

Prairie Lizard - *Sceloporus consobrinus*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5T5 S1

Population Status: Restricted distribution, population numbers are unknown. Although historic reports state this species can commonly be found in SE Wyoming, little information is available for the Northern Prairie Lizard's distribution, population, or threats.

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limited habitat. Degree of habitat loss is unknown.

Comment: Changed from NSS4 in 2005 due solely to changes in the matrix. This species was elevated from the subspecies *Sceloporus undulates garmani*).

Introduction

This is a rough scaled lizard of the prairie, closely related to the eastern fence lizard. These animals have blue and black markings on their bellies and chins. They engage in courtship behaviors included doing "push ups". They are generally less than three inches in size. The diet of these lizards probably consists of small invertebrates including grasshoppers and small beetles. They lay eggs in clutches of one to seventeen from April to August. A female was collected in May near Wheatland, WY that had eggs measuring about a half inch in width. There is some evidence to indicate that these lizards may lay two clutches of eggs per breeding season.

Habitat

The Prairie Lizard prefers grassland and scarp woodlands in the plains zone of Wyoming (Baxter and Stone 1985). Specific habitats for this species include grassland hillsides, sandy areas, sandstone outcrops, limestone outcrops, cliffs, talus, and other various outcroppings.

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.

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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.