

<b>SPECIES: Scientific [common]</b>	<i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> [Idaho Pocket Gopher]
<b>Forest:</b>	Bridger-Teton National Forest
<b>Forest Reviewer:</b>	Randall Griebel, James Wilder
<b>Date of Review:</b>	01/29/2018; reviewed 4/23/25
<b>Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)</b>	NO

**FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:**

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:  
Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_
2. Rationale for not concurring is based on (check all that apply):  
Species is not native to the plan area \_\_\_\_\_  
Species is not known to occur in the plan area \_\_\_\_\_  
Species persistence in the plan area is not of substantial concern X \_\_\_\_\_

**FOREST REVIEW INFORMATION:**

1. Is the Species Native to the Plan Area? Yes X \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
  
If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.
2. Is the Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area? Yes X \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
  
If no, stop assessment.

**Table 1.** All Known Occurrences, Years, and Frequency within the Planning Area

<b>Year Observed</b>	<b>Number of Individuals</b>	<b>Location of Observations (USFS District, Town, River, Road Intersection, HUC, etc.)</b>	<b>Source of Information</b>
1911	1	Pinedale Ranger District; Freemont Lake area; Foothills of Wind River Mountains	Wyoming Natural Diversity database (January 2018)

- a. Are all Species Occurrences Only Accidental or Transient?  
  
Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_  
  
If yes, document source for determination and stop assessment.
- b. For species with known occurrences on the Forest since 1990, based on the number of observations and/or year of last observation, can the species be presumed to be established or becoming established in the plan area?  
  
Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_ (See next question, no observations prior to 1990)

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment

- c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_X\_

Provide explanation for determination; If determination is no, stop assessment

*The Bridger-Teton National Forest is just outside the range of the Idaho pocket gopher (Map 1) and the Forest provides little habitat that is suitable for this species. A small portion of suitable habitat for this species has been identified in the south-western portion of the state (Map 2), adjacent to the BTNF. In Wyoming, the species is found in the foothills of the Wyoming Range, Uinta Mountains, and Wind River Mountains (WGFD 2017). The Idaho Pocket gopher prefers mountain foothills and sagebrush shrubland with Ponderosa pine (WGFD 2017). The Idaho pocket gopher also prefers areas with relatively shallow and rocky soils, and the species may use shrub-steppe, grassland, and subalpine meadow.*

*There has been one historic Idaho pocket gopher specimen collected in 1911 (Table 1) on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, just outside the identified range of this species, located within the foothills of the Wind River Mountains. The Forest boundary is on the edge of this species range where small isolated populations have been identified. However, based on the lack of current observation records on the Forest and in the vicinity, evidence suggest that this species does not currently occupy the planning area.*

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Idaho Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys idahoensis*).

d. **Map 1**, Idaho pocket gopher range map of North America



Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Idaho Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys idahoensis*).

- e. **Map 2**, Range and predicted distribution of *Thomomys idahoensis* in Wyoming



SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Sept. 2016.  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and 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.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Idaho Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys idahoensis*).

3. Is There Substantial Concern for the Species' Capability to persist Over the Long-term in the Plan Area Based on Best Available Scientific Information?

**Table 2.** Status summary based on best available scientific information.

Species (Scientific and Common Name): <i>Thomomys idahoensis</i> [Idaho Pocket Gopher]		
Criteria	Rationale	Literature Citations
Distribution on Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Vulnerability of Habitats on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
<p><b>Summary and recommendations:</b> The Bridger-Teton National Forest is just outside the identified range for the Idaho pocket gopher where small populations have been identified. There are no current records that suggests the Idaho pocket gopher occupies the Forest or the vicinity. On the Forest, there is very little suitable habitat for this species, particularly along the Wind River Mountain foothills on the Pinedale Ranger District. However, there is no evidence of this species currently occupying the BTNF. For these reasons, there is not a substantial concern for the species' capability to persist on the planning area. Therefore, it is recommended that the Idaho pocket gopher is not a Species of Conservation Concern for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.</p> <p>Evaluator(s): Ashley Egan, Randall Griebel</p>		Date: January 23, 2018