

Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization Grassland and Savanna Protocols

Slender Glass Lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*)

This Broad Incidental Take Permit/Authorization (BITP/A) has been issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to allow landowners to conduct certain grassland and savanna management activities while remaining in compliance with the state's endangered species law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.). This BITP/A allows for the incidental taking (mortality) of the state endangered slender glass lizard (*Ophisaurus attenuatus*) that may occur as a result of the grassland and savanna management activities listed below.

Background information/criteria on this BITP/A must also be reviewed and followed:

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Documents/GSP_Overview.pdf

Protocols for all other species covered under this BITP/A can be found here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/ItGrasslands.html>

Note: If carrying out a given protocol is not feasible, or multiple listed species in a given management area pose conflicts, contact the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) at DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov. Staff in NHC will work with species experts and managers to establish an acceptable protocol for a given site that will allow for incidental take without further legal consultation or public notice.

I. Species Background Information

State Status: Endangered

Background information on the slender glass lizard can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' web page for the species:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=ARACB02010>

II. Management Protocols for Permitted/Authorized Incidental Take

If the management activity is for the purpose of recovering, maintaining or improving the grassland, prairie or savanna ecosystem that includes habitat for western slender glass lizards, then incidental take is allowed if these conditions are followed. However, if incidental take of the slender glass lizard is observed, please notify the Department of Natural Resources' Endangered Resources Review Program (DNRRERReview@wisconsin.gov).

A. Burning:

1. If conducted prior to March 15 or after October 15, there are no restrictions.
2. If conducted from March 15 – October 15, should occur only on days when ambient air temperatures remain below 55° F when sunny, and below 60° F on cloudy days, during the hours involving the burn.

B. Mowing/Haying:

1. Herbaceous Vegetation Mowing should be done as follows:
 - a. In small patches that are mowed in a monthly rotational pattern, with no more than 33% of the available grassland habitat on the site affected in any one year,

AND

- b. If done from March 15 – October 15, conduct mowing in the morning and be completed before the air temperature reaches 55° F or on cool days (i.e., when highest temp is below 55° F).

Note: Mowing on cloudy days is preferred.

2. Mechanical brush-mowing should be done as follows:
 - a. Conduct from October 16 – March 14,

OR
 - b. If done from March 15 – October 15, conduct in the morning and be completed before the air temperature reaches 55° F, or on cool days (i.e., when highest temp is below 55° F).

C. Selective Brush/Tree-cutting:

Selective brush-cutting (i.e., chain saw) may occur without restriction.

D. Grazing:

Light to moderate grazing (0 - <1.0 head per acre) is allowed but should be terminated if more than 50% of the ground layer vegetation is reduced to less than 8 inches in height.

E. Herbiciding:

To the maximum extent possible, herbiciding should occur during the lizard's dormant period (October 16 – March 14).

Where active season herbiciding is necessary to control herbaceous vegetation, spot treat, preferably with a low persistence/short half-life herbicide (i.e. Round-up®), using wick, sponge or hand-held spray applications, not broadcast applications.

Basal-bark or cut-stump-treatment methods should be used when treating woody vegetation.

Definitions

Site: A given field or habitat patch and all of the directly adjoining (contiguous) suitable grassland habitat that is under DNR ownership or for which there is a management agreement.