Species at Risk Profile Series:
Mormon Metalmark

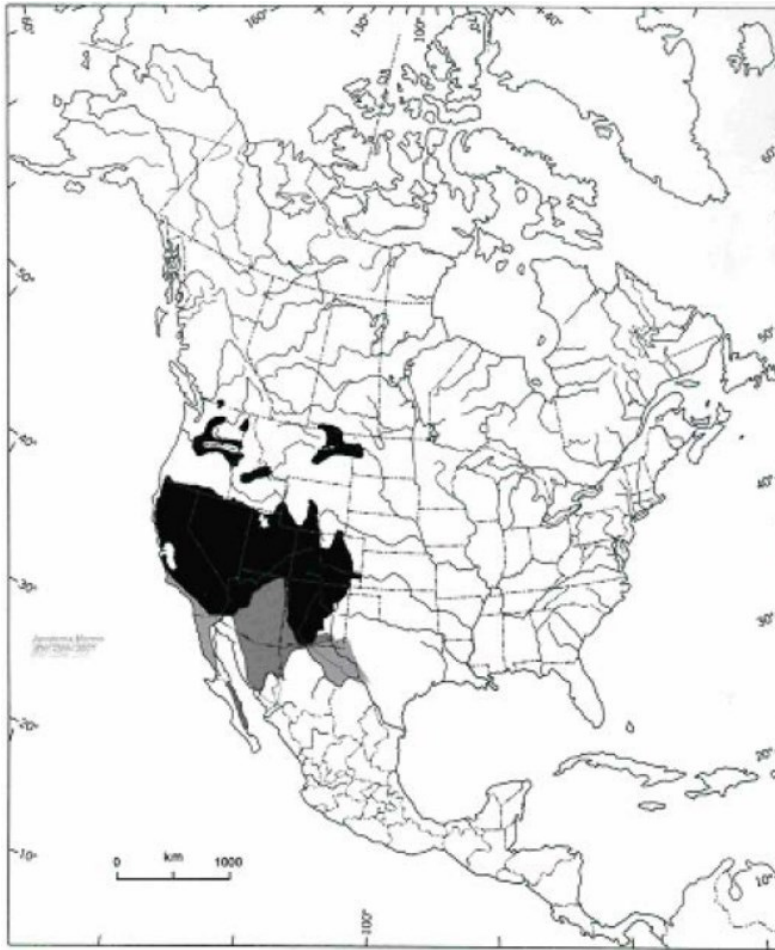STATUS: SPECIAL CONCERN

- Mormon Metalmarks in Saskatchewan are listed as Special Concern.

- Its identifying characteristic is the orange patch on the top and bottom of the front wings.

- Caterpillars have a purple body with bristly, black tufts of hair.

- Caterpillars are active in the morning and evening, and otherwise are in silk shelters.

- The caterpillars are only found on Few-flowered Buckwheat.

- Few-flowered Buckwheat is found in areas with soil that is continually eroded and unstable.

- Adults are active from mid-July to late September, depending on weather.

- Adults live for 9-11 days and lay single eggs in soil cracks near a buckwheat plant.

- Females lay around 50 eggs, but its unclear if eggs hatch immediately or the next spring.

- Adults typically only move about 30-60 m over a season.

Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan

SCA SASKATCHEWAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Range Map: Area in grey is a population that has been split from the Mormon Metalmark.

Conservation

- Habitat loss and degradation is the main threat to Mormon Metalmarks.

- Heavy overgrazing can reduce the availability of Few-flowered Buckwheat.

- All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use can damage or kill Few-flowered Buckwheat plants.

- ATVs and other vehicles can introduce invasive species to native prairie sites.

- Yellow Sweet Clover and other introduced plants have invaded metalmark habitat.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Mormon Metalmarks here.

- Hike Grasslands National Park in August for the chance to see one of these butterflies.

Photo credit: Mormon Metalmark Butterfly; Apodemia mormo by Joshua Tree National Park retrieved from https://www.flickr.com/photos/joshuatreenp/28117041740 licensed under CC 1.0 https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/ (front)
Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2014. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Mormon Metalmark *Apodemia mormo* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xiv + 61 pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm