

PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE PROTECTION PLAN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE

1. This Protection Plan applies to the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors at Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Site).
2. Site activities will be evaluated under Procedure 1-D06-EPR-END.03, *Identification and Protection of Threatened, Endangered, and Special-Concern Species* (T&E Procedure) to protect the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) and its habitat at the Site. The Preble's meadow jumping mouse is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and as such is a Special-concern Species at the Site.
3. Site activities are also evaluated under Procedure 1-S73-ECOL-001, *Wetland Identification and Protection*, which ensures wetland protection at the Site. Wetland protection is also required under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Additionally, primary habitat of the Preble's mouse includes wetlands.
4. The DOE, Rocky Flats Field Office (RFFO) ESA Coordinator (or a designee), is as identified in the T&E Procedure.
5. Figure 1 of Appendix A provides a map of the Protection Areas for the Preble's mouse. These designations include Protection Areas and Contiguous Wetlands. See Appendix A for definitions of these terms.
6. Only necessary work is permitted in Protection Areas. Necessary work is defined as: that which is designed to study the Preble's mouse; required to protect or enhance natural resource values; or is expressly required by regulatory direction or agreement. Any necessary work that may cause significant disturbance, destruction, or other impacts to Protection Areas must be approved in advance of any work, and reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Site's ecologists shall review and approve/disapprove projects proposed in Protection Areas, then refer projects that may modify Preble's mouse habitat to the ESA Coordinator for concurrence. No project that will cause significant impact to a Protection Area may proceed until the ESA Coordinator has concurred. The ESA Coordinator shall examine the project, review may affect determinations as required with the USFWS, and concur/object within 10 working days of notification. DOE may allow the project to proceed, with or without modification, after review with the USFWS has been completed. The ESA Coordinator shall notify the project manager and the ecologists of the results of the review process including whether the project may proceed and if project modifications are required.
7. Any Site activity that will occur in Contiguous Wetlands shall also be subject to review and approval under the T&E and Wetland Procedures. The Site's ecologists shall review and approve/disapprove projects proposed in Contiguous Wetlands. If disapproved, such activities will be referred to the ESA Coordinator. Project modification may occur to allow the project to proceed.
8. Any activity, in any of the areas identified, as indicated on the *Preble's Mouse Protection Area Map* (Figure 1, Appendix A), may be referred to the ESA Coordinator for review with the USFWS.

Appendix A

Preble's Protection Areas

July 14, 2000

Preble's Mouse Protection Areas

For the purpose of the *Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Protection Plan, Revision 6, U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Field Office*, Preble's Mouse Protection Areas are identified on Figure 1. The 1996 Site Vegetation Map was used as the base map from which units of characteristic Preble's mouse habitat, adjacent grassland vegetation, and wetlands were identified for use in this map. The riparian corridor understory mapping revisions made in 1999 and observations made during spring 1999 trapping were also used to make revisions to the protection area map. Protection Areas and Contiguous Wetlands are defined as follows:

Protection Areas

Protection Areas include all characteristic habitat where the Preble's mouse has been documented, based on studies conducted at the Site since 1991. This habitat is comprised of woody vegetation types: riparian woodland, riparian shrubland, tall upland shrubland, and short upland shrublands (snowberry and skunkbush sumac adjacent to streams). Also included in the protection area category is a 100-foot band of grassland/herbaceous wetland from the perimeter these woody vegetation types. These Protection Areas are along stream channels, pond margins, and around seep wetlands in all stream drainages of the Site.

Contiguous Wetlands

Contiguous Wetlands include wetlands adjacent to, contiguous with, or upstream from Protection Areas. Although these areas already receive protection under the Clean Water Act, they shall receive additional protection at the Site as potential Preble's mouse habitat and because they are essential to maintaining the quality of adjacent Preble's mouse habitat. Wetlands play an important role in capturing upstream waters, and regulating their release downstream. Wetlands are also a natural filtration system that helps settle silt and purify water. Thus, wetlands have a direct effect on Preble's mouse habitat by ensuring that a clean, consistent source of moisture is available to sustain the downstream areas. This naturally controlled release of water throughout the year may be an essential factor in long-term maintenance of the riparian vegetation communities and requisite for the survival of the Preble's mouse. Additionally, wetlands within the riparian zone are now known to act as travel corridors between occupied areas of Preble's mouse habitat and dispersal routes.

Note: This mapped feature does not include all Site wetlands. Projects planning work should use the Site Wetlands Map, which includes all jurisdictional wetlands, to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.