

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> / Idaho pocket gopher			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>1 Distribution within R2</p>	B?	<p>It is difficult to assign a specific rank to this criteria, because this evaluator (G. Beauvais) is unaware of any <i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> documented within the Rocky Mountain Region. Capture locations in southwest Wyoming and northeast Utah hint at possible presence on national forest units in northwest Colorado (Routt NF, White River NF) or south-central Wyoming (Medicine Bow NF). Note, however, that these units are several hundred miles from the currently accepted range of the taxon. <i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> is also known from the upper Green River basin in Wyoming, and also from southwest Montana; future surveys may extend these range boundaries to include portions of the Shoshone NF in northwest Wyoming. 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. Idaho pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys idahoensis</i>). Pages 470-471 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. 1972. Taxonomic status of the pocket gophers, <i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> and <i>Thomomys pygmaeus</i> (Rodentia, Geomyidae). Journal of Mammalogy 53:417-428.</p>
<p>2 Distribution outside R2</p>	B	<p><i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> is thought to occupy two small areas to the north and west of the Rocky Mountain Region: (1) southwest Wyoming and small portions of adjacent Utah and Idaho; and (2) central Idaho through southwest Montana.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	(see citations for criteria 1)

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3 Dispersal Capability	A	<p>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.</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>Patton, J.L. 1999. Idaho pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys idahoensis</i>). Pages 470-471 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>
4 Abundance in R2	A	<p>As outlined in criteria 1, this evaluator (G. Beauvais) is unaware of confirmed presence of this taxon in the Rocky Mountain Region. If it occurs here, it is likely to be extremely rare. Again assuming that it occurs in the region: based on general distribution and habitat use, it is likely that the majority of <i>T. idahoensis</i> occur at low elevations off of national forest units.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	(see citations for criteria 1)
5 Population Trend in R2	D	<p>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.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	

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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. Assuming that the taxon occurs in the region: based on distribution and general habitat use, most habitat for this species probably occurs at low elevations off of national forest units.</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. idahoensis</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 good information precludes any reliable conclusions.</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>Patton, J.L. 1999. Idaho pocket gopher (<i>Thomomys idahoensis</i>). Pages 470-471 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>
Initial Evaluator(s): Dr. Gary P. Beauvais, Director, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - University of Wyoming.			Date: 30 July 2001

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

<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
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R.McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	?
	?			Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
	?			Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	?
								Thunder Basin NG	

Pawnee NG -

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

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.