

Idaho Pocket Gopher - *Thomomys idahoensis*

Abundance: Uncommon

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G4 S2

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; limited ability to increase species distribution; distribution is restricted to the southwestern corner of Wyoming; The IUCN reports that population status are unknown throughout its range.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Ecology and Human Activity): limiting factors are severe; species has a limited ability to disperse long-range and occupy potentially suitable habitats

Comment:

Introduction

The Idaho pocket gopher inhabits primarily central Idaho but extends into southwestern Montana, Wyoming and portions of Utah (Linzey and Hammerson 2008). Similar to other pocket gophers, the species is primarily fossorial and solitary except during the breeding season. The Idaho pocket gopher feeds primarily on leaves and roots of forbs and grasses and utilize food caches extensively during the winter months (Beauvais and Dark-Smiley 2005). The Idaho pocket gopher is a year-round resident in Wyoming, is found in Southwestern part of the state, and is considered uncommon (Orabona et al. 2009).

Habitat

The Idaho pocket gopher occurs in open sagebrush, grasslands, and montane meadows (Linzey and Hammerson 2008). It prefers soils that are shallower and stonier than those preferred by the sympatric *Thomomys talpoides*.

Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Natural history of the species make surveys difficult and costly to implement.

Conservation Actions

- h Delineate important habitats and work cooperatively with land management agencies to maintain these within the designated areas
- h Improve survey methodology (e.g., capture, detection, etc.).

Monitoring/Research

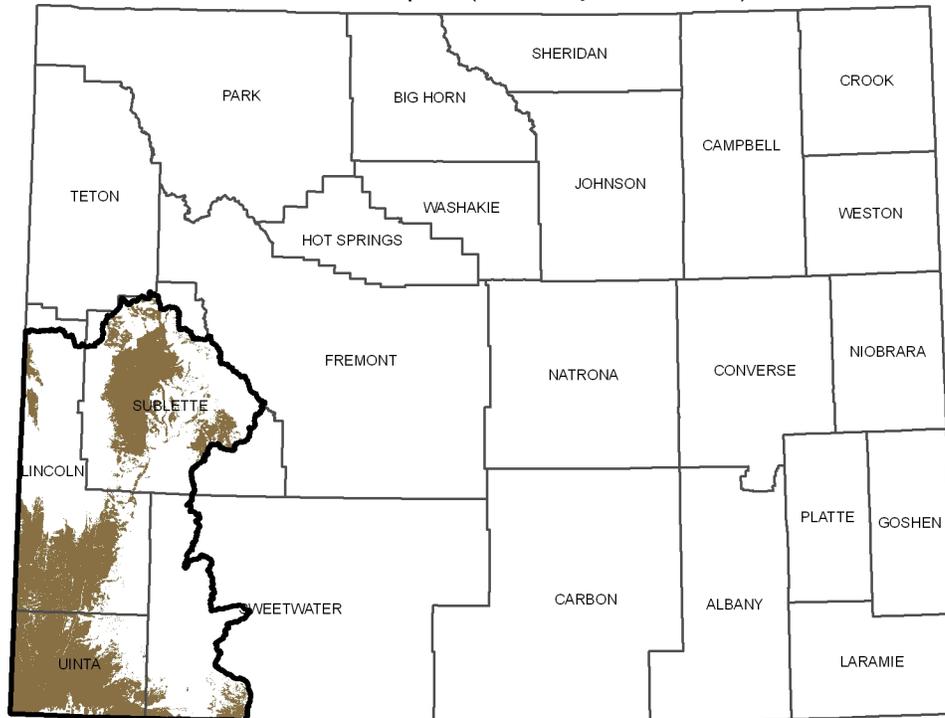
WGFD contracted with WYNDD to conduct surveys in Western Wyoming. Species is restricted to western Wyoming (Griscom et al. 2010).

Recent Developments

None.

References

- Griscom, H., D. Keinath, and M. Andersen. 2010. POCKET GOPHER SURVEYS IN SOUTHWESTERN WYOMING DRAFT PROJECT REPORT. WYNDD.
- Cerovski AO, Grenier M, Oakleaf B, Van Fleet L, Patla S. 2004. Atlas of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in Wyoming. Lander: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Nongame Program. 206 p.
- Clark TW, Stromberg MR . 1987. Mammals in Wyoming. Lawrence (KS): Univ Kansas, Museum Nat Hist. 314 p.
- 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.