

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

The Unsilvered Fritillary



Photo: ©Jeff Phippen

A VANISHING BUTTERFLY

The Unsilvered Fritillary (*Speyeria adiastrae*) has a narrow sliver of a range in coastal California. One of the Unsilvered Fritillary's three subspecies is extinct, another subspecies has been and is declining, and the third subspecies faces multiple threats within its limited range. This fragile creature faces many threats including habitat loss and degradation due to burgeoning human populations, urban sprawl, crop and livestock agriculture, and increased droughts. It deserves the chance at survival that Endangered Species Act protection would bring.

THE DECLINE OF SILVERSPOTS

The Unsilvered Fritillary is an "unsilvered" species of "silverspot," a common name for the genus *Speyeria*. Several silverspot butterflies have been granted federal protection due to significant declines and severe threats. One of these, the Behren's Silverspot Butterfly, existed at only one location when it was granted Endangered Species Act protection. While the Unsilvered Fritillary has significantly declined, it still may be early enough to avoid such an extreme situation as its cousin's.

KNOW YOUR BUTTERFLY

- Hey Good Lookin': the Unsilvered Fritillary has a 2-inch wingspan and is colored pale reddish-tan to bright red above, with pale yellow to gray undersides.
- Purple Heart: like other members of its genus, it prefers, above all else, to feed on violets.
- Dare to be Different: unlike most other silverspots, its hindwing spots are unsilvered.
- Slipping through the cracks: the Fish & Wildlife Service once considered this butterfly a candidate for federal protection, but it dropped off the radar screen in 1996.

CLIMATE CHAOS

Climate change has taken and will take its toll on this fritillary, through altered fire regimes, more severe and frequent droughts, and shifts in native plant distribution.



The Unsilvered Fritillary's Range

