

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Monitoring

Title Monitoring butterfly species of concern in South Dakota

In a nutshell This project focused special survey efforts on 4 target butterfly species in the Black Hills, including an attempt to identify plant species important to larvae and adults. Butterfly surveys were also conducted in remnant tallgrass prairie sites in northeastern South Dakota for 10 targeted species.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)
- ottoe skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*)
- pahasapa fritillary (*Speyeria atlantis pahasapa*)
- iowa (arogos) skipper (*Atrytone arogos iowa*)
- Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*)
- Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*)

Relevant Habitats meadows of Black Hills; tallgrass prairie

Cooperators Gary Marrone and Dennis Skadsen, natural history contractors

Purpose

- survey suitable habitat throughout the Black Hills and northeastern South Dakota for 4 target species
- collect information for 4 target species used as larval food sources and adult nectar sources
- develop a monitoring plan for 4 target species, if populations are found that warrant monitoring

Timeframe 2005 - 2009

Location Black Hills and northeastern South Dakota

Summary or Important Findings

- A total of 85 species were documented in the Black Hills survey.
- A monitoring program was established and conducted for the pahasapa fritillary in the Black Hills.

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More Information

Marrone, G. 2009. Summary of five years of butterfly monitoring in the Black Hills with emphasis on species monitored by the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program. Report to SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks.