

R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

Spiny Softshell Turtle (*Spalone spinifera*)

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

Rationale: Widespread across the eastern two-thirds of the U.S., where it is generally considered secure. The species reaches its native western limits in eastern Colorado and Wyoming. The spiny softshell is highly aquatic, inhabiting rivers, marshy creeks, oxbow lakes, and large impoundments. They typically inhabit larger bodies of water and are tolerant of man-made and disturbed habitat, although they are sensitive to disturbance while laying eggs. Areas with high levels of recreational activity may be detrimental to reproductive success. Still, in many areas they remain common to abundant, generally occupying their historic range.

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*.