

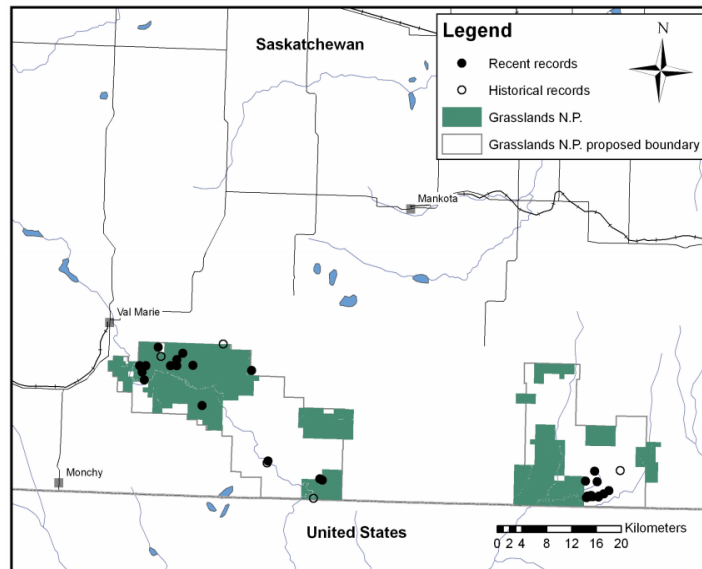
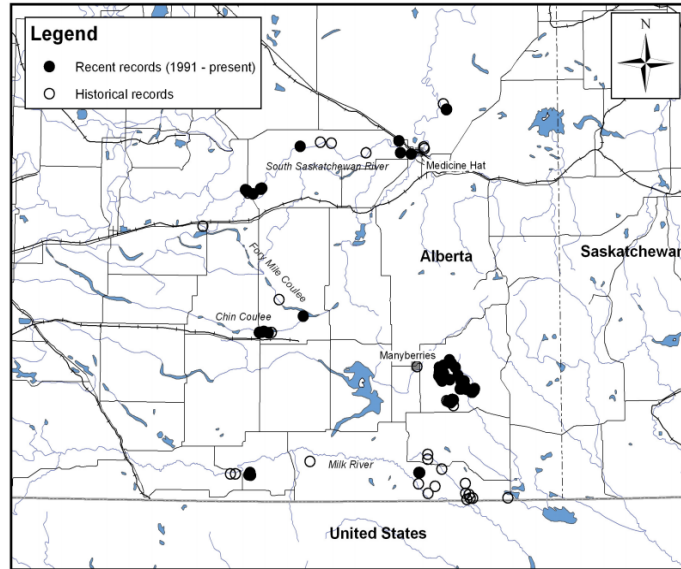


# Species at Risk Profile Series: Greater Short-horned Lizard



- Greater Short-horned Lizards are considered endangered in Canada.
- Females grow about a third larger than males do and weigh almost twice as much.
- They are often found on sparsely vegetated south-facing slopes in dry, native prairie sites.
- For shelter, they will bury themselves into the soil overnight and over winter.
- They are active in a wide temperature range and may stay active as late as November.
- They ambush ants and other insects, using their camouflage to remain inconspicuous.
- In early spring, males roam widely searching for females.
- Males are sexually mature at one year old, but females take one year longer.
- They live for about 5 years, and give birth to 6-13 live young.
- Females do not take care of their young; instead they move away to a different site.
- They are eaten by various birds, snakes, and mammals, and rely on their small size and camouflage for protection.





Conservation

- Development of existing habitat is the greatest conservation concern.
- They are attracted to roads and at risk of being killed by passing vehicles.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Greater Short-horned Lizards [here](#).

Photo credit: Short Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi* by Starlingjon retrieved from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Short-horned-lizard-phrynosoma-douglassi.jpg#/media/File:Short-horned-lizard-phrynosoma-douglassi.jpg> licensed under CC-BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/> (front)

Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2007. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Greater Short-horned Lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 41 pp. ([www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status\\_e.cfm](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm)).