



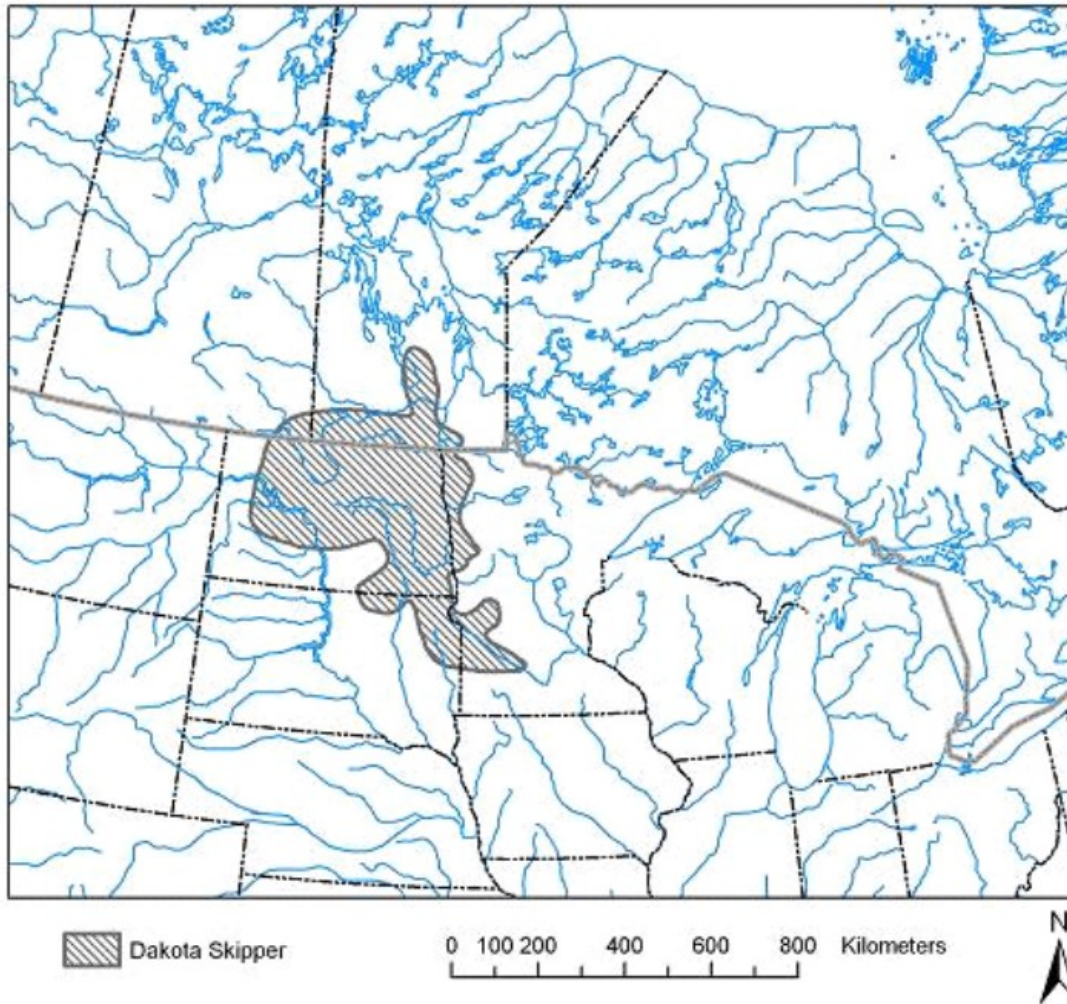
Species at Risk Profile Series: Dakota Skipper

STATUS: ENDANGERED



- 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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Map credit: COSEWIC. 2014. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Dakota Skipper *Hesperia dacotae* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. xii + 61 pp. (www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/default_e.cfm).