

tributaries to approximately the 2,100–m (7,000–ft) elevation. Major tributaries within the unit include Middle Chugwater Creek, South Chugwater Creek, Ricker Creek, Strong Creek, and Shanton Creek. The unit consists of both public and private lands.

This unit is located in the Lower Laramie HUC and is designated to address the large recovery population in the North Platte River drainage called for in our conservation strategy. The unit supports excellent Preble's habitat with a complex tributary system and is likely to support a high density of the Preble's. While some isolated portions of this unit may be less suitable, we do not believe those areas are permanently affected by current land use practices or pose such barriers as to segregate portions of this Preble's population. Based on the amount and apparent quality of Preble's habitat contained in this unit, it may support one of the largest populations of the Preble's within its entire range and has a high probability of remaining viable well into the future. Threats are presented by future development, road construction, and road improvements. In addition, the unit is repeatedly crossed by gas pipelines and utility corridors. Haying and grazing may be threats to the Preble's in portions of the unit.

Specimens of the Preble's from this HUC include a specimen from Chugwater examined by Krutzsch (1954) in describing the subspecies, and specimens from Sybille Creek, Chugwater Creek, and Hunton Creek verified as the Preble's through morphological examination (tooth fold presence) (Jones, in litt., 2002). Capture of jumping mice presumed to be the Preble's has occurred at several other locations in this subdrainage.

The following critical habitat units are located in the South Platte River drainage:

**Unit SP1: Lodgepole Creek and Upper Middle Lodgepole Creek, Laramie County, Wyoming**

Unit SP1 encompasses approximately 265 ha (654 ac) on 20.8 km (13.0 mi) of streams within two subunits in the Lodgepole Creek watershed, Lodgepole Creek and the Upper Middle Lodgepole Creek. The Lodgepole Creek subunit includes Lodgepole Creek from Horse Creek Road (County Road 211) upstream beyond the confluence of North Lodgepole Creek and Middle Lodgepole Creek up to 2,300–m (7,000–ft) elevation on both creeks. The subunit consists of almost entirely private lands. The Upper Middle Lodgepole Creek subunit includes Middle Lodgepole Creek from the eastern boundary of the Pole

Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest upstream to about 2,400–m (7,750–ft) elevation and including the North Branch of Middle Lodgepole Creek. The unit consists of public lands including portions of the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest.

This unit is located in the Upper Lodgepole HUC and is designated to address two of three small recovery populations called for in this HUC in our conservation strategy. The Lodgepole Creek subunit will likely be threatened in the future by development including road construction. The Upper Middle Lodgepole Creek subunit may be threatened by grazing pressure (particularly during drought conditions) and off-road vehicle use.

Critical habitat on this unit is designated based on captures of jumping mice on Middle Lodgepole Creek and North Branch of Middle Lodgepole Creek. Although these two trap sites are fairly high in elevation, a specimen was confirmed as the Preble's on the North Branch of Middle Lodgepole Creek through genetic examination and a second specimen was verified to be the Preble's through morphological examination (tooth fold presence) (Jones, in litt., 2001).

**Unit SP4: North Fork Cache La Poudre River, Larimer County, Colorado**

Unit SP4 encompasses approximately 3,321 ha (8,206 ac) on 141.8 km (88.1 mi) of streams within the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River watershed. It includes the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre River from Seaman Reservoir upstream to Halligan Reservoir. Major tributaries within the unit include Stonewall Creek, Rabbit Creek (including its North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork), and Lone Pine Creek. The unit includes both public and private lands. It includes portions of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, as well as Lone Pine State Wildlife Area.

The unit is located in the Cache La Poudre HUC and is designated to address the large recovery population designated for this area in our conservation strategy. The area remains rural and agricultural with habitat components likely to support relatively high densities of the Preble's. Pressure for expanded development is increasing within the area. Within existing properties belonging to The Nature Conservancy along the North Fork Cache La Poudre River and to Al Johnson along Rabbit Creek, Lone Pine Creek, and the North Fork Cache La Poudre River, designated critical habitat extends from the center line of the stream outward 325 ft (99 m) on both sides.

Specimens from Rabbit Creek and Lone Pine Creek were verified through genetic examination as the Preble's. Jumping mice identified in the field as the Preble's have been captured at several locations within the unit.

**Unit SP5: Cache La Poudre River, Larimer County, Colorado**

Unit SP5 encompasses approximately 1,912 ha (4,725 ac) on 82.4 km (51.2 mi) of streams within the Cache La Poudre River watershed. It includes the Cache La Poudre River from Poudre Park upstream to the 2,300 m (7,600 ft) elevation (below Rustic). Major tributaries within the unit include Hewlett Gulch, Young Gulch, Skin Gulch, Poverty Gulch, Elkhorn Creek, Pendergrass Creek, and Bennett Creek. The unit is primarily composed of Federal lands of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, including portions of the Cache La Poudre Wilderness, but includes limited non-Federal lands.

The unit is located in the Cache La Poudre HUC and, while unlikely to serve as an initial recovery population, it encompasses a significant area of habitat likely to support a sizeable population of the Preble's. Due to Federal ownership, development pressure is minimal; however, the area is subject to substantial recreational use (rafting, kayaking, fishing) in the Cache La Poudre River corridor. Non-Federal lands include existing development that may limit habitat components present. Some such reaches may serve the Preble's mostly as connectors between areas containing all necessary primary constituent elements.

A number of jumping mice, identified in the field as the Preble's, have been captured from this unit, with one specimen from Young Gulch verified through morphological examination as a Preble's.

**Unit SP6: Buckhorn Creek, Larimer County, Colorado**

Unit SP6 encompasses approximately 1,537 ha (3,798 ac) on 69.2 km (43.0 mi) of streams within the Buckhorn Creek watershed. It includes Buckhorn Creek from just west of Masonville, upstream to the 2,300 m (7,600 ft) elevation. Major tributaries within the unit include Little Bear Gulch, Bear Gulch, Stringtown Gulch, Fish Creek, and Stove Prairie Creek. The unit includes both public and private lands, and includes portions of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest.

The unit is located in the Big Thompson HUC and is designated to address the medium recovery population called for this area in our conservation strategy. Pressure for