



Oregon Silverspot Butterfly

Recovery in Oregon

Oregon silverspot butterflies once flourished in coastal grasslands from Washington to California. Due to habitat loss, this threatened butterfly is now found only in five protected areas in Oregon and California.

Oregon silverspot butterflies depend on this unique ecosystem, with caterpillars feeding on violet leaves and butterflies drinking the nectar of flowering plants. A collaborative habitat restoration and reintroduction program is helping to increase these butterfly populations along the coast.



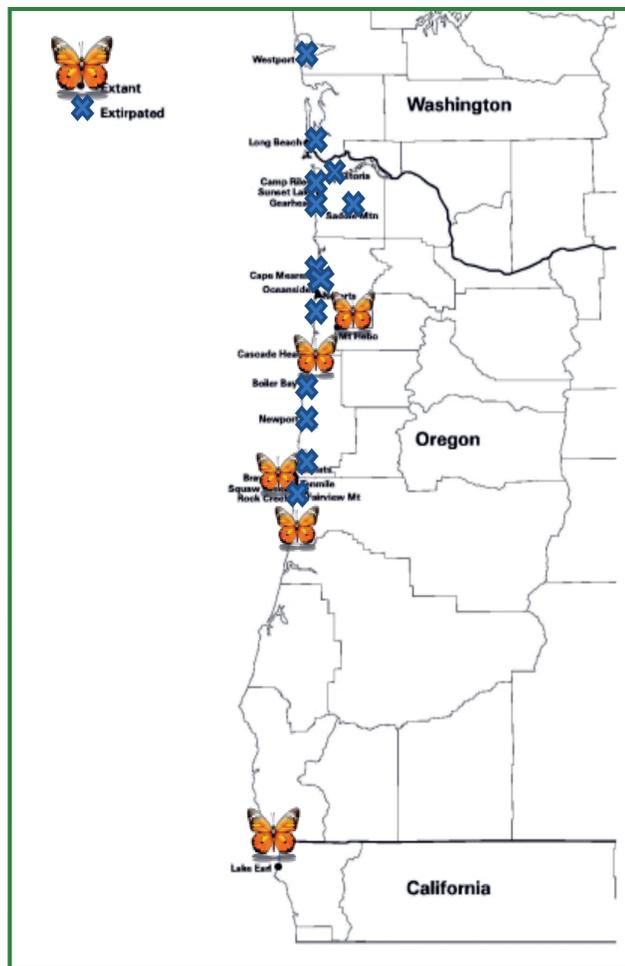
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Species Status

Extensive threats are present at all remaining sites. At least two populations have been lost since the time of listing, and severe, imminent threats result from habitat loss, isolation, potential climate change effects, and small population size.

Recovery Efforts

- Protect occupied habitat.
- Manage occupied and potential habitat to improve conditions for the butterfly.
- Augment small populations through captive rearing and release.
- Continue monitoring and research to improve management and recover the species.



SPOTlight on Partnership

Pelican Pub and Brewery developed Silverspot IPA to help fund captive breeding programs at Oregon and Woodland Park Zoos.



Protect

Maintain

Improve



Coastal prairie habitat



Restoring degraded habitat



Volunteers plant nectar plants and violets

Protecting Habitat

Protecting sites like Big Creek are critically important to the butterfly because so many of the five remaining butterfly sites are small and highly vulnerable to threats like invasive species, habitat loss and degradation, isolation, potential disease, and climate change.

Habitat Maintenance

Since butterflies are dependent on grassland that become degraded by invasive species like non-native grass and Scotch-broom, we work with partners to maintain prairies with native components.

Habitat Improvement

Oregon silverspot butterflies are dependent on the early blue violet to reproduce and use a range of plants as nectar sources to feed adults. Partners, volunteers, and private landowners work together to plant species needed by the butterfly in new and degraded habitats.

Butterfly Augmentation

The Service and partners work together to raise butterflies and offspring in captivity and release to augment small, highly vulnerable sites.



Caterpillars raised at zoos are later released as adults

Partners

None of these efforts would be possible without crucial partners, like The Nature Conservancy, the Forest Service, the Oregon and Woodland Park Zoos, volunteers, and many others, that contribute to existing recovery efforts and develop new and innovative solutions to conserve our Oregon silverspot butterfly.



NRCS Plant Materials Center grows seedlings and seed to improve Oregon silverspot butterfly habitat