

Prairie Racerunner - *Aspidoscelis sexlineatus viridis*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5T5 S2

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

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limited habitat. This species inhabits sandy prairies along the North Platte River.

Comment: None.

Introduction

In Wyoming, Prairie Racerunners have only been documented from Platte County near Wheatland. However, this species is thought to occur in Goshen County (Baxter and Stone 1985). In Colorado, this species is found adjacent to Laramie County, Wyoming (Hammerson 1999). The Prairie Racerunner is primarily active from May to September. However, adults begin to become less active after July (Hammerson 1999). Juveniles are typically active later in the year, with hatchlings being observed in September to October. Breeding occurs in late spring and early summer. Females deposit 1-6 eggs in sandy soil. Larger females are believed to lay two clutches per year (Hammerson 1999). Prairie Racerunners feed primarily on invertebrates. During daylight hours, this species is constantly on the move. Nocturnally, this species finds refuge beneath cover or underground. Prairie Racerunners may dig their own burrows in loose or sandy soils.

Habitat

In Wyoming, the Prairie Racerunner prefers floodplains and yucca covered grasslands (Baxter and Stone 1985). This species may also be found on rocky outcrops, roadsides, sandhills, sand or gravel stream banks, and grassy openings (Hammerson 1999). All habitats require an unvegetated or sparsely vegetated opening.

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 Racerunners 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

- 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.
- 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.