

Northern Pygmy-Owl - *Glaucidium gnoma*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5 S2

Population Status: population status and trends are unknown; additional forest owl surveys are needed to adequately determine population status and trends

Limiting Factor: Habitat (incl. climate change): limiting factors are severe; the elimination of coniferous forest habitat due to beetle kill, logging, and climate change is on-going

Comment: change is attributed to unknown population status and trends; moved from NSS4 to NSSU

Introduction

The Northern Pygmy-Owl inhabits British Columbia, south through the western US and Mexico to Guatemala, and east to Colorado and western Texas. It winters mainly in its breeding range. It is a year-round resident in Wyoming, and is scattered throughout the mountainous areas of the state. The abundance of the Northern Pygmy-Owl is unknown in Wyoming.

Habitat

The Northern Pygmy-Owl inhabits forests or open woodlands in foothills and mountains, including pure and mixed coniferous forest, riparian woodlands, and aspen stands. It forages in meadows and other openings, and is not usually found in unbroken dense forest. It nests in abandoned woodpecker holes and natural tree cavities.

Problems

- h Population status and trends are largely unknown in Wyoming.
- h The natural history, biology, and habitat needs of this species are poorly known.
- h May be impacted by timber harvesting practices that remove older trees and snags, affect foraging habitat, or reduce avian prey or primary cavity excavator (woodpecker) populations.

Conservation Actions

- h Delineate crucial range and work cooperatively with land management agencies to maintain habitat within the designated area.
- h Implement monitoring in suitable habitat where it is presently not being conducted, and continue monitoring in areas where it is currently in place.
- h Increase monitoring efforts to document population trends and identify needed management.
- h Manage nesting areas to minimize the potential for degradation and conflicts with recreation, grazing, and forest management.
- h Work cooperatively with other agencies to conduct surveys and manage habitat for this species.
- h Define and maintain suitable forest habitat for Northern Pygmy-Owls and avoid conflicts with timber harvesting.

Monitoring/Research

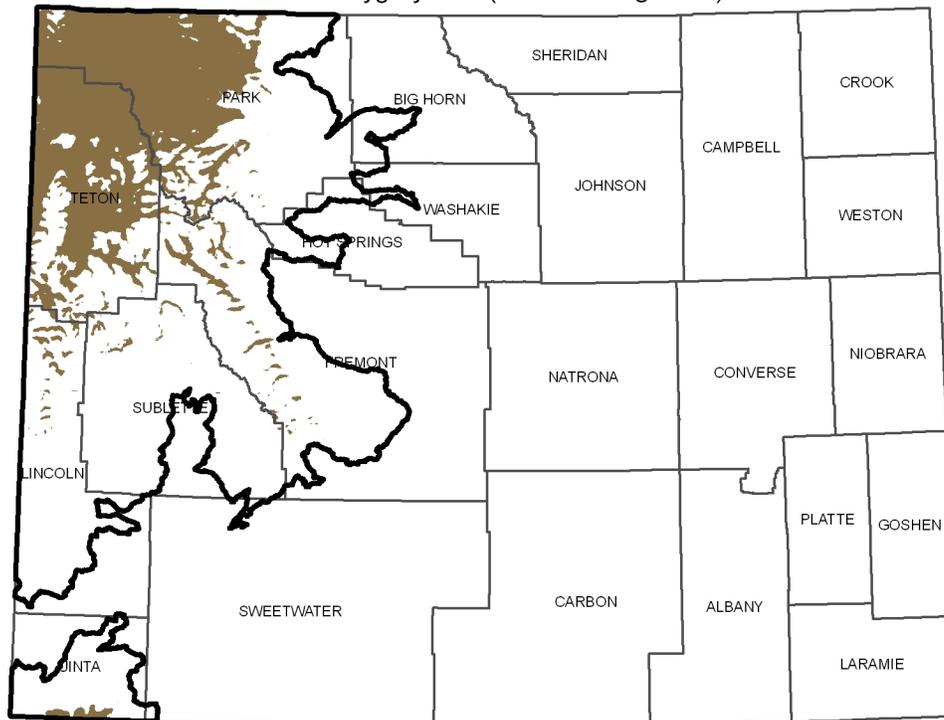
Cooperative monitoring efforts between the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and US Forest Service have been initiated.

Recent Developments

Major habitat alterations due to climate change and drought-related beetle infestations are occurring in portions of this species' range.

References

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2004. Atlas of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne. 206pp.
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- NatureServe. 2003. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application] Version 1.8. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: May 8, 2004).

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species; heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.