

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

Checkered Garter Snake (*Thamnophis marcianus*)

By Gary Patton
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Recommendation: Not R2 SS, not of concern now

Rationale: This is a species of the southern Great Plains and southwest, where it is generally ranked as secure. Only in Kansas is it considered imperiled. However, the southern border of the state constitutes the northernmost edge of the species range. The only known historical occurrence of the species on or near NFS lands is on the Cimarron NG in extreme southwest Kansas. Collins and Collins (1991) state that the last documentation there was 1926. It is presumed extirpated, along with a number of herptile victims of the Dust Bowl drought. Should presence on the grasslands be re-established, the status of this species should be re-evaluated.

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