

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

**Couch's Spadefoot Toad (*Scaphiopus couchii*)**

By Gary Patton

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**Recommendation:** Not R2 Sensitive Species; not of concern now

**Rationale:** Couch's spadefoot is a widely distributed southwestern species. Its only occurrence in R2 is peripheral in extreme southeastern Colorado, where its limited distribution gives rise to a critically imperiled status. Nonetheless, the species habitat is plains grassland, where it requires only ephemeral water for breeding. Thus, habitat does not seem limiting or at significant risk at this time; certainly not on the Comanche, the only R2 NFS unit on which the species may be present. Nor are there identifiable conservation measures available to FS. Therefore, the species does not appear to warrant special management emphasis by FS.

Note: In addition to the evaluator's references, also referred to biodiversity documentation at Natureserve.com,; distribution data from the Colorado Herpetological Society; and Collins and Collins (1991) *Reptiles and Amphibians of the Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, Kansas*.