Identifying Rare Butterfly Species in Utah

Three of Utah's rare butterfly species are facing potential risk of extinction. Help look for these species and submit your photos to Utah Pollinator Pursuit!
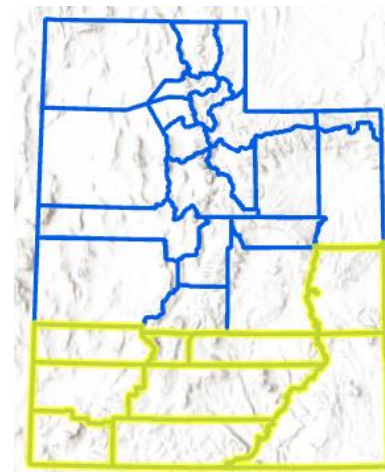
Desert green hairstreak *(Callophrys sheridanii comstocki)*
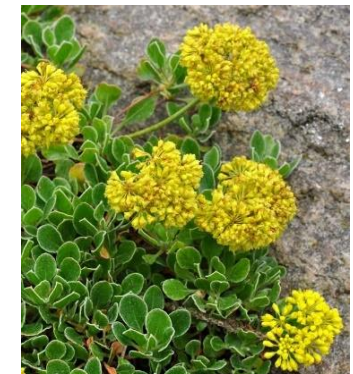

Under side gray-green with distinct row of white dots;
Upper side brownish-gray*

*males and females are relatively similar in appearance

- Nickel-sized butterflies
- Found in higher-elevation sagebrush scrub and pinyon-juniper in southern Utah
- Fly mainly in March-May, and rarely August-September
- Require buckwheat as larval food plants

Potential range in UT

Buckwheat
(Eriogonum spp.)

Ellis' dotted blue (*Euphilotes ellisii ellisii*)

Under side pale gray with squarish black dots and a red-orange band on hindwing; Upper side blue*+

*males and females are relatively similar in appearance

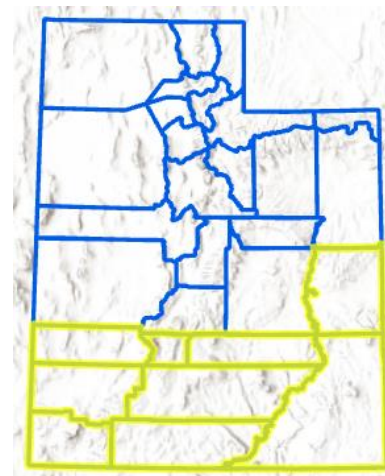+note that buckwheat blue butterflies look similar but are active at different times during the season

- Dime-sized butterflies
- Found in dry rocky sagebrush scrub and in southern and southeastern Utah
- Fly in late summer (mid-July to early September)
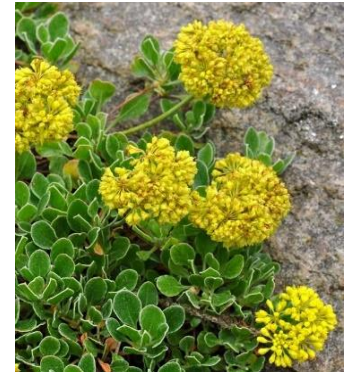- Require buckwheat as larval food plants

Potential range in UT

Buckwheat
(*Eriogonum* spp.)

Nokomis fritillary/Silverspot butterfly *(Speyeria nokomis nokomis)*

Nokomis males

(Orange with black spots on upper side; under side orange with black, silver spots on hindwing)*

- Relatively large fritillaries (1.5-2")
- Restricted to streamside meadows and seepage areas near perennial streams at higher elevations
- Eastern Utah (Uintah, Grand, San Juan counties)
- Fly from late-July through late-September
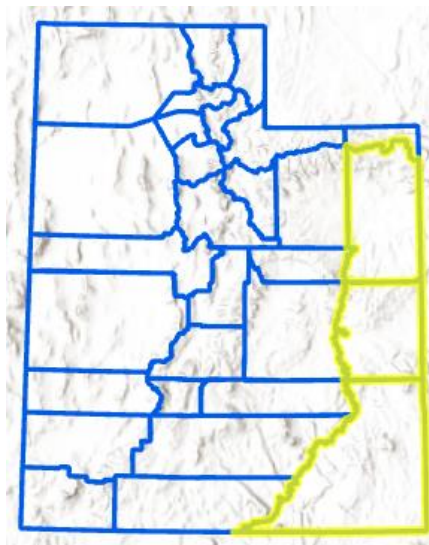- Require bog violets as larval food plant

Nokomis females

(Black and cream upper side; under side orange, brown to greenish-brown, yellow band and silver spots on hindwing)*

*Note that many fritillary species look similar but are active at different times in the season

Potential range in UT

Bog violet

(Viola nephrophylla)