**Alaska Natural Heritage Program**

**Conservation Status Report**

*Erynnis persius* - Scudder, 1863

**Common Name:** Persius Duskywing

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ELCODE: IILEP37170</th>
<th>Taxonomic Serial No.: 706749</th>
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**Synonyms:**

*Taxonomy Notes:* A number of subspecies of *Erynnis persius* have been referenced for North America: *Erynnis persius avinoffi* (W. Holland, 1930), *Erynnis persius borealis* (M. Cary, 1906) *Erynnis persius fredericki* (H. Freeman, 1943), and *Erynnis persius persius* (Scudder, 1863). Specimens in Alaska correspond with *Erynnis persius borealis* (Philip and Ferris 2016). The majority of butterfly records were determined only to species. We therefore only treat this butterfly at the species level for conservation assessment while recognizing that currently Alaskan specimens are considered to fall under (name of subspecies) - as treated by Ferris 2016. NatureServe concept reference: Opler & Warren (2002).

**Report last updated – 16 May 2017**

**Conservation Status**

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<th>G5 S4</th>
<th>ASRS: not yet ranked</th>
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**Occurrences, Range**

*Number of Occurrences:*

- number of museum records: 401 (KWP 2017, UAM 2017),
- number of EOs: 57. Note this species is likely more abundant than the number of EOs indicates.

**AK Range Extent:** 294,979 km²

**Occupancy 4 km² grid cells:** 56

**Nowacki Ecoregions:** Eastern Alaska: central, southern Brooks Range; Tanana, upper Yukon, Matanuska, and Copper River valleys; encompassing Arctic Tundra,
Intermontane Boreal, Alaska Range Transition, Copper River Basin, and Coast Mountain Transition Ecoregions.

**North American Distribution:** Alaska east to Manitoba, south through the western North American mountains to California and New Mexico. This taxon also occurs in eastern North America from Wisconsin to New England and south along the Appalachians to Virginia.

**Trends**

*Short-term:* Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).

*Long-term:* Proportion collected has remained stable (<10% change).

**Threats**

*Scope and Severity:* Most threats (including development, pollution, biological resource use, etc.) are anticipated to be negligible in scope and unknown in severity. This species is often associated with anthropogenic openings in forests such as powerline cuts and roadsides (Philip & Ferris 2016) and may benefit from some degree of development. Climate change and severe weather has the potential to affect populations; however we cannot anticipate the scope or severity of such impacts.

**Ecology**

*Habitat:* Open areas (e.g., roadsides, powerline cuts) in boreal forest in Alaska (Philip & Ferris 2016); more broadly the taxon is found in open woodland and mountain grasslands, as well as marshes, sand plains, seeps, and streamsides (BAMONA 2017).
Host Plants: Fabaceae, including Astragalus, Lotus, Lupinus, and Trifolium (BAMONA 2017).

Life History: Flight from mid-May to mid-June (Philip & Ferris 2016). Males seek females on hilltops, typically sitting on the ground. A single egg is laid under host plant leaves. Larvae feed on leaves in shelters of rolled or tied leaves and the fully-grown caterpillars hibernate (BAMONA 2017).

Intrinsic Vulnerability: Unknown

Literature


