



PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE

STATUS IN NORTH FORK OF THE POUDRE RIVER WATERSHED LARIMER COUNTY

This document summarizes information about Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, and how private landowners and public land managers can comply with federal restrictions, but with a minimum of effort, continue compatible land use practices.

Preble's meadow jumping mouse only exist along the Front Range of Colorado and southeastern Wyoming.

▶ Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*; Preble's mouse) is only found below about 7600 feet in dense, streamside riparian vegetation consisting of shrubs, grasses, and forbs; they also use the nearby grasslands in adjacent uplands.

▶ Preble's mice are important as an indicator of healthy riparian ecosystems.

For more information

https://collaborativeconservation.org/2021/06/02/prebles_sct



PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE

CURRENTLY LISTED AS A THREATENED SPECIES
UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

STATUS

- ▶ The Preble's mouse was listed as a threatened species in 1998 under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- ▶ Under the Endangered Species Act, plant and animal species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. "Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
- ▶ Loss of riparian habitat and altered stream flows, primarily resulting from residential and commercial construction and associated development, along with some livestock and agricultural practices, appear to be the primary threats to the Preble's mouse.
- ▶ If no actions progress towards the identification and implementation of a Recovery Population in this watershed and other watersheds within the range of the Preble's mouse, delisting of the Preble's mouse may be delayed.

LAND USE

- ▶ Land use within Preble's mouse habitat, whether privately or publicly owned, is subject to certain Federal use restrictions that require Federal agencies, non-Federal agencies, and individuals to consult with the USFWS or acquire a permit from the USFWS. These restrictions apply to land uses that disturb Preble's mice or their habitat, such as but not limited to the siting of buildings and utilities, road construction, etc.
- ▶ The 2018 Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Recovery Plan seeks to find effective, locally-generated conservation measures that would ultimately lead to the removal of the Preble's mouse from the list of threatened species.

NORTH FORK CACHE LA POUVRE

- ▶ Preble's mice are known to be present in many drainages within the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed. Our watershed has been managed for many years with sound agricultural practices, such as responsible grazing and hay production, which have been shown to be compatible with the needs of the Preble's mouse.



The North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed currently provides good riparian habitat for Preble's mouse.

STATUS

A multidisciplinary team has been established to ensure survival of the Preble's mouse in the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed, while also striving to maintain minimal impact on uses of public and private lands.

This multidisciplinary team, known as the Poudre River Site Conservation Team (SCT), is the first of its kind, and is designed to give voice to local communities in the process of recovering the Preble's mouse. The goal of the SCT is to work towards the recovery of the Preble's mouse, and ultimately its delisting, while also causing minimal impact to public and private land uses

The SCT consists of approximately 20 members, representing local communities and public natural resource management partners including private landowners, city, county, state, and federal government agencies, and other organizations.

Recovery of the Preble's mouse, as described in the USFWS's Preble's mouse Recovery Plan, prescribes a number of populations (known as Recovery Populations) within each watershed found within the species' range that contain populations that need to remain stable or increase over a 10-year period.

The recovery goal for the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed is approximately 57 miles of healthy, connected, and protected Preble's mouse habitat.

OBJECTIVES OF SCT

- ▶ Evaluating the conditions of the riparian habitat along the streams within the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River watershed, and identifying a suitable area for the Recovery Population.
- ▶ Recommending land management practices to improve habitat, if needed.
- ▶ Identifying financial resources through agreements and partnerships that are available to private landowners to improve Preble's mouse habitat, if improvements are needed.



HOW CAN PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGERS HELP WITH THIS EFFORT?

Participation involves two things:

Private landowners and public land managers can participate in a program to provide protection and/or restoration of Preble's mouse habitat within the area of the Recovery Population. Several options for participation are available as described below, in no particular order:

- 1) habitat improvement projects;
- 2) the existing Livermore Area Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP; which sets up agreements for how much new land use changes can occur without reinitiating consultation with the USFWS);
- 3) Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) on public lands;
- 4) Wildlife Extension Agreements with the USFWS; and
- 5) individual HCPs with the USFWS;
- 6) conservation easements.



Financial opportunities may exist to support participation by private landowners and public land managers. For example, the City of Fort Collins is seeking mitigation opportunities in relation to potential expansion of Halligan Reservoir

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