

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

Longnose Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)

By Gary Patton
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Recommendation: Not R2 SS; not of concern

Rationale: This southwestern species is secure within the core of its range. Southeastern Colorado (including the Comanche NG) and extreme southwestern Kansas (including the Cimarron NG) lie on extreme northeast periphery of the species range. While it is ranked as critically imperiled in Colorado, this may be due to its naturally limited distribution and lack of data on populations. Hammerson (1999) believes the species may be somewhat more widespread in southeast Colorado (south of the Arkansas River) than is currently known; and that while the population is fairly small it is likely secure. So long as its plains grassland habitat is subject to grazing as the principle land use, habitat should remain relatively stable and secure.

While the species has a restricted distribution in R2, habitat and, therefore, populations of this species is believed to be relatively stable and secure. For these reasons and the lack of identifiable conservation measures available to the Forest Service, we do not see a basis for continued special management status in R2.