

1. **Species:** Plains Pocket Mouse (subspecies) (*Perognathus flavescens relictus*)
2. **Status:** Table 1 summarizes the current status of this species or subspecies by various ranking entity and defines the meaning of the status.

Table 1. Current status of <i>Perognathus flavescens relictus</i>		
Entity	Status	Status Definition
NatureServe	G5T2	<i>Species is Imperiled</i> At high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
CNHP	S2	<i>Species is Imperiled</i> At high risk of extinction or elimination due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors.
Colorado State List Status	None	N/A
USDA Forest Service	None	N/A
USDI FWS ^b	N/A	N/A
^a Colorado Natural Heritage Program.		
^b US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service.		

The 2012 U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule defines Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) as “a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area” (36 CFR 219.9). This overview was developed to summarize information relating to this species’ consideration to be listed as a SCC on the Rio Grande National Forest, and to aid in the development of plan components and monitoring objectives.

3. Taxonomy

Genus/species *Perognathus flavescens relictus* is accepted as valid (ITIS 2015).

4. Distribution, abundance, and population trend on the planning unit [12.53.2,3,4]:

The western subspecies of *P. flavescens* occur in parts of western Colorado, eastern Utah, northeastern and southeastern Arizona, western and central New Mexico, and south into Mexico (Monk and Knox 1996).

No information pertaining to population abundance and habitat trend is reported. Assumption is that habitat trend may be stable, with most private lands likely already in agricultural use, and public lands (BLM, NPS) likely providing stable habitat (USDA Forest Service 2001).

Shorr (2015) reported capturing two individuals on RGNF lands north of Great Sand Dunes National Park. NRIS database shows one observation occurring on RGNF lands. The date on this occurrence is described as “prior to 2002” indicating a historical observation. USDA Forest Service (2001) reports 2 historical occurrences in the planning area, but no further details. Arctos (2015) reports no occurrences within the planning area, but does show historical occurrences

(early 1900s) adjacent within Great Sand Dunes National Park (GSDNP). In addition, Pineda et al. (1999) report the species occurring in GSDNP as a result of surveys conducted in 1998.

Table 2. Known Occurrence Frequency within the Planning Area (NRIS database)

Known Occurrences in the past 20 years	2
Year Last Observed	2015

5. Brief description of natural history and key ecological functions [basis for other 12.53 components]:

Throughout its range, *P. flavescens* is generally confined to areas of sandy or sandy-loam soil. Williams (1978) states that in the western subspecies are usually limited to loose, sandy soils and dunes with sparse vegetation cover. However, the species may occasionally occupy non-sandy atypical habitats such as rocky soils in pinyon-juniper (Monk and Knox 1996). Pineda et al. (1999) report *P. f. relictus* as occurring in outlying sand dunes in the sand sheet region of Great Sand Dunes National Park (GSDNP) in association with *Oryzopsis hymenoides*, *Stipa comata*, *Muhlenbergia pungens*, *Sporobolus cryptandrus*, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, *Yucca glauca*, *Opuntia* sp., and *Psoralidium lanceolatum*.

P. flavescens is entirely nocturnal. The species is inactive above ground from late autumn to early spring, and evidently hibernates through much of the winter, awaking periodically to feed on food stored in the burrow (Hibbard and Beer 1960, Morrison and Ryser 1962, cited in Monk and Knox 1996). Females evidently produce at least 2 litters (late spring and midsummer). Pregnant females have been reported as early as May and juveniles reported from May to September. Litters litter size is four to five young (Monk and Knox 1996).

Home range for the species range from 0.06 to 0.12 acre, with the longest movement during a 24-hour period being 150 feet (Hibbard and Beer 1960 cited in Monk and Knox 1996). Food items consist primarily of grass, forb, and sedge seeds.

6. Overview of ecological conditions for recovery, conservation, and viability [12.53 7, 9?, 10, 11, 12]:

Pertaining to research conducted in Nebraska, Geluso and Wright (2012) describe that because of the general reliance of *P. flavescens* on such a specific habitat isolation of many of these areas, conservation and maintenance of sandy habitats appear warranted for the long-term existence of *P. flavescens*. They also recommend maintaining disturbance regimes in suitable habitats and state that livestock grazing on lands with sandy soils helps maintain areas of sparse vegetation likely to support *P. flavescens* in Nebraska.

7. Threats and Risk Factors:

No major threats to this species are reported (NatureServe 2015, Linzay et al. 2008).

8. Key literature:

Arctos. 2015. Collaborative collection management solution. Accessed online at: <http://arctosdb.org/> [07/06/2015].

Geluso, K. and G.D. Wright. 2012. Current status of the plains pocket mouse (*Perognathus flavescens*) in eastern Nebraska. *Western North American Naturalist* 72(4): 554-562.

Monk R.R. and J.Knox Jones, Jr. 1996. *Perognathus flavescens*. *Mammalian Species* 525: 1-4.

NatureServe. 2015. Explorer, an online encyclopedia of life. Accessed online at: <http://explorer.natureserve.org/index.htm> [06/25/2015].

Linzey, A.V., Timm, R., Álvarez-Castañeda, S.T., Castro-Arellano, I. & Lacher, T. 2008. *Perognathus flavescens*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. [07/13/2015].

Pineda, P.M, R.J, Rondeau, and A. Ochs. 1999. A biological inventory and conservation recommendations for the Great Sand Dunes and San Luis Lakes, Colorado. Nature Conservancy, San Luis Valley Program, Saguache, Colorado. 87 pp.

Shorr, R. 2015. Personal communication to R. Ghormley, Forest Biologist, RGNF.

USDA Forest Service. 2001. Region 2 sensitive species evaluation form. 2 pp.

9. Map of Known Occurrences and Modeled Suitable Habitat

Known occurrences (NRIS database, not yet updated for 2015 observations by Shorr) are shown in Figure 1. Potentially suitable has not been modeled within the planning area.

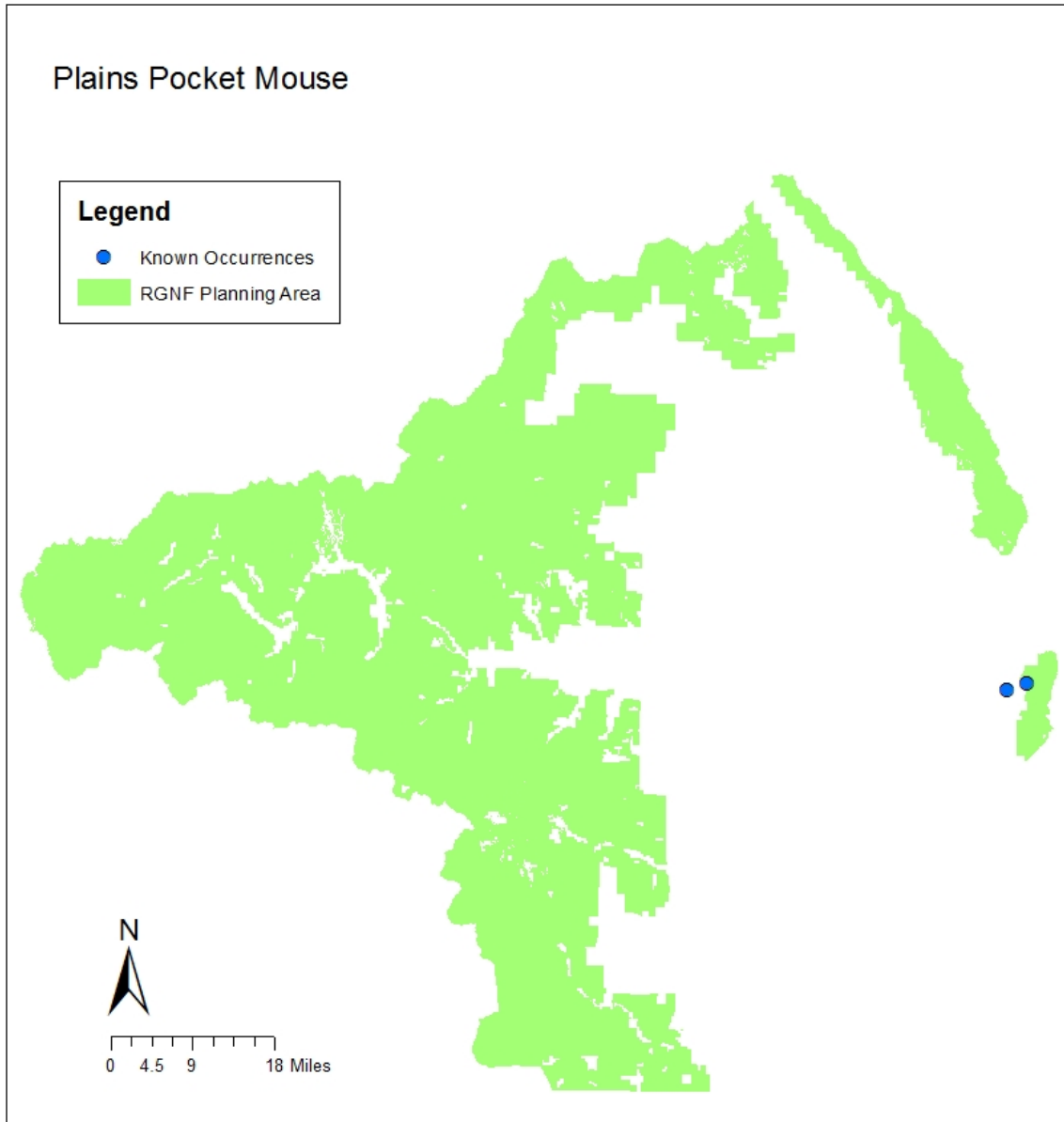


Figure 1. Plains Pocket Mouse Known Occurrences (NRIS database).