

Northern Myotis - *Myotis septentrionalis*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G4 SNR

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; The Western Bat Working Group considers rangewide population to be stable.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Human Activity): limiting factors are severe; similar to other cave and abandoned mine dwelling bats, species is 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 northern myotis inhabits eastern North America from Manitoba across southern Canada to Newfoundland, south to northern Florida, and west to Wyoming (Caceres and Barclay 2000). The northern myotis is considered a late flier emerging from its roost about an hour or two after dusk to begin foraging. The northern myotis often forages on a wide range of flying insects particularly soft-bodied insects (Caceres and Barclay 2000). The northern myotis hibernates during the winter months and typically does not make long-distance movements. It is a year-round resident in Wyoming, is found in the northeast corner of the state, and is considered rare (Orabona et al. 2009).

Habitat

The northern myotis primarily inhabits forested regions and exploits these habitats in variety of ways, foraging above, below and within the canopy (Caceres and Barclay 2000). During summer, it roosts in crevices and cavities of trees, under loose bark, and occasionally in buildings and usually hibernates in caves and abandoned mines (Caceres and Barclay 2000).

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 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

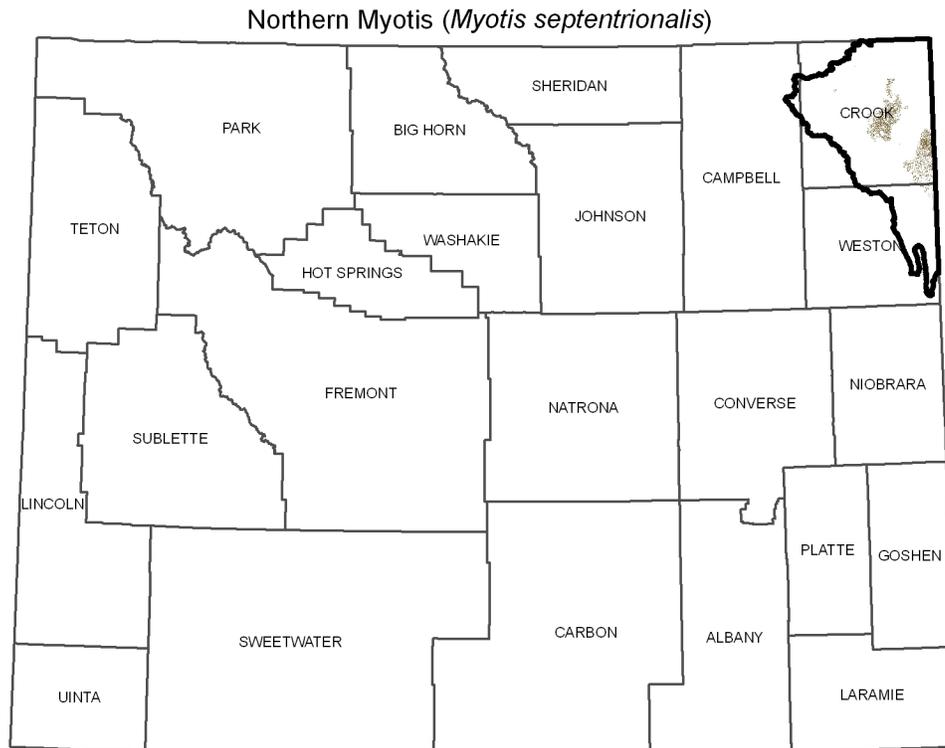
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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