

Eastern Red Bat - *Lasiurus borealis*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G5 S3

Population Status: population status is unknown but suspected to be restricted; species has spotty distribution in Wyoming; The Western Bat Working Group considers rangewide population unknown and at risk.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Human Activity): limiting factors are moderate

Comment: New matrix definitions

Introduction

The eastern red bat is widely distributed throughout most of the eastern United States, primarily east of the Continental Divide from Canada south to Mexico (Shump and Shump 1982). Similar to other bat species, eastern red bat emerges from its roost at dusk to begin foraging. The eastern red bat often forages above tree tops (Shump and Shump 1982). It is primarily a moth specialist but will prey on other soft bodied insects, leafhoppers, cicadas, crickets, etc., opportunistically (Shump and Shump 1982). Similar to other *Lasiurus* bats, the eastern red bat is migratory (Cryan 2003). It is a seasonal resident in Wyoming, is found primarily in eastern 1/3 of the state, and is considered rare (Orabona et al. 2009).

Habitat

The eastern red bat is primarily associated with forested areas, particularly deciduous forests with large-diameter trees in the interior of forests (Hutchinson and Lacki 2000). However, riparian corridors and shelter belts may provide important foraging habitats. It roosts primarily in the foliage of mature hardwoods, but has been observed roosting on the ground in leaf litter, and utilizes shrubs and conifers occasionally (Shump and Shump 1982; Menzel et al. 2000). The eastern red bat is extremely tolerant of cold temperatures and has been found roosting in tree cavities and leaf litter in the winter (Shump and Shump 1982; Mormann and Robbins 2007).

Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Species is susceptible to declines due to broad-scale insect control programs.
- h Species is vulnerable to population declines resulting in loss of habitat due to climate change (e.g., mountain pine beetle kill).
- h Species is vulnerable to wind energy development.

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 Designate important habitats, habitat corridors, and identify where habitat conservation and management efforts should focus to protect, enhance, or improve suitable habitat.
- h Continue active participation with the interagency conservation efforts.
- h Educate the public about the ecological role of the species and their habitat requirements.

Monitoring/Research

Forest habitats are being inventoried and funded through State Wildlife Grants. Project is scheduled to be completed in June 2012.

Recent Developments

None.

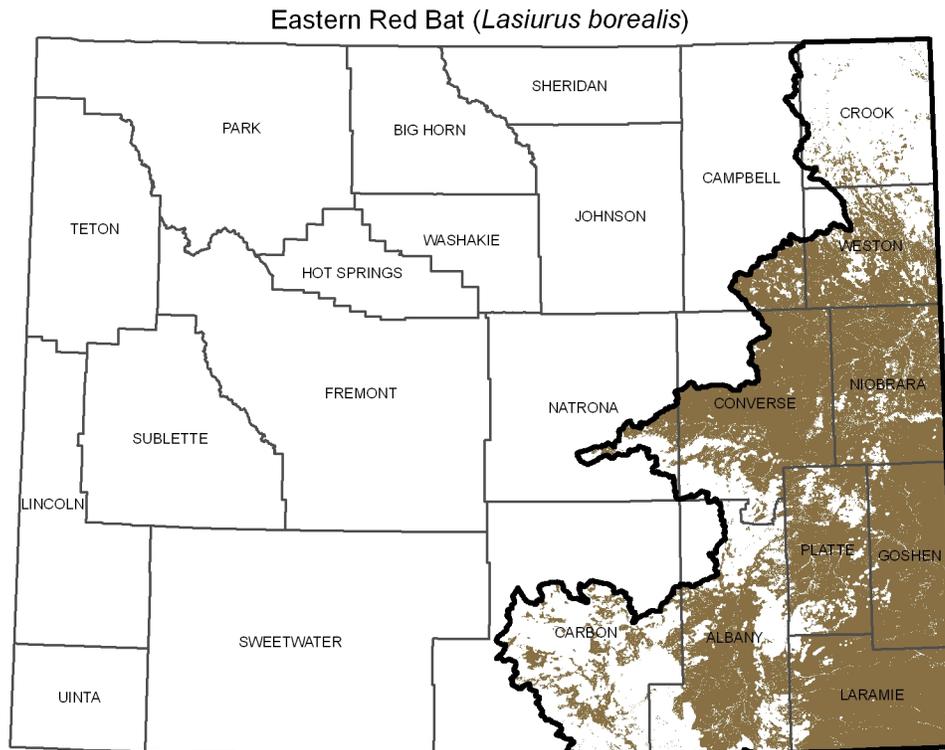
References

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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.