

Prairie Lizard - *Sceloporus consobrinus*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5 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 Prairie Lizard's distribution, population, or threats.

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

Comment: None.

Introduction

This is a rough scaled lizard of the prairie, closely related to the Eastern Fence Lizard. Prairie Lizards 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 Prairie Lizards probably consists of small invertebrates including grasshoppers and small beetles. They lay eggs in clutches of one to 17 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 Prairie 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

Baseline reptile and amphibian surveys were conducted in southeast Wyoming in 2011 and 2012 (Snoberger and Walker 2013, 2014). Several Prairie Lizards were documented during these surveys and detailed habitat data was collected at these locations (Snoberger and Walker 2013, 2014). 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.
- Snoberger, C.E. and Z.J. Walker. 2013. *Southeast Wyoming reptile and amphibian surveys 2011-2012*. Wyoming Game and Fish Department Administrative Report. Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- Snoberger, C.E. and Z.J. Walker. 2014. *Reptile and amphibian habitat associations in southeast Wyoming*. Wyoming Game and Fish Department Administrative Report. Cheyenne, Wyoming.

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: February 2016. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Note that brown indicates the current known range of the species.