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10.4 CWCS-Priority Mammals

Mammals make up the best-known group of species in Pennsylvania. Some of our larger mammals have been studied for more than 200 years. While much has been learned, much more remains to be understood. We do not know where many of our smaller mammal species occur or how their populations are faring in the face of habitat loss and ecosystem changes. While some mammals are thriving, many are silently declining - and some species may have slipped away entirely. What follows is a listing of mammals of greatest conservation concern in Pennsylvania. It includes the species' scientific name, status with the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, habitat preferences and reasons for concern. Entries are color-coded based upon the Conservation Tier that they occupy. Responsibility species are indicated with an 'R.'

IMMEDIATE CONCERN

Allegheny Woodrat - R

Neotoma magister

Status/notes: PA Threatened Northeast Region priority species - warranting Federal prelisting consideration. Global rank G3G4.

Habitat: Rocky outcrops and talus slopes

Reason(s) for concern: Declining throughout its range; greater than five percent of world's breeding population is found in Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania has a uniquely important position in the biology of this species, holding both the diminishing northeastern range margin and a core of still healthy populations. Northeast Region Special Concern Species; habitat specialist.

Delmarva Peninsula Fox Squirrel

Sciurus niger cinereus

Status/notes: PA Endangered; possibly extirpated from PA. Sub-species Global rank G3.

Habitat: Open, park-like woods in southeastern PA

Reason(s) for concern: extremely limited distribution

Eastern Small-footed Bat - R

Myotis leibii

Status/notes: PA Threatened; habitat specialist. Northeast Region priority species - warranting Federal prelisting consideration. Global rank G3.

Habitat: Winter - caves and mines; Summer - forests, rock cliffs and talus

Reason(s) for concern: unknown distribution and abundance. Pennsylvania has high responsibility, since the majority of

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occurrences and the largest populations of this species are in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Indiana Bat

Myotis sodalis

Status/notes: Federally Endangered; habitat specialist. Global rank G2.

Habitat: Winter - cold caverns and mines; Summer - forests

Reason(s) for concern: Species has experienced drastic declines nationwide due to loss and degradation of hibernation sites.

West Virginia Water Shrew (Southern Water Shrew)

Sorex palustris punctulatus

Status/notes: PA Threatened; habitat specialist. Sub-species Global rank G3. Northeast Region priority species - warranting Federal prelisting consideration

Habitat: mixed decid/coniferous forested banks of cold, clear streams, springs, bogs

Reason(s) for concern: Unknown distribution and abundance; rely on high-quality upland streams

HIGH LEVEL CONCERN

Appalachian Cottontail - R

Sylvilagus obscurus

Status/notes: At-risk; habitat specialist. Global rank G4.

Habitat: brushy forest clearings; tornado blow-downs; high elevation scrub/shrub woodlands

Reason(s) for concern: Extremely limited distribution in PA; occupies temporary habitats; greater than five percent of world's breeding population is found in Pennsylvania; Regional Special Concern Species

Eastern Spotted Skunk

Spilogale putorius

Status/notes: At-risk; may be extirpated from PA. Global rank G5.

Habitat: open, rocky woodlands in south-central PA

Reason(s) for concern: Extremely limited (2-county) distribution in PA; species has not been recorded in PA since the 1960's and may no longer occur in the Commonwealth

Least Shrew

Cryptotis parva

Status/notes: PA Endangered; habitat specialist. Northeast priority species. Global rank G5. State rank S1.

Habitat: Grasslands, old fields, meadows, abandoned pasturelands

Reason(s) for concern: Never common in PA; species now in decline throughout the northern periphery of its range due to loss and degradation of habitat; PA range now limited to one or two counties.

Northern Flying Squirrel

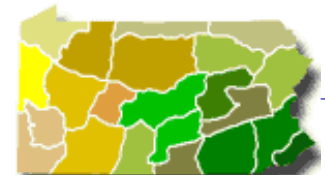
Glaucomys sabrinus

Status/notes: Proposed state endangered; habitat specialist. Global rank G5.

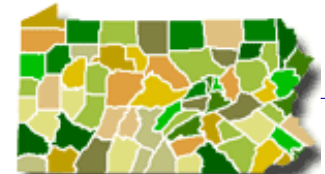
Habitat: Large tracts of mature conifer forest



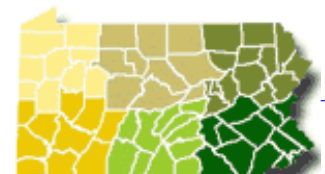
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Reason(s) for concern: Limited distribution; small population in apparent decline; possible competition with southern flying squirrel

Silver-haired Bat

Lasionycteris noctivagans

Status/notes: Rare; habitat specialist. Northeast Region priority species. Global rank G5, SUB.

Habitat: Winter - migrates from PA; Summer - mature conifer/mixed forests

Reason(s) for concern: vulnerable to habitat alteration

Southeastern Fox Squirrel

Sciurus niger vulpinus

Status/notes: Global rank G5. State rank SU.

Habitat: open, park-like woods with sparse ground cover

Reason(s) for concern: May be extirpated. Likely competition with *S.n.rufiventer*. Genetics unclear.

RESPONSIBILITY CONCERN

Northern Long-eared Bat

Myotis septentrionalis

Status/notes: Habitat specialist. Global rank G4. State rank S3.

Habitat: Winter - caves and mines; Summer - mature deciduous forests

Reason(s) for concern: vulnerable to habitat alteration; status unclear - not adequately surveyed

PENNSYLVANIA VULNERABLE

Rock Vole

Microtus chrotorrhinus

Status/notes: At-risk. Global rank G4.

Habitat: cool, damp rocky woodlands with lush forb cover; talus slopes along streams

Reason(s) for concern: limited distribution in PA

MAINTENANCE CONCERN

Eastern Red Bat

Lasiurus borealis

Status/notes: Habitat specialist. Northeast Region priority species.

Habitat: Winter - migrates from PA; Summer -forests, forest edges

Reason(s) for concern: Northeast Region priority species; PA common

Fisher

Martes pennanti

Status/notes: Recently reintroduced (formerly extirpated from PA). Global rank G5.

Habitat: Large tracts of mature forest

Reason(s) for concern: Reintroduced population is still establishing itself in PA

Hoary Bat

Lasiurus cinereus

Status/notes: Habitat specialist

Habitat: Winter - migrates from PA; Summer -forests

Reason(s) for concern: Northeast Region priority species; PA common

Least Weasel

Mustela nivalis

Status/notes: Global rank G5. State rank S3.

Habitat: forests, mixed grasslands, fencerows, riparian areas.

Reason(s) for concern: Rare throughout it's range.

Northern Water Shrew

Sorex palustris albibarbis

Status/notes: Rare; habitat specialist. Global rank G5T5.

Habitat: springs, fast-moving streams with quiet pools in deciduous forest

Reason(s) for concern: Limited distribution; rely on high-quality upland streams

River Otter

Lontra canadensis

Status/notes: Recently reintroduced (formerly extirpated in PA). Global rank G5.

Habitat: high quality rivers and streams

Reason(s) for concern: Population continuing to reestablish itself

Rock Shrew

Sorex dispar

Status/notes: Global rank G4, State rank S3. PA lies in the core of the species' range.

Habitat: Mountainous, forested areas (deciduous or evergreen) with loose talus. Rocky damp areas with deep crevices covered by leaf mold and roots are preferred. May occur along small mountain streams.

Reason(s) for Concern: There is currently no information on population trends although it is suspected that this species is relatively stable

Snowshoe Hare

Lepus americanus

Status/notes: At-risk; PA is near southern edge of range

Habitat: brushy thickets of northern forests; upland swamps and bogs

Reason(s) for concern: Requires thick brushy cover for habitat; vulnerable to habitat alteration and deer over-browsing of shrub layer. Pennsylvania populations may be important in maintaining north/south gene flow.

Southern Bog Lemming

Synaptomys cooperi

Status/notes: Occurs in scattered pockets across PA.

Habitat: Prefers boggy habitat but also common in marshes, wet meadows, and upland forests with thick humus layer (especially when conditions not hot and dry); areas with intermixture of herbaceous/shrubby vegetation.

Reason(s) for concern:

Table 10.1: Ranking Factors for WAP-Priority Mammals

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