach
- Lack of knowledge
- Resource Needs

Conservation Action	Category	Biological Priority	Type
Develop/distribute guidelines and outreach materials to inform conservation partners, land use managers, and the general public about the impacts of pesticides on native pollinators and to promote the alternative use of Integrated Pest Management practices.	Public Outreach	moderate	on-going

Threat(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

- Education & Outreach
- Other Threat

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

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The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work