The Dakota Skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) is endangered in Canada.

They are a small butterfly, about 21-33 mm (.75 to 1.25 in).

Males have orange-brown wings with pale spots and a dark mark, while females tend to be more grey and lack the dark mark.

They are associated with bluestem grasses and Black-eyed Susan, Common Harebell, Mountain Death Camas, Wood Lily, and sometimes Common Gaillardia and Narrow-leaved Prairie Coneflower.

They lay their eggs on grasses, while flowers provide food for the adults.

Larvae feed only at night. During the day they live in a silk tunnel built at the base of a plant.

Adults live for about three weeks in late June to mid-July.

Dakota Skippers do not travel far—typically under 1 km.
Conservation

- Only about 1% of tallgrass and mixed-grass prairie remains, the habitat needed by the Dakota Skipper.
- Habitat availability has been reduced by increased flooding.
- Most available sites are found 1.5-5 km apart, so movement options are limited.
- Overgrazing is detrimental, but low to moderate grazing is beneficial.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Dakota Skippers [here](#).

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