

Monarch

Danaus plexippus

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Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): **Yes (Special Concern)**

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

Description

- Large orange butterfly (wingspan: 93-105mm).
- Bright orange wings with a thick black border containing two rows of white spots.
- Larval stage is brightly coloured with yellow black and white stripes (Length: 50mm when fully grown).



Photo: Fred Goodwin



Monarch on Milkweed.
Photo: Geoff Dennis



Larva stage. Photo: Fred Goodwin

BEC Zones

- CDF
- CWH
- IDF
- PP

Elevation

Not available.

Forest Districts

Cascades

Kamloops

Okanagan Shuswap

Important Habitat Features

- Breeding habitat: patches of milkweed plants in meadows and open fields.
- Adults will feed on the nectar of almost any plant, but larval stages require milkweed.

Additional Information

Western monarchs only reach British Columbia in summers with extended periods of warm, sunny weather in the Pacific Northwest. During these years, breeding occurs in scattered locations across the province, particularly in the Okanagan Valley and along the Fraser River.

Management Recommendations

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 perimeter of the meadow or open field if it is located adjacent to a forested area.
- 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.

- Use non-herbicide weed control methods to retain larval food plants (milkweed) and nectar sources. Where herbicide-based control is necessary, measures such as hand wick application or spot treatments should be taken to protect milkweed plants.

References

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