

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IILEPJ6052

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Speyeria nokomis nitocris*  
**COMMON NAME:** Mountain Silverspot Butterfly, Nitocris Fritillary, Nokomis Fritillary,  
Western Seep Fritillary Nokomis  
**SYNONYMS:**  
**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Edwards, 1874.

**TYPE LOCALITY:** White Mountains, Arizona.

**TYPE SPECIMEN:** Unknown

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** For the species *Speyeria nokomis* the wingspan is 2 ½ - 3 1/8 in. (6.3-7.9 cm). Also for the species the upper side of the male is a bright brownish orange with darkened wing bases and dark markings. Sub marginal chevrons do not touch the very even black marginal line. The upper side of the female is black and the outer half of the wing has cream-colored spots. Both sexes have hind wing below with black-bordered silver spots. For *Speyeria nokomis nitocris* the hind wing disc is deep reddish brown in males and black in females. Males are deeper fulvous above than in *apacheana* and with slightly heavier black markings above as well as a darker redder basal suffusion. They are darker ochreous to fulvous below with silver spots reduced in size. The females have a much darker orange basal suffusion beneath and a much darker disc tending towards Indian red basally.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** For *Speyeria nokomis nitocris* the hind wing disc is deep reddish brown in males and black in females. Males are deeper fulvous above than in *apacheana* and with slightly heavier black markings above as well as a darker redder basal suffusion. They are darker ochreous to fulvous below with silver spots reduced in size. The females have a much darker orange basal suffusion beneath and a much darker disc tending towards Indian red basally.

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Color photo of species (Opler in <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/az/82.htm>)  
Color photo of species (In <http://www.nearctica.com/butter/plate13/Snokom.htm>.  
Color photo (In <http://www.worldinsects.com/photo2-4.htm>).

**TOTAL RANGE:** Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Arizona.

### **SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

#### **BIOLOGY:**

**REPRODUCTION:** For the species males patrol for receptive females, who walk on the ground to lie, singe eggs near host plants. Unfed, first-stage caterpillars hibernate and in the spring they feed on the leaves of the host. They have one brood from late July-September.

**FOOD HABITS:** For the species *Speyeria nokomis* the caterpillar host plant is *Viola nephrophylla*. The adults feed on flower nectar including that from thistles.

**HABITAT:** Alpine meadows.

**ELEVATION:** Unknown

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** Unknown

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown

### **SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None (USDI, FWS 1991)  
[C3,USDI, FWS 1989]

**STATE STATUS:**

**OTHER STATUS:** Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3  
1999)

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Unknown

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Unknown

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Unknown

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Unknown

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

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- NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application].2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: July 11, 2002).
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- USDA, Forest Service Region 3. 1999. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1989. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Animal Notice of Review. Federal Register 54(4):573.
- USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1991. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Animal Candidate Review for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species, Proposed Rule. Federal Register 56(225):58804-58836.
- World Insects. Available at: <http://www.worldinsect.com/photo2-4.htm>

### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Revised:** 2002-07-13 (AMS)

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