



Fender's Blue Butterfly

- With a wingspan of only about an inch, male and female Fender's blue butterflies appear dramatically different. Males are a vivid sky blue while females are a rusty brown. Both sexes are a bright grey beneath their wings, with black and brown spots.
- Before the early 19th century, Fender's blue butterflies were abundant across Oregon's Willamette Valley. Since then, development has resulted in extreme habitat loss.
- Considered federally endangered since 2000, Fender's blue butterflies were once thought to be extinct. There were no sightings from 1937 to 1989, when Oregon State University entomologist Paul Hammond found a population in an area of the Willamette Valley now called Butterfly Meadows. There are now at least 16,644 butterflies, all in the Willamette Valley.
- Fender's blue butterflies consume nectar from an array of prairie wildflowers. Caterpillars only eat leaves from the lupine plant, especially Kincaid's lupine, which is also federally threatened.
- The species was first discovered in 1931 by Oregon biologist Ralph Macy, who named it after his mail carrier, Kenneth Fender, who also practiced entomology.
- Find them at [Baskett Slough](#) and [William L. Finley](#) National Wildlife Refuges in Oregon.

