

## Hispid Pocket Mouse - *Chaetodipus hispidus*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G5 S2

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

Limiting Factor: Habitat: limiting factors is severe; species has a limited ability to disperse long-range and occupy potentially suitable habitats

Comment:

### Introduction

The hispid pocket mouse occurs from southern North Dakota south through the Great Plains to Arizona, central Mexico, and western Louisiana. It is mainly distributed east and southeast of Wyoming, although it is known to occur in southeastern and northeastern Wyoming. The hispid pocket mouse is considered rare in Wyoming.

### Habitat

The hispid pocket mouse inhabits a variety of dry, grassland habitats. Across much of its range it is most common in shortgrass and open bunchgrass prairie with sparse or moderate vegetation, although in eastern Wyoming it is tolerant of a wide variety of grassland vegetation and soil types. It apparently is not dependent on sandy soils as are other plains pocket mice and can be found in rocky or gravelly areas with heavy soils.

### Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Species may be impacted by management strategies in shrub-grasslands, that reduce grass production and seed set.

### 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 Design vegetation treatments, fire management plans, and grazing regimes in habitat that mimic and restore natural landscape patterns and disturbance processes, maintain habitat connectivity, and maintain the native composition of herbaceous plant and shrub communities that are important for seed crops.

### Monitoring/Research

No on-going monitoring.

### Recent Developments

None.

### References

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NatureServe. 2004. NatureServe explorer: an online encyclopedia of life. Version 1.8. Arlington (VA): NatureServe. Online <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

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

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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.