

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Aspidoscelis neotesselatus*** – Triploid Colorado Checkered Whiptail

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	Very limited range primarily north of the Purgatoire River below 2,135 m (7,000 feet) elevation in SE Colorado; occurs in several locations on N section of Comanche NG only. High confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
2 Distribution outside R2	A	Limited range immediately outside boundaries of N section Comanche NG; primary occurrence is within CNG. High confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
3 Dispersal Capability	A	This is an unusual triploid parthenogenetic “species” and is highly localized; doubtful if it can disperse to any significant extent. High confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
4 Abundance in R2	B,C	Appears to be reasonably common within region of occurrence; no good population estimates exist, however. Medium confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
5 Population Trend in R2	A,B	Populations likely stable; no apparent immediate threat; human activities in area minimal. Species has good reproductive potential, tolerates moderate levels of habitat alteration, and might be able to persist in relatively small patches of suitable habitat. However, there is evidence of extirpation or population decline in some areas as a result of urbanization or agricultural development. Populations in natural areas appear to be stable. However, better information is needed on current status. Medium confidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve

6 Habitat Trend in R2	A,B	<p>This lizard occurs in valleys, arroyos (dry creeks), canyons, and on hillsides, in areas dominated by plains grassland or juniper woodland, including areas such as parks with frequent human use and habitat disturbance (Walker <i>et al.</i> 1997). Much of known range occurs within N section of Comanche NG, therefore is somewhat protected. Quality of habitats are undergoing decline that if continued might severely fragment distribution of the lizard's known range. Continued minimization of human impact, including avoiding overgrazing, is necessary for continued persistence of this species.</p> <p>High confidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	<p>However, as stated above, impact at present is minimal, and continued minimal use of area occupied will maintain habitat integrity.</p> <p>High confidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
8 Life History and Demographics	A	<p>Likely sensitive to disturbances; difficult to predict response, unless habitat changes occur – species will decline. This non-sexual species is essentially clonally reproducing.</p> <p>High confidence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammerson, G.A. (2007) • Natureserve
Initial Evaluator(s): Dr. Stephen P. Mackessy Peter McDonald, USFS, Region 2			Date: 12/4/2001 4/29/2015

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)¹ to occur:

Occurs ONLY within N section of Comanche NG and immediate surrounding area.

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF									
Comanche NG	X								

