

■ 3. Amend § 17.95(a) by adding critical habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) in the same alphabetical order as the species occurs in § 17.11(h) to read as follows:

§ 17.95 Critical habitat—fish and wildlife.

(a) *Mammals.* * * *

Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse
(*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)

(1) Critical habitat units are depicted for Wyoming and Colorado. Maps and descriptions follow.

(2) Within these areas, the primary constituent elements for the Preble's include those habitat components essential for the biological needs of reproducing, rearing of young, foraging, sheltering, hibernation, dispersal, and genetic exchange. The primary constituent elements are found in and near riparian areas located within grassland, shrubland, forest, and mixed-vegetation types where dense herbaceous or woody vegetation occurs near the ground level, where available open water exists during their active season, and where there are ample

upland habitats of sufficient width and quality for foraging, hibernation, and refugia from catastrophic flooding events. Primary constituent elements associated with the biological needs of dispersal and genetic exchange also are found in areas that provide connectivity or linkage between or within Preble's populations. The dynamic ecological processes that create and maintain Preble's habitat also are important primary constituent elements. Primary constituent elements include:

(i) A pattern of dense riparian vegetation consisting of grasses, forbs, and shrubs in areas along rivers and streams that provide open water through the Preble's active season;

(ii) Adjacent floodplains and vegetated uplands with limited human disturbance (including hayed fields, grazed pasture, other agricultural lands that are not plowed or disced regularly, areas that have been restored after past aggregate extraction, areas supporting recreational trails, and urban/wildland interfaces);

(iii) Areas that provide connectivity between and within populations (These

may include river and stream reaches with minimal vegetative cover or that are armored for erosion control; travelways beneath bridges, through culverts, and along canals and ditches; and other areas that have experienced substantial human alteration or disturbance.); and

(iv) Dynamic geomorphological and hydrological processes typical of systems within the range of the Preble's, *i.e.*, those processes that create and maintain river and stream channels, floodplains, and floodplain benches, and promote patterns of vegetation favorable to the Preble's.

(3) Existing features and structures within the boundaries of the mapped units, such as buildings, roads, parking lots, other paved areas, lawns, other urban and suburban landscaped areas, regularly plowed or disced agricultural areas, and other features not containing any of the primary constituent elements are not considered critical habitat.

(4) Critical Habitat Units—Wyoming Index Map Follows:

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