

**WRP Easement Management
Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Reptiles and Amphibians)**

Common Names	W – Wetland G – Grassland	State Distribution	Area Sensitivity	Habitat Preference
Cricket Frog	W	Statewide, but population declines in northern Iowa	Not Area sensitive	Prefer permanent, shallow bodies of water with cover of vegetation along shore. Also found on gravelly, sandy, or muddy bars of small, slow-moving intermittent streams. Lay eggs on vegetation underwater.
Great Plains Toad	W	1, 5, 6 (Western Iowa)	Not Area sensitive but temporary wet areas needed for reproduction	Reproduction requires temporary aquatic breeding habitat such as temporary or permanent ponds, ephemeral wetlands, irrigation ditches, or flooded fields. Temporary water bodies reduce the possibility of predation by fish. Adults utilize habitats of short or tall grass prairie, and temporary water bodies. Spend most of their time in underground burrows during the day, and are most active at night.
Ornate Box Turtle	G	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Require open, sandy areas for burrowing and reproduction. Will utilize grassland/prairie habitat with access to water for re-hydration in spring after hibernation and for thermoregulation during hot times in summer. Habitats disappearing due to habitat destruction by humans.
Blandings Turtle	W	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9	Home range is 40 to 600 acres and important to maintain or increase connectivity	Sedge meadows, marshes, ponds, swamps, lake shallows, backwater sloughs, shallow slow-moving rivers, protected coves and inlets of large lakes, oxbows, an pools adjacent to rivers; waters with soft bottom aquatic vegetation. A wetland complex housing a mix of the aforementioned habitat types is preferred. Nests in sandy soil with south or west facing aspect in upland areas within ~ mile of the nearest water source. Prevent early woody succession within nesting areas.
Slender Glass Lizard	G	7, 8, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Prefer open grassy areas, dry, rocky hillsides, open forest, oak savanna, and sand prairies. Utilize mammal burrows for refuge and hibernacula. Lay eggs under cover of rocks, logs or boards.
Northern Prairie Skink	G	1, 2, 6, 7, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Utilize sandy prairies, open grasslands, and open rocky areas. Often found in open grasslands adjacent to wet areas. Lay eggs in small excavations under rocks, logs, or boards.

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Western Worm Snake	G	6, 7, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Primarily a savanna-open woodland species, but will travel through prairie areas. Often found under wet logs, rocks, etc.
Smooth Green Snake	G	Statewide	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Found in dry and wet prairies (railroad right-of-ways), herbaceous and scrub-shrub wetlands, savanna and open woodland. Utilizes ant mounds, crayfish burrows, rock crevices, and mammal burrows for hibernation. Lays eggs under rotting wood, underground, or under rocks.
Prairie Kingsnake	G	7, 8, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Prefer open grasslands, prairies (including sand prairies), fields, pastures, ditches and woodlands. Most common in grasslands along woodland edges.
Speckled Kingsnake	G	7, 8, 9	Not Area sensitive but need to maintain or increase connectivity	Found in open grasslands, prairies, fields, pastures, woodlands, stream valleys and blufflands. Lays eggs under leaves and plant matter.
Bullsnake	G	Statewide	Home range is 10-42 acres & is somewhat area sensitive; need to maintain or increase connectivity of prairie grasslands	Prefer open prairies, especially sand prairies. Also inhabit blufflands and open grassy meadows bordered by woodland. Use loose, sandy soils for burrowing. Hibernates in burrows and rock crevices.
Western Hognose Snake	G	2, 7, 8	Not Area sensitive, but it is habitat sensitive	Highly prefers sand prairies and gravel areas. Also prefers very open prairies or sand dunes with little cover, and it cannot adapt to changes that alter their strictly sandy habitats
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	W	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Managers interested in restoring or enhancing massasauga habitat should use 250 acres as a minimum restoration or management target.	Prefers a short, marshy sedge or wet meadow habitat matrix during the winter and spring. Utilizes nearby upland short prairie with sparse canopy cover (50%) during the summer months. Hibernates in crayfish burrows, therefore, wetlands and water tables should be restored to attract burrowing crayfish species.
Prairie Rattlesnake	G	1, 6	Will travel 2-4 (and up to 8) miles from their den, so very important to maintain or increase connectivity	Found in the loess bluffs and adjacent floodplain north of Sioux City (where regions 1 & 6 connect). Utilizes mammal dens/burrows for hibernation and reproduction. Prefer rolling prairies, grasslands, pastures, and other open prairie areas.