

# Dun Skipper

*Euphyes vestris*

Prepared by Chris Gill, MSc, RPBio  
Kestrel Consulting  
Phone: (250) 835-8256  
Email: cegill@gmail.com  
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## Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): **Yes (Threatened)**

Species identified in Kamloops, Lillooet or Merritt SFMP: **Yes (Lillooet)**

## Description

- Dark purplish or brown butterfly (Wingspan: 23 to 27mm) with a fast erratic flight.
- Males are almost always totally unmarked.
- Females have a series of small white spots on the forewing above, which are repeated but are smaller on the forewing underside.
- The larva is pale green with many fine, wavy pale lines.
- NOTE: The Dun Skipper only flies from late June to mid-August.



Male Dun Skipper.  
Photo: Jeffrey Phippen



Female Dun Skipper.  
Photo: Tom Murray

### Forest Districts

Chilliwack  
Campbell River  
**Cascades**  
Sunshine Coast  
South Island  
Squamish

### BEC Zones

CDF  
CWH  
IDF

### Elevation

Not available.

### Important Habitat Features

- Wet areas near deciduous woods such as meadows, seeps, swamp edges, and streams
- Larval foodplants are usually reported to be sedges (*Carex heliophila*) in the west.

### Additional Information

In British Columbia, the Dun Skipper occurs on Vancouver Island from Courtenay south to Thetis Lake Park, but is absent from the Saanich Peninsula. It is also known from one locality north of Vancouver on the coast at Powell River, one locality near Pemberton, Mission, and five localities in the Fraser River Canyon: Hope, Boston Bar, Lytton, North Lytton, and Lillooet.

### Management Recommendations

Information for this species is very limited. Consult with a Registered Professional Biologist prior to implementing the following management recommendations because certain situations may require custom solutions based on specific site characteristics.

- Identify locations where this species is known to occur: if available, obtain occurrence data from the Conservation Data Centre (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cdc/>) and if necessary conduct surveys to confirm presence or absence of this species.

Where this species is found:

- Establish a no harvest zone buffer equal to one tree length around the meadow, seep, swamp or stream.
- Do not construct roads within the no harvest zone unless no other viable option exists. In those cases, road construction should occur from September to March. Minimize soil disturbance during road construction and deactivate after use.
- Prevent erosion and runoff from roads located in Dun Skipper habitat into nearby meadows, streams or other wetlands.
- Use non-herbicide weed control methods to retain larval food plants and nectar sources. Where herbicide-based control is necessary, measures such as hand wick application or spot treatments should be taken to protect non-target species (sedges).

## References

- Baron, N., and F. Backhouse. 1999. Rare Butterflies of Southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Branch. 6pp.
- B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. 2004. Sonora Skipper in Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Accounts V. 2004. B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Victoria, B.C. 6pp.
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- Guppy, C.S., and J.H. Shepard. 2001. Butterflies of British Columbia. UBC Press in collaboration with Royal B.C. Museum. 414pp.
- Shepard, J.H. 2000. Status of Five Butterflies and Skippers in British Columbia. B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Branch. Working Rep. WR-101. 27pp.