

# Frosted Elfin

(*Callophrys irus arsace*)

Bring this image to life:  
see reverse side for details



augmented  
reality



Florida Museum  
3D Butterfly Cards

**FM**  
FLORIDA  
MUSEUM.

**UF**  
UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

The **Frosted Elfin** (*Callophrys irus arsace*) is a small, primarily brown hairstreak butterfly. It is widespread across the eastern half of the United States from the Northeast and Great Lakes south to Florida and west to eastern Texas. However, it is rare and in decline in most areas. In fact, the Frosted Elfin is listed as endangered, threatened or of conservation concern in 11 states and has been lost entirely from Canada. It reaches its southernmost distribution in northern Florida where only a handful of small remaining populations are known to occur.

The Frosted Elfin occurs in regularly disturbed habitats such as oak-pine barrens, oak savannahs and upland pine or sandhill where its larval host plants, Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*) and Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*), grow. These habitats have dwindled significantly due to land development and degradation of vegetation because of succession and fragmentation, resulting in continued declines of the butterfly. Fire, both natural and prescribed, is the major source of disturbance in these systems and is critical for maintaining optimal habitat quality. But fire also can be potentially harmful to small populations if improperly applied. Research at the University of Florida shows that fire management for the Frosted Elfin should only occur in a portion of a species occupied area, be rotated between years and be a fast moving fire to limit mortality.

- *Download the Libraries of Life app from the iTunes or Android store and install on your device.*
- *Launch the app and select the Florida Museum icon.*
- *Hold your mobile device camera about 6 inches away from card image.*
- *View specimen and click buttons to view content.*



Cover photo by: Jaret Daniels

The Florida Museum of Natural History is a leading authority in biodiversity and cultural heritage, using its expertise to advance knowledge and solve real world problems. The Florida Museum inspires people to value the biological richness and cultural heritage of our diverse world and make a positive difference in its future.