

Spotted Ground Squirrel - *Spermophilus spilosoma*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSS4 (Bc)

NatureServe: G5 S3

Population Status: distribution is restricted but extirpation is not imminent; limited ability to increase species distribution; distribution is restricted to the southeastern corner of Wyoming

Limiting Factor: Habitat (and Ecology): limiting factors are moderate; habitat is vulnerable but not currently restricted; increases in habitat loss are likely; species has a limited ability to disperse long-range and occupy potentially suitable habitats

Comment:

Introduction

The spotted ground squirrel occurs from southeastern South Dakota and southern Utah south to central Mexico. In Wyoming, it occurs only on the high plains of the southeastern portion of the state. The spotted ground squirrel is considered rare in Wyoming.

Habitat

The spotted ground squirrel inhabits arid and semiarid areas, including sagebrush-grasslands, grasslands, disturbed areas, and sand dunes. It prefers dry, deep, sandy soils with sparse vegetation.

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 population declines as a result of large-scale habitat manipulation projects that destroy or remove mature stands of sagebrush.

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 Design vegetation treatments, fire management plans, and grazing regimes in habitat that mimic and restore natural landscape patterns and disturbance processes, maintain habitat connectivity, and maintain the native composition of herbaceous plant and shrub communities that are important for seed crops.

Monitoring/Research

No on-going monitoring.

Recent Developments

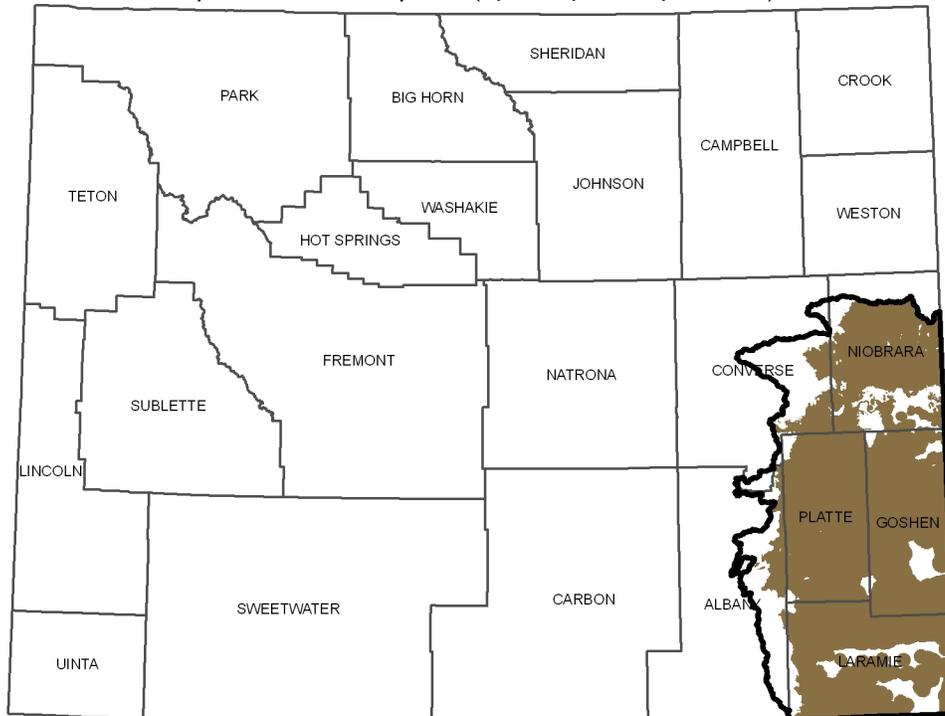
None.

References

NatureServe. 2004. NatureServe explorer: an online encyclopedia of life. Version 1.8. Arlington (VA): NatureServe. Online <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Wilson DE, Ruff S. 1999. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Washington: Smithsonian Inst Pr. 750 p.

Streubel DP, Fitzgerald JP. 1978. *Spermophilus spilosoma*. Mammalian Species 101:1-4.

Spotted Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus spilosoma*)

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.