

## Pygmy Shrew - *Sorex hoyi*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS2 (Ab)

NatureServe: G5T2T3 S1

Population Status: distribution is restricted and extirpation is possible; limited ability to increase species distribution; distribution is restricted to the Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre Mountains of Wyoming. The IUCN considers the rangewide population to be stable, however Wyoming population is isolated from rest of range.

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

Comment:

### Introduction

Primarily a boreal forest obligate, the pygmy shrew occurs all across Canada, the northern US, and in scattered populations southward in the Appalachian Mountains and Rocky Mountains. A relict Rocky Mountain population occurs in the Medicine Bow Mountains in Wyoming and extends south to central Colorado (Long 1974); it is isolated by hundreds of kilometers from any other population north and west of Wyoming. The pygmy shrew is considered rare in Wyoming and it is known in the state from only eight specimens taken in the Medicine Bow Mountains (Orabona et al. 2009).

### Habitat

The pygmy shrew inhabits Engelmann spruce/subalpine fir forest near sphagnum moss bogs and other wet areas juxtaposed near uplands areas (Long 1974).

### Problems

- h No ongoing efforts to delineate important habitats in Wyoming.
- h Population densities and trends are not well known.
- h Species is difficult to survey (e.g., capture, detect, identify, etc.).

### 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 Improve survey methodology (e.g., capture, detection, etc.).

### Monitoring/Research

No on-going monitoring.

### Recent Developments

None.

### References

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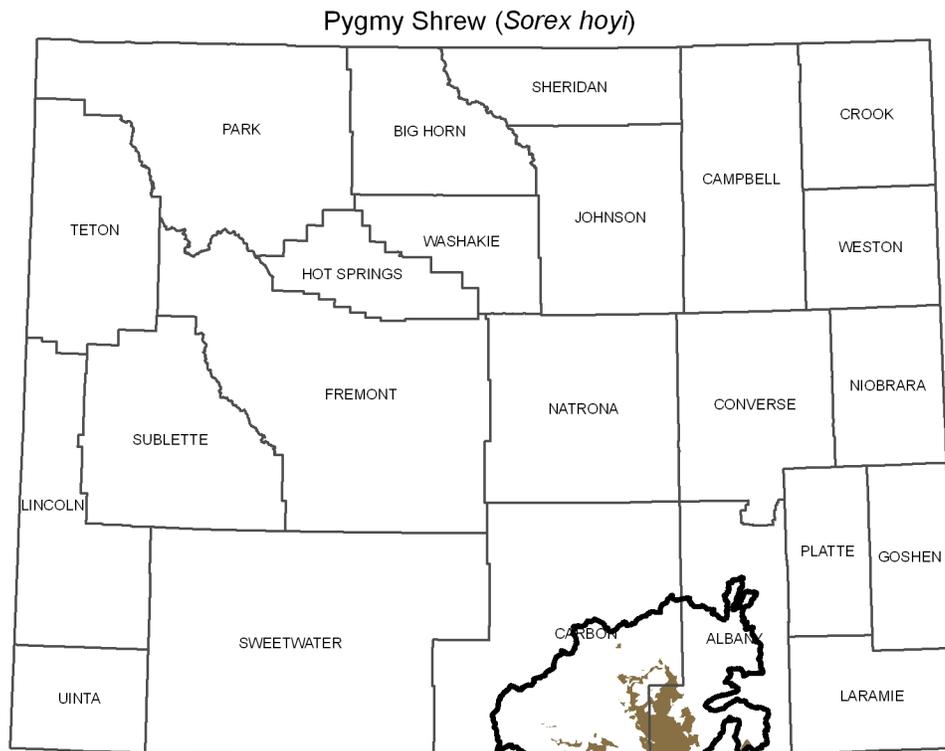
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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