

## Great Plains Earless Lizard - *Holbrookia maculata maculata*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5 S2

Population Status: Restricted distribution, population numbers and threats are unknown.

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limited habitat. Species found in Southeastern Wyoming within sandy areas. Degree of habitat loss is unknown.

Comment: Changed from NSS4 in 2005 due solely to changes in the matrix.

### Introduction

The Great Plains Earless Lizard may be found in Goshen and Laramie Counties. This lizard is commonly active from April to October. However, juveniles and hatchlings are more active in the fall than adults (Hammerson 1999). When temperatures exceed preferred conditions, this species will retreat into vegetation or burrows. Breeding begins in April. Adult females will deposit 3-6 eggs in June or July. Large females can lay 2 clutches per year (Hammerson 1999). Hatchlings commonly begin to appear in August. The Great Plains Earless Lizard primarily feeds upon insects and other small invertebrates.

### Habitat

In Wyoming, the Great Plains Earless Lizard inhabits grassland communities in the plains zone (Baxter and Stone 1985). Within these habitats, this lizard prefers yucca and exposed sandy habitats. This species may also be found along streams, prairie-dog towns, and other flat open expanses of ground (Hammerson 1999).

### Problems

- h Lack of basic information on the species presence, distribution, and ecology in Wyoming.
- h This species may have limited habitat in Wyoming and degree of this habitat loss is unknown.

### Conservation Actions

- h Develop management recommendations based on resulting data.
- h Survey and monitor population distribution, status, and habitat associations.

### Monitoring/Research

Conduct baseline surveys to gain better understanding of species distribution within the state.

### Recent Developments

Reptiles have received increased attention within Wyoming. Incidental observations are encouraged to be reported to the herpetology program.

### References

- Hammerson, G.A. 1999. Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado: A Colorado Field Guide, Second Edition. University Press of Colorado and Colorado Division of Wildlife. 484 pp.
- Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming. Second Edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne. 137pp.

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species; heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.