

exploring the secret life of a *Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse*

HOW IS THE PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE AT RISK?

The US Fish and Wildlife Service listed it as threatened in 1998 under the Endangered Species Act.

What's the Biggest Threat?

Much of Colorado's wildlife needs streams and surrounding habitat to survive. Development near streams may create vast habitat disturbance.

What does the Mouse Need?

- Streamsides buffers of good plant cover like willows, rushes and cattails
- Adjacent shrublands with Gambel's oaks and chokecherries
- Food like plant seeds, berries and insects

What's the Plan?

Douglas County continues to protect riparian habitat through the preservation of open space and floodplain regulation.

How can We Help?

- Stay on trails.
- Manage pet dogs and cats.
- Respect this limited habitat.

Ode to the Moonlit Jumping Mouse

At the foot of the Rockies

On summer nights

Near waterways green with cover,

Leaps a mouse with stretched legs

To escape hungry foes,

Long tail to propel him through water.

Three inches of rodent

With a broad, dark stripe,

Extending from whiskers to bottom,

Spends hours on end

Seeking bugs, seeds and berries,

To fill his white belly before autumn.

From cottonwood forests

To marshes of sedge,

He may even choose meadows of hay.

When hibernation rolls 'round,

He seeks higher ground,

In a leaf-lined hole until May.

Observed by Edward Preble

In eighteen ninety-nine.

The mouse was recorded by few.

A century later

The mice were counted
And alarms to halt growth really grew!