

SDSU awarded \$200,000 to study butterflies



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A Harbison's dun skipper butterfly *Courtesy of Douglas Deutschman*

San Diego State University has been awarded \$200,000 to study how three species of butterflies are faring across the county and whether the insects need help from scientists and planners to survive.

The university received the grant from the San Diego Association of Governments (Sandag), which helps with planning issues on behalf of 18 cities and county government.

SDSU biologist Douglas Deutschman will head up the research, which will focus on the Harrison's dun skipper, Quino checkerspot, and the Hermes copper butterflies.

"The butterflies don't fly huge distances, and they all have specific hosts," said Deutschman. "So they're vulnerable to habitat loss that can come with development. Wildfires also are a huge risk."

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