



100 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104
Web: www.CRgov.com/wildlife

PREBLE’S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE INFORMATIONAL SHEET

WHAT IS THE PREBLE’S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE?

The Preble’s meadow jumping mouse is a rare mouse with an extremely long tail, large hind feet and long hind legs, and is primarily nocturnal, but may be active during the day. Preble’s habitat can be found in portions of Colorado and Wyoming. The Preble’s mouse has been designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a “threatened species” under the Endangered Species Act, and therefore, the federal threatened species designation prohibits the unlawful “take” of the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse or its habitat.

As of August 2011, the Service reinstated Endangered Species Act protections for the Preble’s mouse populations in Wyoming, but protections have remained in Colorado.

WHERE DOES THE MOUSE LIVE?

The Preble’s mouse typically lives in heavily vegetated riparian habitats with adjacent, relatively undisturbed grassland communities. In Castle Rock, the Preble’s mouse has been located in or near many drainages, including tributaries and the main stream reaches of East Plum Creek, Cherry Creek and Seller’s Gulch. However, *any stream reach or potential habitat within Castle Rock and Douglas County may be subject to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.* The Service recommends that sites below 7600’ occurring within 300 feet of FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains of stream channels and their tributaries, riparian habitats, canals, ditches and wetlands be surveyed for the Preble’s mouse.

WHAT ACTIVITIES MAY BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT?

In its listing decision, the Service identified activities that may result in violation of the Endangered Species Act to include:

1. Unauthorized or unpermitted collection, handling, harassing, or taking of the species;
2. Activities that directly or indirectly result in the actual death or injury death of the mouse, or that modify the known habitat of the species, thereby significantly modifying essential behavioral patterns, (e.g., plowing, mowing or cutting; conversion of wet meadow or riparian habitats to residential, commercial, industrial, recreational areas or cropland; overgrazing; road and trail construction; water development or impoundment; mineral extraction or processing; off-highway vehicle use; and hazardous material cleanup or bioremediation); and
3. The application or discharge of agrichemicals, or other pollutants, and pesticides, onto plants, soil, ground water, or other surfaces in violation of label and directions or any use following Service notification that such use, application or discharge is likely to harm the species; would be evidence of unauthorized use, application or discharge.

WHAT IS THE DOUGLAS COUNTY REGIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN?

The Service approved the Douglas County Habitat Conservation Plan in 2006 to allow Douglas County and the Towns of Parker and Castle Rock to conduct certain public works, utilities, transportation and recreational activities within habitat potentially occupied by Preble’s. This plan does not include activities conducted by private entities on private properties.

The Plan specifically delineated Preble’s habitat within the identified Riparian Conservation Zone (RCZ). Private landowners and developers may use the RCZ boundaries as a guideline when determining if development might affect the Preble’s mouse or its habitat, but, *you must still contact the Service to receive official concurrence that proposed projects will not impact the Preble’s mouse.*

HOW TO CONTACT THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGARDING PROPOSED ACTIVITIES.

Any questions regarding whether an activity will impact the Preble’s mouse or its habitat should be directed to:

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Office
PO Box 25486 DFC (MS 65412)
Denver, Colorado 80225
(303) 236-4773
www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/preblesmeadowjumpingmouse.php



ANY APPROVAL GIVEN BY THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK DOES NOT OBVIATE THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS AND/OR REGULATIONS.