

Long-eared Myotis - *Myotis evotis*

Abundance: Uncommon

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G4 S4

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; The Western Bat Working Group considers rangewide population unknown and at risk.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Human Activity): limiting factors are severe; similar to cave and abandoned mine dwelling bats, species is extremely sensitive to human disturbance, which results in abandonment of young and roosts; abandoned mines continue to be closed for human safety issues

Comment: change is due primarily to new matrix definitions

Introduction

The long-eared myotis inhabits most of western North America from British Columbia and Alberta, south to Baja California, and east to northeastern Arizona and western South Dakota (Manning and Jones 1989). Similar to other bat species, the long-eared myotis emerges from its roost at dusk to begin foraging. The long-eared myotis utilizes a flexible foraging strategy that includes pursuit and gleaning. It preys primarily on moths and beetles but will prey opportunistically on other soft bodied prey, lacewings, true bugs, wasps, etc. (Manning and Jones 1989). The long-eared myotis generally forms small colonies (i.e., < 40 individuals) and hibernates during the winter months primarily in caves. It is a year-round resident in Wyoming, is found throughout the state, and is considered uncommon in Wyoming (Orabona et al. 2009).

Habitat

The long-eared myotis primarily inhabits coniferous forest and woodland, including juniper, ponderosa pine, and spruce-fir and is typically found near water and rock outcrops or cliffs (Manning and Jones 1989). It typically forages over rivers, streams, and ponds within the forest-woodland environment. During summer, it roosts in a wide variety of structures, including cavities in snags, under loose bark, stumps, buildings, rock crevices, caves, and abandoned mines while in the winter it hibernates primarily in caves (Manning and Jones 1989).

Problems

- h Species is vulnerable to wind energy development.
- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Species is susceptible to decline from recreational activities (such as spelunking and rock climbing) that impact roosting habitat (e.g., caves, abandoned mines, and rock crevices).
- h Species is susceptible to declines due to broad-scale insect control programs.

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 Determine the effects of recreational and commercial activities on populations.
- h Educate the public about the ecological role of the species and their habitat requirements.
- h Minimize disturbance of caves or abandoned mines where species is roosting.

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

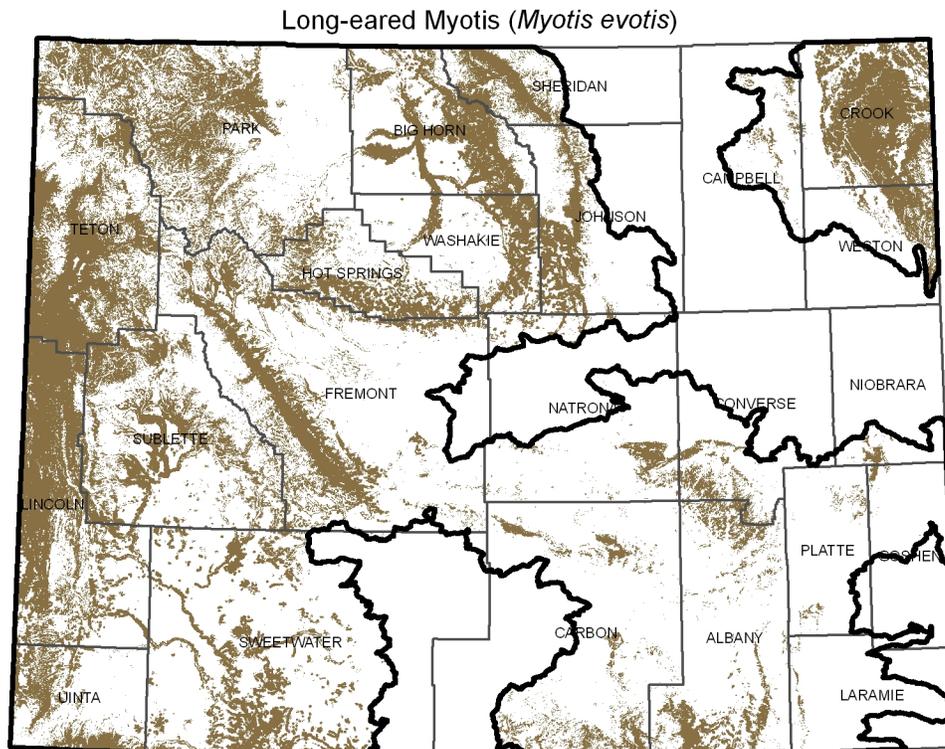
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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