

Ottoe Skipper ***Hesperia ottoe***

Habitat Preference: Dry prairies dominated by little bluestem

Threats:

- Loss of prairie habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - Tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the success of this species
 - Conversion of prairie to urban development
 - Loss of pasture fields to row crop fields
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying at certain times of the year could limit available flowering plants used for food (mid-June through August)
- Over grazing will limit available flowering plants used for food
- Fire suppression which limits the availability of flowering plants used for food
- Frequent fires can kill all larvae in the burned area
- Fragmentation could cause butterflies to travel long distance to find the particular plant species it feeds on

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Preserve areas with ottoe populations.
- Establish grassland habitat. Caterpillars feed on grass such as little bluestem. Adults feed on nectar of forbs. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom at different times throughout the summer to create a constant food source. Establish new grassland that will connect existing tracts of grassland to limit fragmentation.
- Fall burning may have a greater effect on caterpillars. Spring burns may have less impact on an ottoe skipper population. The area should not be burned more than every 3-5 years. Areas should be broken up into multiple burn units (minimum of four) of about equal size that are burned on a rotational basis to provide refuge for ottoe skippers. Burning should be avoided during flight periods (mid-June to early August). Early spring burns are least detrimental because larvae are underground at this time
- Ottoe skippers are dependent upon native prairie plants. Areas that become encroached with woody vegetation will not be utilized by ottoe skippers.
- Limit grazing in areas known to have ottoe skipper populations between mid-June and August.
- Limit haying between mid-June and August.