



Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) is a small mouse with an extremely long tail, large hind feet, and long hind legs. The long tail is bicolored, lightly furred, and often twice as long as the body, occupying more than 60 percent of the total body length. The Preble's has a dark broad stripe on its back that runs from head to tail and is bordered on either side by gray to orange-brown fur.

Where are Preble's found?

The Preble's range extends along the eastern edge of the Front Range foothills of the Rocky Mountains from southeastern Wyoming to Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Preble's preference for riparian vegetation that borders streams and other waterbodies greatly restricts the Preble's distribution within the range. In Colorado, the Preble's live along creeks, rivers, and other waterbodies in Larimer, Weld, Boulder, Douglas, Jefferson, El Paso, Teller, and Arapahoe Counties up to 7,600 feet (2,316 meters) in elevation.

How and why is the Preble's protected?

The Preble's is a threatened subspecies protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under the ESA, the term

"endangered species" means any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The term "threatened species" means any species at risk of becoming an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threats to the Preble's include the loss, alteration, and fragmentation of its habitats from urban development, flood control, water development, aggregate mining, transportation, and other human land uses. Additional threats include wildlife, drought, small population sizes, and modifications to habitats resulting from climate change.

Emergency Questions and Answers

Since the start of the flood disaster, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has worked closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by providing technical assistance, consulting under emergency procedures, and finalizing documents to streamline required reviews to ensure that the conservation of imperiled species causes no delays to flood recovery.

Q: *How many projects were dealt with under emergency consultations?*

A: See Table 1. The action agencies funded or permitted 236 projects under emergency consultation.

Q: *How many projects under regular consultation?*

A: See Table 1. The action agencies requested informal consultation for 16, non-emergency projects.

Q: *How can the Service invoke emergency authority again during spring run off?*

A: The Service does not invoke emergency authority. The lead Federal agency, (not the Service), determines whether consultation under emergency procedures is warranted and requests emergency consultation with the Service.

If FEMA decides that a project must be completed before spring runoff because it is an emergency, FEMA requests an emergency consultation with the Service. This exchange between FEMA and the Service occurs quickly over the telephone. If FEMA determines that a project is an emergency, the Service in no way interferes and recommends ways to minimize the effects of the emergency response on listed species or their critical habitat. When the emergency is over, FEMA then initiates formal "after-the-fact" consultation on activities if listed species or critical habitats were adversely affected (See Figure 1).

Q: *How is the 4(d) rule working?*

A: The 4(d) rule for Preble's includes:

- rodent control
- ongoing agricultural activities, (but not conversion from grazing to row crops, e.g.)
- maintenance and replacement of existing landscaping near structures
- existing uses of water with a perfected water right
- noxious weed control
- routine irrigation canal and ditch maintenance within the historic footprint of existing surface disturbance and infrastructure of a ditch, resulting in loss of no more than ¼ mile loss of riparian habitat loss per mile of ditch



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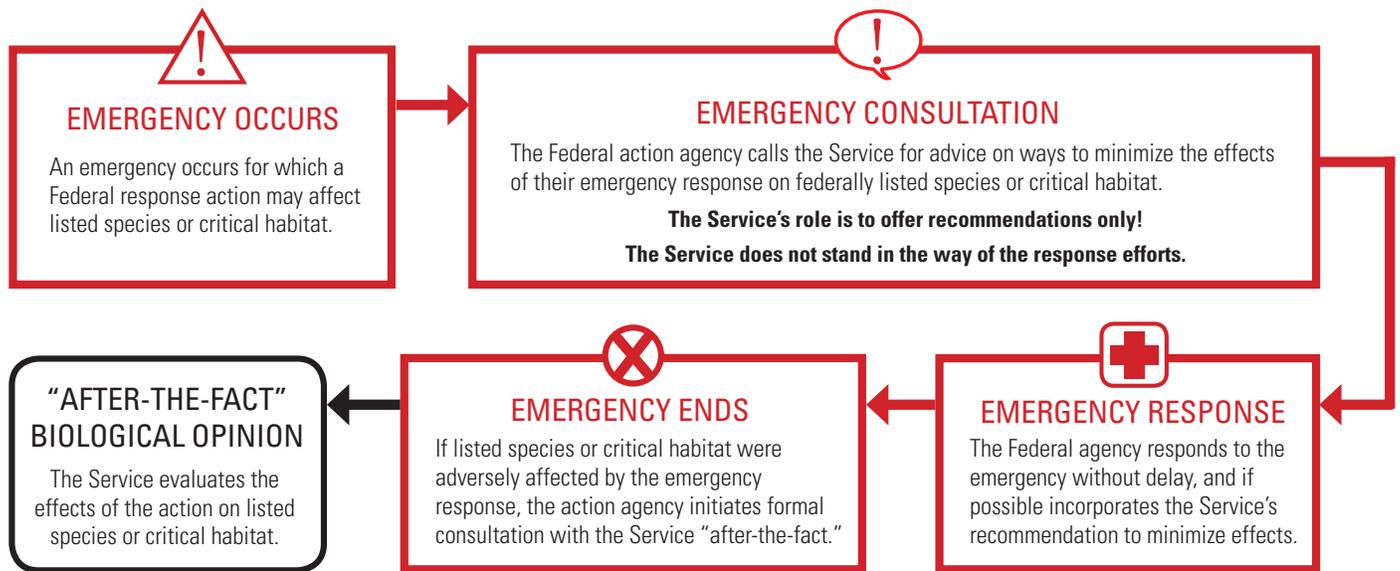


Figure 1.

Q: Does emergency consultation work?

A: The ESA's emergency consultation procedures worked so well that there were no delays to emergency response activities even when the Service closed unexpectedly for three weeks shortly after the floods, because of the Federal government's shutdown.

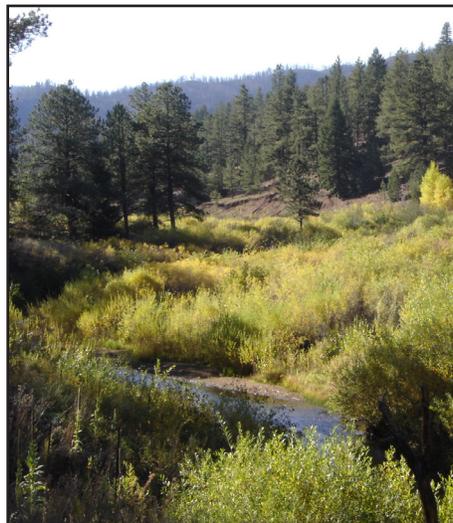
Q: What impact has the flood had on Preble's and its critical habitat?

A: Early estimates indicate that the floods impacted up to 60 percent of the Preble's occupied range in Colorado and up to 70 percent of its designated critical habitat. During the floods, Preble's may have drowned, washed downstream, or dispersed into upland areas outside the floodplain. The floods scoured and destroyed riparian vegetation, removing flood, cover and hibernacula. As the floodwaters receded, Preble's that survived may have traveled back down into the floodplain to feed, shelter, or hibernate.

Q: Are flooded or damaged riparian and upland habitats still considered Preble's habitats?

A: By damaging vegetation, depositing sediment, and eroding stream banks, the flash floods may have dramatically altered the riparian ecosystem, and the Preble's habitats, within an emergency response project area. However, Preble's may still occupy these areas, even if the flooding destroyed vegetation or altered the stream channel. Preble's are mobile

and swim well, and may have escaped the floods by moving upslope or traveling into less affected habitats upstream or along adjacent tributaries. After the floods, surviving dispersers may have travelled back down into the floodplain or into an emergency project area to feed or shelter. Preble's may also be traveling through these habitats in search of food, shelter or hibernacula. Furthermore, the floodwaters may have washed Preble's downstream, and survivors may now occupy these new areas.



Preble's habitats feature dense riparian vegetation, adjacent grassy uplands within 300 feet of the 100-year floodplain, and an open water source /
USFWS

Although floods may have affected habitats and populations, the Preble's may still occupy flooded and damaged riparian and upland habitats. Whenever possible, we recommend that project proponents incorporate as many conservation measures as possible in order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the Preble's, other listed species, and riparian ecosystems from their flood response activities.

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Table 1. The number of flood-response or repair projects submitted processed under emergency and non-emergency procedures of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

* No action agency has requested formal, after-the-fact consultation on their emergency response activities.

Lead Federal Action Agency	Emergency Consultations			Informal Non-Emergency Consultation		
	Number	Project Types	Duration of Service's Review*	Number	Project Types	Duration of Service's Review
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)	129	Trails, road repair, culverts, bank stabilization, bridge repair, irrigation infrastructure, debris removal, stream restoration, utilities (e.g. waterlines)	0 No review necessary	0	NA	NA
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	1	Burn area rehabilitation for the Waldo Canyon Fire (El Paso County)	0 No review necessary	0	NA	NA
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	3	Highway repair	0 No review necessary	2	Bridge and road repair	Same day to 10 days
U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL)	0	NA	NA	2	Temporary work crew programs (debris removal)	Finalizing
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	102 (out of 933 total projects, or 10%)	Trails, road repair, culverts, bank stabilization, bridge repair, irrigation infrastructure, debris removal, stream restoration, utilities (e.g. waterlines)	0 No review necessary	7	Bridge repair, backfill, debris removal, recreational facilities, stream restoration	Completed 5, same day to two days; Requested additional info for 2 projects.
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	1	Recreational infrastructure and damage assessment	0 No review necessary	0	NA	NA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service)	0	NA	NA	1	Debris removal and	Requested additional information
City of Boulder (on behalf of FEMA)	0	NA	NA	2	Debris removal and pedestrian bridge repair	Two days
TOTALS	236	–	–	16	–	–