

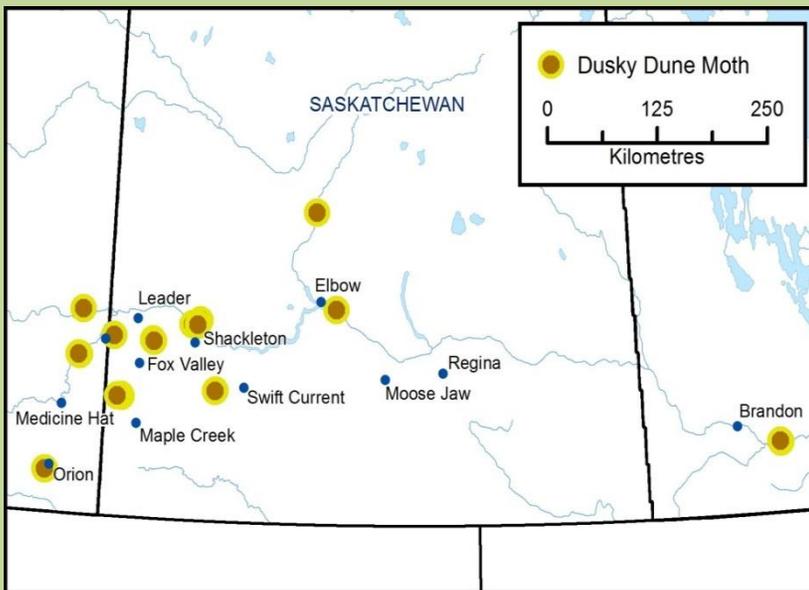


## Summary of the proposed Recovery Strategy for the **DUSKY DUNE MOTH IN CANADA**

As part of its commitment to the protection of species at risk, the Government of Canada proclaimed the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in 2003. A recovery strategy must be developed for each listed Extirpated, Endangered, and Threatened species to reduce known threats and to help species at risk recover.

### Status

The Dusky Dune Moth is listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act* due to the fragmented and declining distribution of its suitable habitat. Although it may be common where found, it occurs in a small proportion of the total seemingly suitable sites and has been lost from historical localities.



Dusky Dune Moth, © M. Curteanu, Environment Canada

### Description and Distribution

The Dusky Dune Moth is a medium-sized, light yellow-brown moth with a distinctive line of small black dots crossing its forewings.

Globally, the species is considered rare. Dusky Dune Moth populations are restricted to open, active sand dunes. Only 25 localities are known to exist in North America, 13 of which occur in Canada. Canadian populations are small and fragmented across the southern region of the Prairie Provinces.

Since the 1940s, the area of suitable habitat has declined by an estimated 10-20% per decade.

## Threats

The main threats to the Dusky Dune Moth are those activities which contribute to loss or degradation of open active sand dune habitat.

These threats include:

- changes in natural grazing and/or fire regimes
- invasion of exotic plant species
- changes in climatic conditions
- energy development and infrastructure
- high-intensity prolonged grazing
- sand extraction
- military activities
- pesticide application
- trampling of host and nectar plants

## What will be done?

The Recovery Strategy proposes a number of approaches to implement the broad strategies. The high priority approaches include:

- Continue monitoring current known populations.
- Survey unconfirmed and potential habitat to determine extent of distribution in Canada.
- Fill knowledge gaps on Dusky Dune Moth life history stages.
- Determine and implement beneficial management practices to achieve conservation of suitable habitat and reduction of threats.
- Collaborate with landowners, land managers and other relevant agencies to promote, coordinate and implement habitat conservation.
- Increase public awareness of the ecological uniqueness and value of sand dune habitat.

## The Recovery Strategy

The population and distribution objective is to maintain or increase the current distribution of the Dusky Dune Moth at all confirmed and natural locations, as well as any new areas discovered in the future. This translates into 21 individual sand dunes and blowouts.

To achieve this objective, four broad strategies have been identified:

- Inventory and monitoring
- Research
- Habitat assessment, management, and conservation
- Communication, collaboration and engagement

## Critical Habitat

*Critical habitat is the habitat identified in a Recovery Strategy that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a listed wildlife species. For a full description, please refer to the strategy.*

Critical habitat is fully identified in the Recovery Strategy and encompasses 21 confirmed and natural locations (active sand dunes and blowouts) within 10 sand hills. Two unconfirmed populations and one population occurring in anthropogenic habitat did not meet the criteria established for critical habitat identification and therefore are not included as critical habitat.

Additional critical habitat may be identified across the species range as more information about the occurrence of the species becomes available.

For more information, please contact us directly at:

Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
9250 49<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Edmonton AB T6B 1K5  
Tel.: 1-855-245-0331 (toll free)  
Email: SARA.PNR@ec.gc.ca

You can also visit the following website for more information:  
SARA Public Registry ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca))

Cover photos:

Whooping crane © Environment Canada, photo : Geoff Holroyd  
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid © Christie Borkowsky  
Boreal Woodland Caribou © Corbis Corporation

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada,  
represented by the Minister of the Environment, 2014

Aussi disponible en français