

Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

Project Type Threats evaluation

Title Threats, management, and suggested harvest and collection policy of herpetofauna of South Dakota

In a nutshell South Dakota has few laws or regulations controlling the take of reptiles and amphibians. This project evaluated a variety of threats to herpetofauna in South Dakota as a component of the revision of the South Dakota Wildlife Action Plan.

Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- False Map Turtle (*Graptemys pseudogeographica*)
- Lined Snake (*Tropidoclonion lineatum*)
- Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)
- Black Hills Redbelly Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata pahasapae*)
- Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*)
- Smooth Softshell (*Apalone mutica*)
- Western Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
- Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*)
- Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*)
- Many-lined Skink (*Plestiodon multivirgatus*)
- Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)
- Sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*)

Cooperators Black Hills State University (Brian Smith and Hugh Quinn)

Purpose

- Provide recommendations on take allowances.
- Provide data to justify the amount of take, both commercially and via fishing licenses.
- Identify best management practices which could be implemented for herpetofauna during construction projects.
- Identify general threats to reptiles and amphibians in South Dakota.
- Produce a final report with data supported recommendations to SDGFP which could be implemented in management decisions.

Timeframe September 2011 – August 2012

Summary or Important Findings

- Final report composed of 4 sections – profiles of each of the 46 amphibian or reptile species in South Dakota, an overview of state laws or regulations pertaining to herptiles, a discussion of the need for and suggested bag limits for each species, and a collection of as much literature pertaining to South Dakota amphibians and reptiles as could be located

- Individual species accounts include the following sections: common name, scientific name, taxonomic note, description, population/protection status, distribution, population trend, key habitat, threats and issues in South Dakota, recommended conservation and research actions, policy recommendations, account author, reviewers, and literature cited.

Best contact person Dr. Brian Smith, BHSU

More Information

Smith, B. and H. Quinn. 2012. Threats to South Dakota Amphibians and Reptiles. Final Report to South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Department of Biology, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD.