

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Thomomys clusius</i> / Wyoming pocket gopher			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>1 Distribution within R2</p>	<p>B</p>	<p><i>Thomomys clusius</i> occurs in only a small portion of south-central Wyoming, possibly extending into northwest and north-central Colorado. Survey efforts targeting this taxon have been light and sporadic; currently accepted range boundaries are tentative. In Wyoming, no occurrence has been documented on national forest system lands. Evidence from Thaeler (1974) suggests presence on the Routt, White River, and Arapaho-Roosevelt national forests. The "B" ranking is based on the fact that if the taxon occurs in the region, it likely occupies several small, disjunct, and widely separated patches.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	<p>Clark, T. W. and M. R. Stromberg. 1987. Mammals in Wyoming. University Press of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas.</p> <p>Hall, E. R. 1981. The mammals of North America. Second edition. John Wiley and Sons, New York, New York.</p> <p>Long, C.A. 1965. The mammals of Wyoming. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Publication 14: 493-758.</p> <p>Patton, J.L. 1999. Wyoming pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys clusius</i>). Page 470 IN: D.E. Wilson and S. Ruff, editors. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., in association with the American Society of Mammalogists.</p> <p>Thaeler, C.S. and L.L. Hinesley. 1979. <i>Thomomys clusius</i>, a rediscovered species of pocket gopher. Journal of Mammalogy 60:480-488.</p> <p>Thaeler, C.S. 1974. Four contacts between ranges of different chromosome forms of the <i>Thomomys talpoides</i> complex (Rodentia: Geomyidae). Systematic Zoology 23:343-354.</p>

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
2 Distribution outside R2	A	As outlined above, the currently accepted global range of <i>T. clusius</i> is thought to be wholly within the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain Region. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	(see citations for criteria 1)
3 Dispersal Capability	A	Dispersal is not well-understood, but small size (hence limited mobility), short life span, and fossorial habits almost guarantee poor dispersal capabilities. Medium-to-large streams and large roads are likely dispersal barriers. Confidence in Rank Medium	Clark, T. W. and M. R. Stromberg. 1987. Mammals in Wyoming. University Press of Kansas. Lawrence, Kansas. Patton, J.L. 1999. Wyoming pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys clusius</i>). Page 470 IN: D.E. Wilson and S. Ruff, editors. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., in association with the American Society of Mammalogists.
4 Abundance in R2	A	Lack of occurrence data make it difficult to confidently assign a rank to this criteria, but it is generally accepted to be rare throughout its range. More survey effort is clearly needed to better estimate abundance levels. Based on distribution and general habitat use, most <i>T. clusius</i> in the region probably occur at low elevations off of national forest system lands. Confidence in Rank Low	(see citations for criteria 1)
5 Population Trend in R2	D	This evaluator (G. Beauvais) is unaware of any data with which to estimate population trends for this taxon. Pocket gopher populations are generally cryptic and understudied. Good estimates of current population levels and fluctuations are rare; historical population sizes and fluctuations are essentially unknown. Confidence in Rank Medium	

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6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	<p>This evaluator (G. Beauvais) is unaware of any data with which to estimate habitat trends for this taxon. Habitat use is understood only on a very general level. Habitat quality likely varies strongly with soil depth and texture, and the spatial and temporal variation of such variables is not well known or mapped. Based on distribution and general habitat use, most habitat for this species probably occurs at low elevations off of national forest system lands.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	(see citations for criteria 1)
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	D	<p>As outlined above, habitat use and habitat quality for <i>T. clusius</i> are poorly understood, precluding reliable conclusions as to habitat vulnerability.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	
8 Life History and Demographics	D	<p>Life history is poorly understood. It is generally assumed that this taxon is not especially susceptible to any specific environmental pressure, but the lack of empirical data precludes any reliable conclusions.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	
Initial Evaluator(s): Dr. Gary P. Beauvais, Director, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - University of Wyoming.			Date: 30 July 2001

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)¹ to occur:

¹ Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	X	Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF	?			Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Routt NF	X			Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	?
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF									
Comanche NG									

Pawnee NG -

NOTE: “?” refers to National Forest units where presence is suspected, but with a certainty of less than 50%.