

# Why We Care About Butterflies



## Understanding the value of Spring Mountains NRA butterfly species

Out of the **~750** butterfly species in the United States, there are many that can be found in the Spring Mountains including **7** endemic butterflies found nowhere else in the world.



### INTRINSIC WORTH

As an organism in the vast network of Life, butterflies are **part of the rich biodiversity** that we enjoy on Earth. This makes them valuable in their own right.

### AESTHETIC VALUE

Butterflies bring elements of **beauty** and **joy** to our world. They appear in our art, symbology, writing, and music. We wonder at their amazing **transformation** into adults and their stunning range of colors.



### ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Butterflies are key **indicators of ecosystem health** and their presence is a positive sign of a healthy environment. Due to their sensitivity to ecosystem changes, they are also used by scientists to **measure climate change impacts**.

Butterflies also act as important **pollinators** and as **pest control** for insects such as aphids that can damage crops. Finally, they are a **valuable part of the food chain** for animals such as birds and bats.

