

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

**Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*)**

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

**Rationale:** The lesser earless lizard is found widely and commonly across eastern Colorado, the western two-thirds of Kansas, and western Nebraska, where the species is considered demonstrably secure. It is marginal in extreme southeastern Wyoming and extreme southern South Dakota. It's imperiled ranking in those two states is likely due to its very peripheral position on the extreme northern margin of the species range. Habitat is generally sparsely vegetated grassland, making it tolerant of and perhaps dependent on grazing and fire disturbance patterns that maintain an open herbaceous cover.

Because the species remains common and widespread across most of its range, including much of R2, and it's habitat requirements are compatible with typical management of NFS grassland units, we do not recommend special management status for this species.

Note: In addition to the evaluator's references, also referred to biodiversity documentation at Natureserve.com.; Wyoming Biodiversity Node; distribution data from the Colorado Herpetological Society; Hammerson 1999; Reptiles and Amphibians of Nebraska, 2000, Coop. Unit, Univ. Neb; Collins and Collins (1991) *Reptiles and Amphibians of the Cimarron National Grasslands, Morton County, Kansas*; Collins 1974.