

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

Northern Prairie Lizard (*Sceloporus undulates garmani*)

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Recommendation: Not R2 SS; not of concern now

Rationale: The northern prairie lizard is one of four subspecies of *undulatus* found in R2. The classification and, therefore, distribution of this species seems somewhat confused. The grasslands in extreme eastern Wyoming, much of eastern Colorado, western two-thirds of Kansas and Nebraska, and extreme southern South Dakota is the province of the northern prairie lizard (*S. u. garmani*). While the rocky montane and foothills habitats of *T. u. erythrocheilus* (the red-lipped plateau lizard) are reasonably secure at this time, the grassland habitats of *garmani* are somewhat less so. Agricultural conversion, development, reduction of grazing pressure, fire suppression, and cheatgrass invasion are continuing to degrade, fragment, and reduce suitable habitat for this prairie subspecies. While the subspecies apparently remains locally abundant, that may be an increasingly patchy situation. This is consistent with the circumstances facing many prairie species. FS management on the grasslands units can affect viability of this species through grazing, fire, and invasive weed management.

Consequently, there may be basis for some form of management emphasis for this subspecies. Overall, the subspecies does not appear to be severely threatened at this time, but may be locally pressured. Therefore, we recommend that grassland units in Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska evaluate existing conditions and management patterns for their potential influence on northern prairie lizard populations and consider whether this subspecies should be given status as a species of local management concern and emphasis.

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*.