

Plains Harvest Mouse - *Reithrodontomys montanus*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G5 S2

Population Status: Distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; The IUCN considers the rangewide population to be stable.

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

Comment:

Introduction

The plains harvest mouse inhabits the Great Plains from southwestern South Dakota and southeastern Montana south to southeastern Arizona, Mexico, and Texas. It occurs in the eastern third of Wyoming. The plains harvest mouse is considered rare in Wyoming. Throughout its range, it is often the least abundant member of the rodent community. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department classifies it as a Species of Special Concern with a Native Species Status of 3 (NSS3) because populations are restricted in distribution, and because its habitat is vulnerable, although there is no ongoing significant loss of habitat.

Habitat

The plains harvest mouse primarily inhabits well-vegetated grasslands and weedy fields. In Wyoming, it is most frequent in grama grasslands, although it also occupies sagebrush-grasslands, buffalo grass, and mixed grasslands. It is most abundant in areas where the amount of bare soil surface is less than 40%, where vegetation height is 2.5 to 25 cm (1 to 10 in), and with loamy sand soil. It often uses rock outcrops for shelter.

Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.

Conservation Actions

- h Delineate important habitats and work cooperatively with land management agencies to maintain these within the designated areas

Monitoring/Research

No on-going monitoring.

Recent Developments

None.

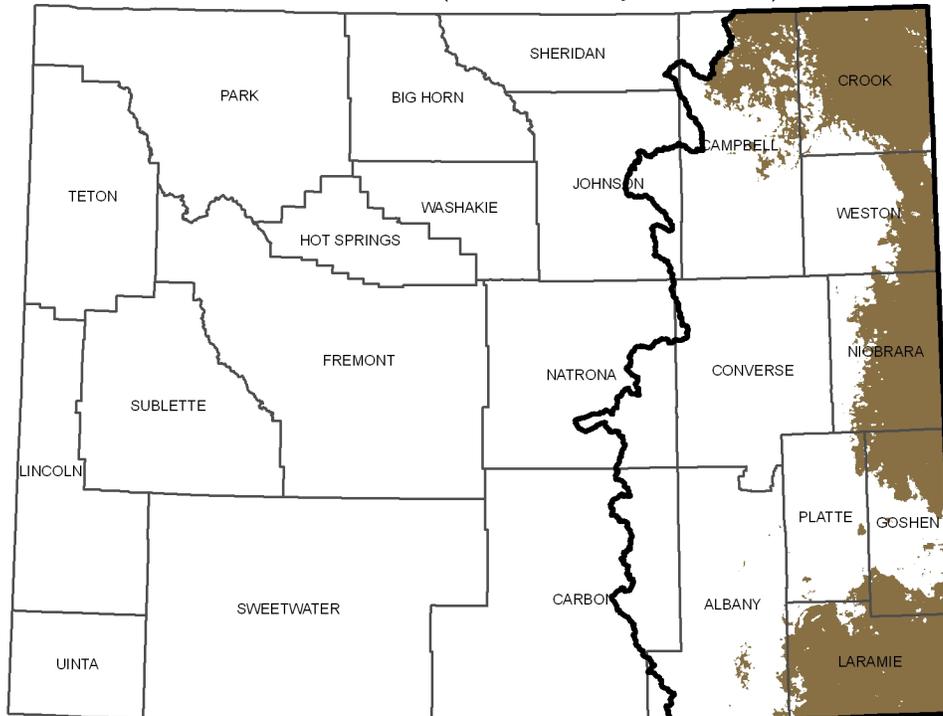
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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