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# Greater Fritillaries at Three Localities in Humboldt National Forest, Nevada

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The Humboldt National Forest (of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests; together they are the largest National Forest system in the lower 48 states) is scattered throughout northern and eastern Nevada and is comprised of nearly 2.5 million acres and 5 mountain ranges. Although Nevada is largely a land of desert and dry flats, the Humboldt National Forest harbors hidden stands of shimmering aspen, cool, clear mountain lakes, and spectacular vistas. Named after the German

naturalist Baron Alexander von Humboldt, the variety of terrain and environments provides a number of recreational opportunities such as hiking, fishing, camping, biking, and of course, wildlife viewing. A number of greater fritillaries inhabit Humboldt National Forest, and here we present a quick guide on how to identify the ones commonly encountered at three localities.

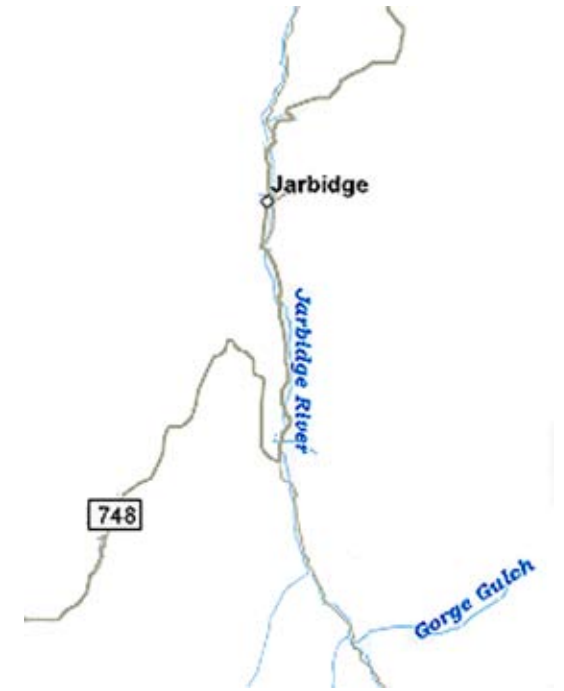
*Top: Gorge Gulch in July*



*Map of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada. Forests are highlighted in green. Areas discussed in this article are in a gray box. Courtesy of USDA Forest Service: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/about/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/about/index.shtml)*

## Jarbidge Wilderness: The Jarbidge River and Gorge Gulch

We start in the extreme northern portion of the Humboldt National Forest and the Jarbidge Wilderness. Nestled in this 113,000 acre Wilderness is Jarbidge, an old mining town that felt the gold rush when it was discovered in the Jarbidge Canyon in 1909. Today, Jarbidge is a quaint and extremely small town on the way to Gorge Gulch along the Jarbidge River. The town has only a handful of permanent residents, a store, a gas pump, two bars, a post office and an Inn for visiting hunters. A peaceful setting for butterfly observation, and a number of Greater Fritillaries call this area home.



From the north, the Jarbidge River is just shy of a two-hour drive from Rogerson, which is located on Highway 93 north of the Nevada border (approximately 25 miles south of Twin Falls, Idaho). From Rogerson you drive west on Highway 748 to Murphy Hot Springs; just beyond there you turn south on Highway 748 along the Jarbidge River (from the south, take exit 333 at Deeth on Interstate 80 and travel north on Highways 747/748 approximately 60 miles to get to Jarbidge). Passing through Jarbidge, you will want to stay left as the main road takes a sharp right hand turn up a steep grade a few miles out of town. The road on the left will take you past Pine Creek Campground to a small parking area at a trailhead where you can begin a moderately difficult hike along the river up to Gorge Gulch (gulch=a deep, narrow ravine). It is approximately a 3/4-mile hike from the trailhead to the Gulch. Keep an eye out along the way for greater fritillaries and a host of other butterflies that call this beautiful area home. Be prepared to cross the river a little ways into the hike. It's not a problem, just an obstacle that will get the feet wet unless you toss the shoes to the other