

Poweshiek Skipperling *Oarisma powesheik*

Habitat Preference: Undisturbed prairie remnants

Threats:

- Loss of prairie habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground
 - tree invasion: shade is detrimental to the success of this species
- Invasion of non-native plants
- Haying at certain times of the year could limit available flowering plants used for food
- Over grazing will limit available flowering plants used for food
- Fragmentation could cause butterflies to travel long distance to find the particular plant species it feeds on
- Pesticide use
- Excessive fire

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Prairie preservation
- Reestablish grassland habitat. Forb nectar is a very important food source for adults. When creating a new seeding consider including forbs that bloom at different times throughout the summer to create a constant food source for many different butterfly species. Poweshiek skipperling only use forbs when flying; between mid-June and July.
- Fall burnings will be very important to promote forb growth. Area should not be burned more than every 5 years. Areas should be broken up into several burn units that are burned on a rotational basis to provide refuge for poweshiek skipperling. This species will not use an area that is grown up to trees.
- These butterflies will not use an area that is regularly disturbed. Regular annual haying is not a compatible use for poweshiek skipperling habitat. Haying units every three or four years combined with burning will control woody species. Hay August or later. Do not hay entire area in any one year.