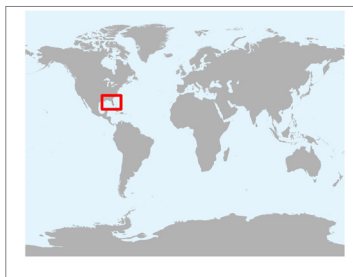




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Purple Skimmer

The **Purple Skimmer**, *Libellula jesseana*, is classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This species has a highly restricted range and occurs only in parts of Florida where there are clean, sandy lakes with very little vegetation. The males perch in tall grasses and fly across the lake when fiercely competing for territories. Females forage in clearings in the nearby woods and larvae live in silty sediment on the lake bottom.

Research has found that this species is more common and widespread than originally thought. However, the Purple Skimmer remains threatened by the rapid development that has occurred around Florida's beautiful lakes. This development has degraded this dragonfly's habitat through water pollution and ground-water depletion.

One population is protected within a state park and another within a national forest. The best-known population of the Purple Skimmer is protected in Gold Head Branch State Park, but most other lakes of historical occurrence are not protected. Further monitoring is essential for the future well-being of this species of dragonfly.

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