

## Western Hognose Snake *Heterodon nasicus*

**Habitat Preference:** Very open areas of sand prairies and sand dunes with minimal cover.

### Threats:

- Disappearance of natural habitat
  - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground.
  - Tree invasion will create shade which will deter use by western hognose snake.
  - Invasion of non-native plants.
- Habitat fragmentation
  - Western hognose snakes need large tracks of grassland. They are often times forced to cross roads or other hostile areas when other suitable habitat does not exist.



### Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Prescribed burns should be done in order to keep grassland habitat healthy. Avoid burning during the snake's active period (March through September).
- Remove encroaching woody species from sand dunes and grassland habitat.
- Establish grassland with a mix of tall grasses for shade and a high forb concentration to open up the grass stand for basking. Creating more grassland will help to defragment existing tracts of grassland
- Many western hognose snakes are often mistaken with venomous snakes and are killed. Recognition of this species will increase the survival of this species.