

## Cliff Chipmunk - *Neotamias dorsalis*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G5 S1

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; limited ability to increase species distribution; The IUCN considers the rangewide population to be stable.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Ecology): limiting factors are severe; habitat in Wyoming is restricted and not likely to increase but is vulnerable to loss

Comment:

### Introduction

The cliff chipmunk inhabits the southwestern US, from southern Idaho south into northern Mexico. In Wyoming, it was formerly abundant along the Green River, but the flooding of Flaming Gorge Reservoir destroyed most of its habitat, confining it to an area of rock outcrops near Sage Creek in Sweetwater County, southwestern Wyoming. The cliff chipmunk is considered rare in Wyoming.

### Habitat

The cliff chipmunk occupies steep, rocky hillsides, rock outcrops, cliffs, and talus slopes in juniper woodlands. It nests deep in crevices of cliffs, rocky bluffs, and underground burrows.

### Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.

### Conservation Actions

- h Conduct inventories for species in all suitable habitats in the state.
- h Delineate important habitats and work cooperatively with land management agencies to maintain these within the designated areas
- h Integrate management actions for this species with other Pinon / Juniper obligates.
- h Management of juniper in southwestern Wyoming should not favor one of the juniper obligates to the detriment of others. Instead, management should be coordinated to provide a mosaic of juniper woodland conditions.

### Monitoring/Research

No on-going monitoring.

### Recent Developments

None.

### References

Oakleaf B, Cerovski AO, Luce B. 1996. Nongame bird and mammal plan: a plan for inventories and management of nongame birds and mammals in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Nongame Program. 183 p.

Rompola KM. 2000. Small mammals of a juniper woodland and sagebrush-grassland mosaic in southwestern Wyoming. MSc thesis. Laramie: Univ Wyoming.

Wilson DE, Ruff S. 1999. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Washington: Smithsonian Inst Pr. 750 p.

Hart EB. 1992. *Tamias dorsalis*. Mammalian Species 399:1-6.

Cliff Chipmunk (*Neotamias dorsalis*)

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.