

Spotted Bat - *Euderma maculatum*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS3 (Bb)

NatureServe: G4 S3

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; ranked similar to other non-cave dwelling bats that are restricted in distribution due to specific habitat requirements; The Western Bat Working Group considers rangewide population to be at high risk of imperilment.

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Human Activity): limiting factors are severe; species is sensitive to human disturbance

Comment: change is due primarily to new matrix definitions

Introduction

The spotted bat inhabits western North America from southern British Columbia through most of the western states to central Mexico (Watkins 1977). Similar to other bat species, the little brown bat emerges from its roost at dusk to begin foraging. The spotted bat typically forages in continuous flight about 10m above the ground (Wai-Ping and Fenton 1989). It preys primarily on moths in open areas (Storz 1995). The spotted bat winter habitats are poorly known and the species may hibernate in small clusters or migrate. Its residency in Wyoming is unknown, is found primarily in the northwest, north-central part of the state, and is considered rare in Wyoming (Orabona et al. 2009).

Habitat

The spotted bat occupies a wide variety of habitats, from desert scrub to coniferous forest, although it is most often observed in low deserts and basins and juniper woodlands but occurs primarily in association with canyons, prominent rock features, and permanent water sources (Watkins 1977). It roosts in cracks and crevices in high cliffs and canyons, it also occasionally roost in buildings, caves, or abandoned mines. Reproductive females have exclusively been found in natural rock features.

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 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 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

Storz, JF. 1995. Local distribution and foraging behavior of the spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) in northwestern Colorado and adjacent Utah. *Great basin naturalist* 55:78-83.

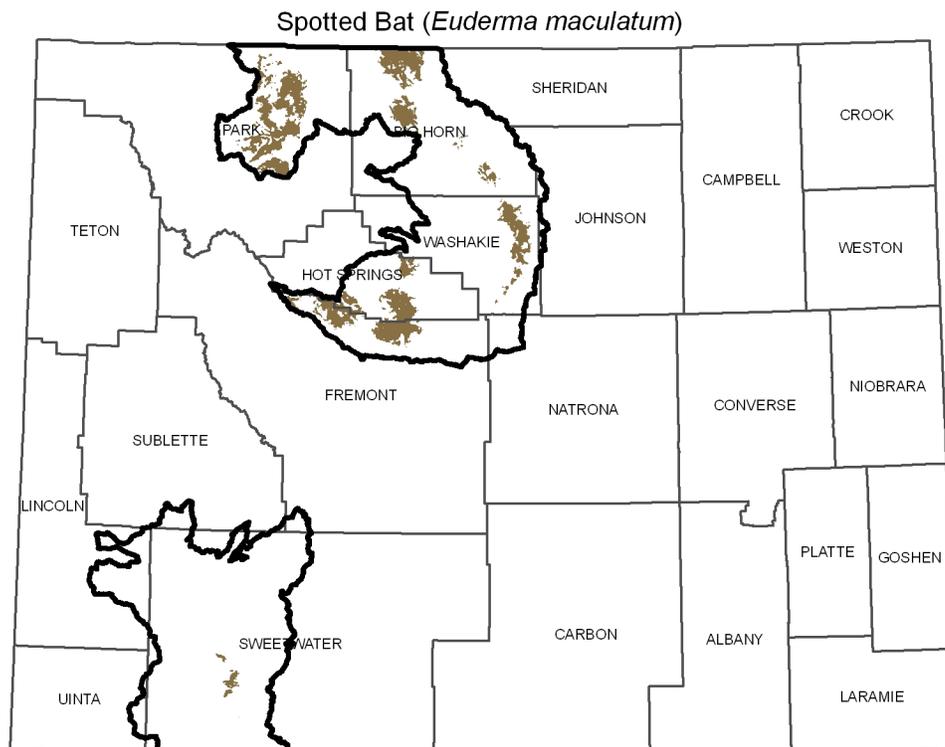
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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges and predicted distributions for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution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