

THROUGH THE LEPIDOPTERAN LENS

The two greenies

BY LINDA KAPPEN

Sheridan's Green Hairstreak

The Sheridan's Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys sheridanii*, of the Lycaenidae Family, is a small, dark-green butterfly with black scaling on the ventral hindwings. The ventral forewings are green and partially brown. It has no tails as seen in other species of hairstreaks. The Sheridan's hairstreak has a variable white line with black edging. When the butterfly isn't as fresh, the white lines may appear broken. The outer edges of the wings are fringed in white. It is one inch or less in size.

Adults perch on the ground near host plants—buckwheats of the *Eriogonum* species. Adults nectar on native wildflowers, lay eggs singly on the host plant leaves, and produce one generation. The larvae will eat the leaves. The pupae then overwinter.

Sheridan's Green Hairstreaks can be seen in flight from early March through early August. Peak flight time is usually April to May, depending on elevation.

Many diverse habitats, such as rocky places of the subalpine and canyons, serve as habitat for the Sheridan's, which range from British Columbia to the Sierra Nevadas of California.

Observations over time will help distinguish this species from our other

green hairstreak, the Bramble Green Hairstreak. Identifying host plants will help with identification of both species. The photo of the Sheridan's pictured here was taken on the Siskiyou Crest, where the road was blocked by snow at a higher

elevation. A very striking butterfly, it will mesmerize you as you follow it from perch to perch on the ground.

Bramble Green Hairstreak

The Bramble Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys dumetorum*, of the Lycaenidae

Family, is a small, bright-green butterfly reaching up to one and one-quarter inch in size. It has curved, broken white lines (sometimes with no lines) on the ventral view of the hind wing. The ventral forewing is one-third green, and the rest of the wing is brown. The butterfly has no tails, and a grayish brown fringe lines the edge of the wings.

The male will perch on the host plant awaiting a female. Eggs are laid under leaves or on the flowers of the host plant. In southern Oregon, the larval host plant of the Bramble Green is *Hosackia crassifolia* of the Lotus family, commonly known as big deervetch. These butterflies produce one generation, and the pupae overwinter in debris near the host plant. Adults will nectar on the host plant and other spring-blooming natives. The Bramble Green can be seen in flight from late March through July.

The habitats for the Bramble Green are open roads, edges of mountain roads, or clearings in the forest. In the Pacific Northwest, Bramble Greens range from Washington to Baja, the coast ranges, the Warners, southern Cascades, and Siskiyou.

In June, we are likely to see a few Bramble Greens during the butterfly course at the Siskiyou Field Institute in Selma, Oregon. The Bramble Green pictured here was seen in the area of the TJ Howell Drive of Eight Dollar Mountain during our class field day. The bright green of this butterfly is very vibrant, and it is always a fun subject as it poses for many photos.



Linda Kappen



Top photo: Sheridan's Green Hairstreak.
Bottom photo: Bramble Green Hairstreak.
Photos: Linda Kappen.



Ventral view of mating pair of Bramble Green Hairstreaks. Photo: Linda Kappen.

■ APPLGATE VALLEY

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By 1859, the Applegate Valley was settled with farmers and ranchers striving to feed a booming population of miners with cattle, hogs, dairy, grains, vegetables, and fruits. Horses powered mining, ranching, and logging operations and provided transportation. Until the 1950s, mining was a source of income for many settlers, and farmers continued to sustain the region (Johnson, 1979).

By the end of the 1970s, much of the Applegate was broken up into smaller acreages. Residents worked in local logging or lumber mills, or they commuted to Grants Pass or Medford. Retirees moved into the valley, along with a few tourist businesses, real estate agents, and construction workers.

Some things remain the same while others are changing.

Recently, AGA and the Wellington Wildlands Council partnered with the University of Oregon in a research project aimed toward understanding the current economic drivers of the Applegate.

By count of total jobs in 2021, the top industries in the Applegate Valley were:

1. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting
2. Educational services
3. Construction
4. Manufacturing (including beverages like wine and cider)
5. Accommodation and food services

These data sets and more were presented at the State of the Applegate Community Summit in February, where AGA and community leaders presented a comprehensive picture of the Applegate in 2024. We shared demographic and job data, the results of the local business survey, and information gathered in-house that includes Wander Applegate website traffic, occupancy rates on vacation rentals, and fun facts like: How many pickle lemonades did Code 3 Coffee and Snacks sell this year? What were the most popular library books of 2024? How many hamburgers did the Lindsay Lodge sell this year?

Be alert for more on these insightful reports. We will continue to work with the community on digesting the data and planning the next steps to support the industries that are driving this economy via the Applegate Valley Business Network, the Wander Applegate program, our



Food and Farm Network, and our Arts Working Group. You can find the new and improved local business directory at ApplegateConnect.org.

As for resilience, the All Things Fire Fair! returns to the Applegate Valley Fire District #9 in Ruch from 10 am-4 pm Saturday, March 8. This second annual, family-friendly event helps us move toward a fire-adapted Applegate with informational tables, presentations, and live demonstrations focusing on wildfire and community preparedness and the

role of individuals in protecting homes and properties.

Abundance is only cultivated through diligence and consistency, which is how A Greater Applegate has been serving this community for nearly 30 years. We do not change course in reaction to short-term political or cultural phenomena but remain committed to making an impact where we have influence and leverage—which is right here in the Applegate Valley. We are not reinventing the wheel; we are standing on the shoulders and ideas of the many Applegaters who have been building this community for decades.

Thank you for joining us as we move towards vitality and resilience. We look forward to hearing from you and working together in 2025.

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