

Response Statement - Eastern Persius Duskywing

January 11, 2017

Common Name: Eastern Persius Duskywing

Scientific Name: *Erynnis persius persius*

Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Endangered

How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment: The above assessment confirms the classification of the Eastern Persius Duskywing on the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk* (Schedule 1) as Endangered. Activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes of, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: This lupine-feeding butterfly has been confirmed from only two localities in Canada. It inhabits oak savannas in southern Ontario, a habitat that has undergone substantial declines and alterations. Larval host-plant populations have been greatly reduced. There have been no confirmed reports of this butterfly since 1987, but there have been no intensive surveys for the species since 2003. This, combined with its similarity with other duskywings, makes it possible that it still occurs but has been overlooked.

Occurrence: Ontario

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Conservation activities underway: A draft recovery strategy for Eastern Persius Duskywing (*Erynnis persius persius*) has been prepared and is scheduled for posting as proposed on the Species at Risk Public Registry in 2017. This species will be part of a multi-species recovery strategy which will include Karner Blue (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*) and Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*).