

## **Arogos Skipper** ***Atrytone arogos***

**Habitat Preference:** Undisturbed native prairie

### **Threats:**

- Loss of habitat
  - Conversion of native prairie to agricultural and urban development
- Fragmentation: arogos skippers and other butterflies are forced to travel great distances between adequate habitat
- Overgrazing
- Use of pesticides
- Invasion of non-native plant species
  - Non-native plant species many times will out compete the native plant species reducing available food for arogos skippers

### **Habitat Improvement Guidelines:**

- Maintain prairie through multiple management techniques
  - Mechanical tree removal
  - Mowing
  - Haying
  - Grazing
  - Prescribed Fire: Any given areas should be broken up into several burn units and burned on a rotational basis of no more than every 3-5 years. By burning one unit and leaving the other units unburned refuge is created for arogos skippers. Limit burning contiguous sites in consecutive years.

All management techniques should be applied at various times of the year to eliminate continual impact of one stage of life.

- Caterpillars feed on big bluestem grass. Adults feed on nectar of forbs. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom from mid-late summer to create a constant food source. To improve the health of arogos skipper populations establish native prairie species in areas that tie multiple areas together, thus limiting fragmentation.