



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

1/26/2024

Agenda item:

Mardon Skipper Periodic Status Review, Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

Presenter(s):

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager and Julie Combs, Wildlife Biologist

Background summary:

Although many additional mardon skipper sites and populations were documented in the southern Washington Cascades since state listing, the south Puget Sound prairie sites and populations have seriously declined, and the skipper's status is precarious. Washington defines "Endangered" to mean any wildlife species native to the state that is seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Given that the south Puget Sound populations represent a significant portion of its range and the threat of extinction in these few remaining sites is high, it is recommended that the mardon skipper remain listed as endangered in Washington.

Staff recommendation:

Maintain the mardon skipper as endangered in Washington.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

No policy changes with a maintain recommendation.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The agency sent out a press release and posted a request on our website to solicit information from the public to be included in the coming Periodic Status Reviews and Status Reports. In accordance with WAC regulations, individuals and organizations had one year to contribute information for the reviews. Department staff included this information as applicable in the status review documents. The documents were then reviewed by Department staff and external species experts before 90-day public comment periods on the document and our findings. We incorporated appropriate edits received as part of that 90-day public comment period on the Periodic Status Review which included some points of clarification on results, figures, and data and general support for the recommendation.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing, time for public comment, and decision.

Draft motion language:

I move that the mardon skipper maintain its current status as an Endangered species in Washington as recommended by Department staff.

Post decision communications plan:

Since the species is already Endangered and we are recommending that it remain so, our current management of the species will not change. We will share information with the public affairs team for any necessary news release as well as update the website with the final Periodic Status Review for the species.

Form revised 1-20-21