

**Annual Report for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly
(*Euphydryas editha quino*) Surveys 2003
PRT-837307 and TE-842199-2**

Introduction

Surveys for the quino checkerspot butterfly (QCB) were conducted by Ms. Holly Cheong under PRT-837307 and Mr. Keith Greer under TE-842199-2 during the 2003 QCB flight season. Any harassment of the QCB was through survey only, no collection or other forms of harassment occurred as a part of these permit activities.

Surveys were conducted to determine the presence or absence of QCBs on lands owned by the City of San Diego. 45-day reports were submitted to the Carlsbad Field Office on June 24, 2003. The objective of these surveys was to enhance the survival of the QCB by locating populations of the species and reporting those findings to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Methodology

Three properties were surveyed during the 2000 QCB flight season: Marron Valley, Otay Lakes, and Mission Trails. The dates and times of these surveys are given in Attachment A.

Surveys for this species must be done during the flight season, which is variable from year to year. USFWS protocol for the QCB requires that surveys are done once a week for each week of the flight season. Due to scheduling constraints, surveys could not be conducted every week of the flight season. The City recognizes that these surveys may not be considered adequate to determine absence of the species, but efforts to confirm presence and habitat assessments are still believed to be beneficial.

Except for the reduced number of surveys, all surveys were conducted in accordance with current USFWS protocol for this species, between 0900 and 1600 hours, and during favorable weather conditions. The sites were surveyed on foot and all butterfly species observed were noted. Butterflies and other insect species were identified through direct observation with the aid of binoculars. Sufficient time was spent in all appropriate habitats to determine the presence/absence of the QCB.

Results

Marron Valley

Habitat for the QCB does occur on-site and multiple QCBs were observed on-site. Four adult individuals were observed on-site on February 5, 2003. Six adult individuals were observed on-site on March 7, 2003. Fifteen adult individuals were observed on-site on April 7, 2003. Additional details are available in the 45 day reports dated June 24, 2003.

Mission Trails

Habitat for the QCB does occur on-site, however, no QCB individuals were found on-site. Additional details are available in the 45 day reports dated June 24, 2003.

Otay Lakes

Habitat for the QCB does occur on-site, however, no QCB individuals were found on-site. Additional details are available in the 45 day reports dated June 24, 2003.

Conclusion

As stated above, habitat for the QCB does occur within the City-owned lands surveyed and QCB was observed within Marron Valley.

This concludes the annual report for QCB surveys conducted under PRT-837307 and TE-842199-2. If there are any questions or comments regarding this report, please contact Holly Cheong at (619) 533-6301.