

## **Least Shrew** *Cryptotis parva*

**Habitat Preference:** Tall grass prairie and forest edge

**Threats:**

- Loss of tall grass prairie
  - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground.
  - Urban expansion.
- Invasion of non-native species.
- In small remnants least shrews must compete for the same limited resources as masked shrews. Masked shrews are a more generalist species and will out-compete least shrews.

**Appropriate Practices:**

- Prescribed fire is an important tool that can be used to control exotic invaders, encroachment of woody species, and maintain healthy grassland habitat. It is important to use this tool sparingly. Leave plenty of unburned vegetation in any given year to provide refuge. Burns should be a minimum of 3 years apart on any given area.
- Remove encroaching woody vegetation.
- Establishment of native grasses and forbs in close proximity to known populations. This will create new habitat while minimizing fragmentation of existing habitat.