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Threatened and Endangered Animal and Plant Species

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Introduction

Wildlife and plants are a primary link in the life chain of ecosystems, as we know them in the Forest Service, Intermountain Region. Protection and management of these resources are truly cooperative responsibilities of many agencies. Suitable habitat is the key to a continuing population of wildlife and plants, and this habitat must be provided and managed in harmony with other demands made of these lands.

Fifteen species of wildlife and plants are Federally classified as endangered or threatened in the Intermountain Region

of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. An endangered species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These classifications are made by the Secretary of the Interior by authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (amended in 1978). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administering the provisions of the Act. The Act requires Federal agencies to formally consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service whenever a proposed project on Federal lands may affect a species listed as threatened or endangered. This requirement also exists for projects on State and private lands, if Federal funds are involved.

The Forest Service is charged with management of the habitats of these species in a manner that will not place them in further jeopardy. Protection and improvement of these important habitats are high priority in the overall management programs on National Forest lands in the Intermountain Region. Activities on State and private lands may also affect the habitats of these classified species and coordination among all landowners and administrators is important for the protection and recovery of these animals and plants.

Only through close cooperation among the Forest Service; State Fish and Game agencies; State Foresters; Fish and Wildlife Service; other Federal, State, and private agencies; and individuals can the downward trend in the population levels and habitats of these species be reversed. We believe that, through a persistent and coordinated effort, the status of these species and their habitats can be improved.

This booklet was prepared to help you identify endangered or threatened species and to increase your general awareness regarding their habitat needs and reasons for population declines. All sightings of the animals or plants featured in this booklet should be reported to the State Fish and Game Departments, Forest Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We hope you will use this information to increase the pleasure of your activities in the Intermountain Region.



VERN HAMRE
Regional Forester



Bald Eagle

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

The bald eagle, our National symbol, occurs only in North America. It is found primarily along coasts and inland rivers and lakes from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic. Most feeding is done from or in close proximity to water. However, in portions of the Intermountain Region, bald eagles winter commonly in semi-arid valleys. Though the bird will take and eat what is in plentiful supply, fish, water birds, and small mammals are the most common prey. Carrion is also utilized, particularly during the winter period. Most nests are in trees overlooking a body of water. The majority of nests occur in the largest or stoutest tree in the immediate surrounding area. Nests are usually located within the crown of the tree, somewhat protected by the foliage above.

The bald eagle is large and, compared to other North American birds, it is second in size only to the California condor. Though size increases slightly with increasing latitude, 7 feet is an average measurement of wing span. The bird can be recognized by its large size and fairly deep and regular wing beats. Birds of both sexes begin to obtain white heads and tails at 4 years of age. Immature birds can easily be confused with golden eagles.

STATUS — Endangered

Historic and present distribution are essentially the same, but the numbers of bald eagles in the continental United States have been reduced from former abundance. The decline is attributed to shooting and harassment by man, removal of suitable nest trees through logging, human population encroachment on key habitat areas, water pollution, and pesticides. Pesticides are believed to have induced long-term effects of lowered productivity.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Although numbers are limited, bald eagles may be observed throughout the Region and on all the National Forests. The presence of bald eagles in most areas of the Region is restricted to wintering birds that tend to return to traditional areas every year to feed. Nesting birds are few and are more restricted to the northern portion of the Region.

American Peregrine Falcon

(*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

The American peregrine falcon, one of three North American subspecies of peregrines, has a wide distribution extending from Mexico north to Alaska. Nesting is characteristically in rugged, inaccessible cliff formations near bodies of water. Birds are the major prey and are commonly taken in the air in dives that may reach speeds of 180 miles per hour.

In relation to other raptors, the bird is intermediate in size or about the same as a crow. It is recognized by its long, pointed wings and narrow tail. Adults have blue-gray backs and wings. Undersurfaces of wing and tail feathers are marked by black bars. A distinctive black moustache extends to the white throat. The breast and legs are light in color with numerous dark streaks and bars. This bird, which rarely soars, can be distinguished by its rapid wing-beating pattern, much like that of a common pigeon. The lack of black wingpits distinguishes it from the prairie falcon in flight.



STATUS — Endangered

The numbers of peregrine falcons have decreased dramatically over most of their range. There is grave concern regarding the status of this species. Some reasons for decline are loss of habitat and accumulative pesticide poisoning resulting in egg shell thinning and abnormal behavior yielding poor reproductivity. Although DDT use is now restricted in the United States, this chemical may still have an effect because the peregrine and some of its prey species migrate to areas outside the United States where DDT is still used. Reintroduction of American peregrine falcon into historic habitats is an important part of the recovery effort for this species.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Although any sighting of a peregrine falcon is a rare experience, birds that nest in other climes may be observed wintering in the Intermountain Region. Breeding birds are very scarce and widely dispersed in this Region.





Whooping Crane

(Grus americana)

The whooping crane is the tallest and one of the rarest birds in North America. The only remaining natural population winters in the area of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. The birds migrate along traditional routes to the breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park, N.W. Territory, Canada. Attempts to increase population levels are inhibited because of poor offspring survival, strict adherence to ancestral breeding grounds, and migration pathways which offer little possibility of these birds pioneering new regions.

Males are larger than females, weighing 16 and 14 pounds respectively. Adults are approximately 4.5 feet tall and are snowy white with a bare red face and crown. The primary feathers at the tip of the wings are black.

STATUS — Endangered

Populations of wild and captive whooping cranes have slowly increased from the low levels of 1941. Whooping cranes were never numerous. Possible reasons for decline are habitat modification, human disturbance, hunting, and severe weather which has historically caused losses of entire flocks of birds. The Grays Lake foster parent experiment in Idaho, is an attempt to establish a second wild population of whooping cranes. Whooper eggs are placed in sandhill crane nests to be hatched and subsequently raised. In this way, the whooping crane will, hopefully, adopt the migration route of the sandhill crane. Correct mate selection by whooping cranes raised in this manner is a key factor to the success of this program.

OCCURENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Migration routes of the Grays Lake whooping cranes cross the boundaries of the Ashley, Bridger-Teton, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests. Whoopers might be observed anywhere along these routes.

Black-footed Ferret

(Mustela nigripes)

The black-footed ferret may be the rarest native mammal in the United States. The few recent sightings of this ferret have been on or near prairie dog towns. The ferret feeds on prairie dogs and inhabits prairie dog burrows. It might be observed sitting on its haunches or craning its neck out of a prairie dog burrow.

This weasel-like animal is nearly 2 feet in total length. Its fur is pale yellowish buff with its undersurfaces being nearly white. The distinguishing black markings across the eyes appear as a mask. The black-tipped tail and black feet are also characteristic.

STATUS — Endangered

Populations of the black-footed ferret apparently have never been abundant. This species is currently believed to be on the verge of extinction. Because of its low numbers, little is known about the ferret. Censusing is difficult because of its secretive, nocturnal habits. Possible reasons for population decline are reductions and local eradication of prairie dogs and non-selective and secondary poisoning.



OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Records from southeast Utah list one sighting of a black-footed ferret near the Manti-LaSal National Forest. Three sightings have been reported near the Ashley National Forest near Vernal, Utah. No animals have been sighted there since 1976. Black-footed ferrets may no longer occur in these areas. A recent sighting in Rich County, Utah, and findings of bone fragment artifacts in western Wyoming suggest the possibility that a few black-footed ferrets do still occur within the Region.



Gray Wolf

(Canis lupus)

The once, wide-ranging gray wolf, largest wild member of the dog family, is now restricted to the remote areas of Canada and the northern portion of the United States. Within the Intermountain Region, habitats which are utilized are generally mountainous, forested, and have populations of suitable prey species. Food sources are many including elk, moose, deer, beaver, snowshoe hare, and other small animals. Hunting packs of wolves, which occur in areas such as Alaska, do not occur in this Region. When sighted, wolves are solitary presumably due to the low population level. Dens are usually located in caves or hollows among rocks or in large burrows on steep hillsides close to water.

The gray wolf can be difficult to distinguish from large dogs and coyotes. Males weigh 80 to 100 pounds with females being slightly smaller. Lengths range from 4.5 to 6.5 feet with shoulder height varying from 26 to 32 inches. Tails of wolves are 13 to 20 inches long and are bushy. In addition, wolves have longer legs and larger feet than coyotes and most dogs. Coat color ranges from white, cream, or tawny mixed with various shades of gray to black. Howling differs from that of a coyote by being a low, long howl with pauses between successive howls.

STATUS — Endangered

Within the Intermountain Region, the range of the gray wolf was all of Idaho and Wyoming, much of Utah, and a portion of Nevada. Human settlement in these areas conflicted with habitation by the wolf. Fears, superstitions, and livestock losses, were reasons for past extreme control programs using poisoning, trapping, and hunting. These practices nearly eliminated the Wolf from the Region.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

The few recent sightings of gray wolves have been in the northern part of the Region in Idaho. Sightings have been reported on the Boise and Payette National Forests. Gray wolves may also occur on or near the Bridger-Teton, Salmon, Challis, Sawtooth, Caribou, and Targhee National Forests.





Grizzly Bear

(Ursus arctos horribilis)

The grizzly bear is the largest mammal in the continental United States. Generally, grizzlies avoid man, but one may attack a person in self-defense or if caught unaware by a close encounter with a human. Though unprovoked attacks are rare, individual bears have demonstrated aggressive behaviour, particularly in campground and garbage dump areas or when accompanied by their young. Common foods of the grizzly bear are grass, sedges, fruits, roots, tubers, ants, fish, rodents, and other mammals. Scavenging on the decaying carcasses of wildlife and fish is also common. Big game and livestock are eaten occasionally.

The grizzly bear is recognized by its large size, prominent hump on its shoulders, broad head with a dished-in facial profile, and curved front claws which are twice as long as its hind claws. Hair color varies from the usual deep brown to blackish, yellowish, or grayish and may be grizzled (light tipped) on the upper portion of the body.

STATUS — Threatened

The grizzly bear formerly ranged throughout western North America from the Arctic region south into Mexico and east to the Great Plains. Scattered populations still occur in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming with the highest concentration of bears occurring in the Greater Yellowstone Area. Historically, they have been trapped, shot, trailed with dogs, and poisoned, though in recent years grizzly bears have been given protection. Presently, the greatest threat to the grizzly bear is human encroachment into remote areas occupied by grizzlies resulting in bear/man conflicts and loss of habitat necessary for survival.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Grizzly bears are known to inhabit portions of the Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests and may occur on the Payette and Salmon National Forests.

Utah Prairie Dog

(Cynomys parvidens)

The Utah prairie dog is found only in a restricted area in south-central Utah. It is primarily vegetarian with grass and alfalfa among its most preferred foods. Below 7,200 feet in elevation, the Utah prairie dog often attains high densities and destroys alfalfa crops and natural vegetation, but most colonies above 7,200 feet are sparse, consume little forage, and may even benefit the soils. The use of the word "dog" probably arose because this animal characteristically "barks" when sitting erect near its burrow.

A relatively large rodent, the Utah prairie dog has buff or brownish-colored fur. It has small roundish ears, short legs, and a white tip on its short tail. This animal, which is often confused with a ground squirrel, is well adapted to burrowing and usually lives in colonies.

STATUS — Endangered

The Utah prairie dog has the most restricted range of any prairie dog. Apparently, the Utah prairie dog has always been restricted to Utah. It formerly occurred in nine counties of south-central Utah, but by 1962 was found in only five counties. Because it sometimes destroys vegetation and disrupts the landscape with its burrows, it is an unpopular animal with many people. Reduction in range and population has resulted from control by poisoning and from loss of habitat to farms, urban development, gully erosion, and changes in vegetation composition. Recovery efforts are designed to establish colonies on public lands.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Most of the Utah prairie dogs are currently found on private land near the cities of Cedar, Panguitch, and Loa. Colonies do exist on the Dixie National Forest and the Awapa Plateau near Loa. More colonies are being established on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests, and other Federal and State lands.



Colorado Squawfish

(Ptychocheilus lucius)

The Colorado squawfish is found exclusively in the large river systems of the Colorado River Basin. Called the white salmon of the Colorado by early settlers, the fish made extensive spawning runs. At one time, it was abundant enough to supply food for the Indians, settlers, and support a commercial fishery. Preferred habitat for the fish changes with season and water levels. Backwaters are preferred during seasons of high water. A shift is made to eddies when water levels are low. Though the Colorado squawfish may be found in clear water, it prefers turbid warm waters in excess of 68° Fahrenheit.

The largest minnow in North America, the Colorado squawfish once reached 80 pounds and exceeded 6 feet in length. Individuals now rarely exceed 15 pounds and average less than 2 feet in length. This efficient predator, which feeds on smaller fish, has a large, streamlined pike-like body with a flattened head and large mouth. Its body is strongly countershaded with olive-green coloration on its back and a silver-white belly. Juvenile squawfish can be distinguished by the dark wedge-shaped mark at the base of the tail. The Colorado squawfish readily strikes at artificial lures and bait.



STATUS — Endangered

Formerly, the Colorado squawfish had a wide distribution in the Colorado River and its major tributaries. Present distribution is difficult to determine because several reaches of the river are isolated and difficult to survey. The squawfish has virtually disappeared in the lower basin of the river. The habitat changes caused by man such as dam construction, water diversions, and channel changes have resulted in the decline of this species. Fluctuation in water temperature and flow, decreases in turbidity, increases in salinity, and loss of spawning habitat are examples of these changes. Competition from introduced species has also been a factor.

OCCURRENCE IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

Though scarce, squawfish occur in the Yampa, Green, Gunnison, and White Rivers. Although once present on the Ashley National Forest, the Colorado squawfish is no longer known to exist in the section of the Green River within the Forest boundary. These fish may once again occupy this section of the Green River because of increased water temperatures from the penstock modifications at Flaming Gorge.



Humpback Chub

(Gila cypha)

The humpback chub is found exclusively in the large river systems of the Colorado River Basin. It is restricted to the small eddies associated with swift water canyons commonly in depths near or greater than 20 feet. Though the humpback chub may be found in clear water, it prefers turbid warm waters in excess of 68° Fahrenheit. Reportedly, an active feeder at the water's surface, the humpback chub readily takes flies and other natural surface organisms.

The humpback chub can be recognized by the hump which begins at the base of the head and runs the length of the body. Immature chub lack this distinctive hump. Small eyes and a rounded, fleshy snout overhanging the mouth are also diagnostic. The flattened, silver-gray body of the humpback chub becomes orange colored on the lower portions during breeding season. This fish rarely weighs more than 2 pounds and is normally less than 13 inches in length.

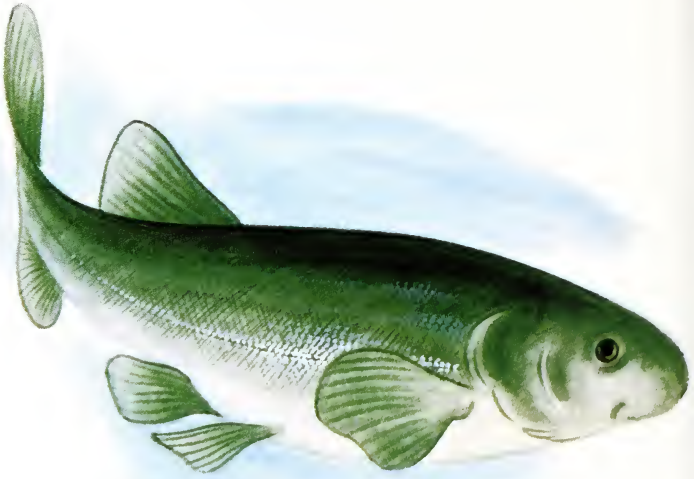
STATUS — Endangered

Humpback chub are found only sporadically in the canyon areas of the large rivers of the Colorado River Basin. Though probably never abundant, current low population levels are attributed to river habitat loss and modification such as decrease in water temperatures due to dams. Competition with introduced fish species may be an additional factor.

OCCURRENCE IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

Humpback chub occur in the Yampa River, Gray and Desolation Canyons of the Green River, West Water Canyon of the Colorado River, and near Grand Junction Colorado. Although once present on the Ashley National Forest, the humpback chub is no longer known to exist in the section of the Green River within the Forest boundary.





Kendall Warm Springs Dace

(Rhinichthys osculus thermalis)

The Kendall Warm Springs dace is confined to the Kendall Warm Springs system in western Wyoming. This small stream is made up of the flow from a group of warm springs isolated from the Green River by a 10-foot waterfall. Stream temperature varies with the proximity to the springs, from 78° to 85° Fahrenheit. The area, solely inhabited by the dace, is 382 feet long, generally less than 1-foot deep, and has a mean width of 6 feet. The origin of this subspecies appears related to the isolation of the population behind the natural barrier at the confluence of the stream and the Green River and the required high temperatures associated with the springs.

Breeding males are purplish in color while females are a dull, olive-green. Both sexes have mottled bodies with a faint lateral line. Adults attain a length of 2 inches. Fry distribution suggests that spawning is widespread throughout the system and probably occurs several times a year, if not throughout the year.

STATUS — Endangered

There are at least several thousand dace in the area. Numbers are not declining, but available habitat is extremely limited. Several measures of habitat protection have been initiated to ensure survival of the species.

OCCURRENCE IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

The Kendall Warm Springs dace is found only in the Kendall Warm Springs system on the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

(*Salmo clarki henshawi*)

The Lahontan cutthroat is found in lakes and streams of the Lahontan Basin of eastern California and western Nevada, and the Humboldt drainage of north central Nevada. An opinion of some experts is that this trout differentiated into two forms: that which is well adapted to large, alkaline lakes and the other being better suited to a stream environment. When the lake form is found in streams, it is extremely susceptible to hybridization with rainbow trout. Competition from rainbow trout and perhaps the eastern brook trout may also account for the absence of Lahontan cutthroat in some streams. The stream form is not considered as susceptible to hybridization. Genetic studies involving these two forms are being conducted.

Lahontan cutthroat trout have abundant, roundish spots which may cover the body evenly and extend onto the head and belly. However, because the spotting is irregular, it is not a positive identifying characteristic. An orange-red dash on the lower jaw is present. Coloration may vary from a dark copper to a much lighter golden appearance. Some individuals may also show a tinge of pink. The record 41-pound Lahontan cutthroat trout was taken from Pyramid Lake in 1925. Today, lake fish of 20 pounds are considered large with fish of 5 pounds and 28 inches being more common. Although fish of 2.5 pounds and 24 inches have been taken from some streams, the typical size of fish in most streams is about 8 inches and 4 ounces. This fish feeds primarily on aquatic invertebrates, but will also take other fish species such as the redbside shiner.

STATUS — Threatened

Lahontan cutthroat trout of Pyramid and Walker Lakes were once so abundant and attained sizes large enough to



support a commercial fishery. Blockage of access to major spawning tributaries is considered one of the major reasons for the decline and eventual elimination of this trout from Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, and Lake Tahoe. A pure lake population still occurs in Summit and Marlette Lakes, Nevada. These lakes are the source of fish that are now stocked into Pyramid and Walker Lakes. Drastic declines have occurred in the population levels of this trout in the streams of the Lahontan Basin. The primary reason for these reductions is attributed to habitat degradation from water development programs, mainly irrigation. Such drastic population reductions have not been observed in the Humboldt drainage. Although not considered abundant, Lahontan cutthroat exist in over 40 streams of the Humboldt system.

DISTRIBUTION IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

Lahontan cutthroats are found in the Lahontan drainage system of eastern California and west-central Nevada, Marlette Lake, a few tributaries of the Carson and Walker Rivers, several small streams of central Nevada, and in the Pilot Peak area on the Utah/Nevada border. The primary populations of the Humboldt drainage system of north-central Nevada occur in streams of the Ruby Mountains, Independence Range, and the Mary's River system.



Paiute Cutthroat Trout

(*Salmo clarki seleniris*)

The Paiute trout, a sub-species of cutthroat trout, is a native of an extremely restricted area in the high mountains east of the Sierra Divide. It is found naturally only in the headwaters of Silver King Creek drainage in California between Silver King Creek Canyon and Llewellyn Falls. It has been introduced to a few suitable California streams and lakes. Habitat consists ideally of small, cold streams though the fish have been able to survive in larger waters as long as its habitat requirements are met. It does not compete well with other species of trout.

Paiute trout are coppery, purplish-pink with a white underside and have an orange-red dash on the lower jaw. Lack of spotting is one of the main identifying characteristics. The fish attains a length of about 9.5 inches in small streams, but is known to reach 18 inches in larger bodies of water.



STATUS — Threatened

Numbers of Paiute trout are limited by the presence of other trout. The primary cause of population decline is given as hybridization with introduced rainbow and the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Illegal angling and low productivity may have also contributed to the decline.

OCCURRENCE IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

The Paiute trout is found in Silver King Creek and several of its tributaries, most of which occur on the Toiyabe National Forest.



Woundfin Minnow

(Plagopterus argentissimus)

The woundfin minnow is found in the Virgin River and its tributaries which are included in the Colorado River system. It inhabits waters that are frequently muddy to milky with bottom visibility of 3 inches to 1 foot. A strong current associated with a bottom of shifting sand, gravel, and mud generally with little to no vegetation, is ideal. Summer water temperatures need to be between 73° and 88° Fahrenheit. Adults generally choose swift, shallow water, often less than 1-foot deep, though some do live in pools 1 to 2 feet in depth.

Woundfin minnows shine like burnished silver, showing blue reflection at the side when removed from the water. They have flattened heads and a conspicuous dorsal spine, hence, their name. Maximum total length is 3.5 inches, though 3 inches is generally the length attained. The Woundfin feed on animal matter, and also ingest algae and detritus.

STATUS — Endangered

Woundfin range from the lower portion of LaVerkin Creek into the Virgin River and downstream to Lake Mead. Historically, the range of the woundfin was much larger. Dams have cut off natural flows reducing habitat and precluding use. Introductions of other fish and pollutants into the main channel have also contributed to the decline.

OCCURRENCE IN INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WATERS

The woundfin is found from LaVerkin Springs on the main-stream of the Virgin River and the lower portion of LaVerkin Creek in Utah downstream to Lake Mead in Nevada. Watersheds within the Dixie National Forest contribute to the flow of the Virgin River, though actual habitat and populations are south of the Forest boundary.



Clay Phacelia

(*Phacelia argillacea*)

The clay phacelia, a member of the waterleaf family, is found in the Green River shale formation. It grows in grassland and scattered mountain shrub communities on detritus slopes and rocky clay soil.

The plant grows to a height of 0.3 feet to 1.2 feet. Its small, blue to violet flowers are coiled like a scorpion's tail and are found at the tips of the stems. The leaves are divided into five to six opposite lobes. The glandular and hairy leaves and stems are sticky to the touch.

STATUS — Endangered

A single population consisting of no more than eight individual plants exists along the Denver-Rio Grande Western Railroad right-of-way in Spanish Fork Canyon, Utah. Any disturbance of the habitat would undoubtedly eliminate this last known population.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

The right-of-way on which the clay phacelia is found borders the Manti-LaSal and Uinta National Forests.







Rydberg Milkvetch

(*Astragalus perianus*)

Rydberg milkvetch, a member of the pea family, grows exclusively in tertiary igneous gravels and rocky clay soils. It is most often found in alpine grasslands and barrens, but also occurs in open mountain woodlands.

The plant is short, 0.4 inches to 2.4 inches high and normally grows with its stems prostrate along the ground. The leaves are 0.4 inches to 1.2 inches long and are divided into 7-19 leaflets. Flowers are whitish with a faint suggestion of pink or purple. The pods are bladderly-inflated with purple mottling. The cluster of pods, as they grow on the plant, could be mistaken for a small bird's nest.

STATUS — Threatened

There are two known, highly restricted populations of Rydberg milkvetch. One occurs on Sevier Plateau and the other is found in the Tushar Mountains of south-central Utah. The numbers of plants are currently stable and the populations are considered secure. Disruption of the habitat through activities such as mineral exploration and off-road vehicle use represent potential threats to the population in the Tushar Mountain area.

OCCURRENCE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Rydberg milkvetch is found on the Sevier Plateau and in the Tushar Mountains of south-central Utah, and does occur on the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests.



This publication was prepared through the combined efforts of State and Private Forestry and Wildlife Management Staffs, Forest Service, Intermountain Region. Valuable technical assistance was provided by representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the State wildlife agencies of Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California.