

## Northern Many-lined Skink - *Plestiodon multivirgatus multivirgatus*

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 prairie habitat. Degree of habitat loss is unknown.

Comment: Changed from NSS4 in 2005 due solely to changes in the matrix. Standard name changed from Many-lined Skink. Genus changed from previous CWCS. Formerly *Eumeces multivirgatus multivirgatus*.

### Introduction

The Northern Many-lined Skink can be found in Goshen, Platte, and Laramie Counties. This species is usually active from April to October. The breeding habits of this species are not well documented. Breeding is thought to occur in late spring and early summer. Adult females may produce 5-7 eggs in a clutch, but may not breed in consecutive years (Hammerson 1999). Hatchlings can be observed as early as mid July. The food habits for the Northern Many-lined Skink are unknown, but it is assumed that this species feeds upon small invertebrates. This species overwinters underground.

### Habitat

The Northern Many-lined Skink prefers grassland communities in the plains zones, including prairies and scarp woodlands (Baxter and Stone 1985). Skinks prefer loose soil that is good for burrowing. This species is typically observed close to cover such as logs, cow dung, trash, and rocks.

### 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

- Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming*. Second Edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne. 137pp.
- 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.

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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.