



# 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, & continued 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](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.
- ▶ 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.

## LAND USE

- ▶ Federal law may restrict land use in Preble's mouse habitat. For example: Federal law generally prohibits anyone from taking Preble's mice, which includes killing them and harming them by modifying their habitat, without a permit. There are limited exceptions for certain rodent control activities, agricultural activities, landscaping activities, water uses, weed control activities, and ditch maintenance activities. For more information, see 50 C.F.R. § 17.40(l).
- ▶ Projects that may result in take of the Preble's mouse or its critical habitat must consult with the USFWS before taking any action, including permitting or funding. Go to: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/consultations-overview.html>.

## NORTH FORK CACHE LA POUFRE

- ▶ 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 PARTICIPATE?

Private landowners and public land managers can:

Join the SCT to support local recovery efforts.

Participate in a variety of programs to provide protection and/or restoration of Preble's mouse habitat within the area of the Recovery Population.

- 1) habitat improvement projects coordinated with the Poudre SCT;
- 2) the Livermore Area Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP; which sets up agreements for Preble's habitat management on private lands);
- 3) individual HCPs with the USFWS;
- 4) Wildlife Extension Agreements with the USFWS;
- 5) Memoradums of Understanding (MOU) for management of Preble's habitat on public lands; and
- 6) Conservation Easements that benefit Preble's habitat.



**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**

**For more information**

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