

2013-2014 Mazama Pocket Gopher Action Plan - Updated 21 November 2013

Task Synopsis		Rank	Status and Implementing Party (Options: Ongoing, In Progress, Planned, or No Action Yet)	
1. Survey and Monitoring	1.1	1. Develop a survey/monitoring scheme to addresses probability of occurrence, assess site occupancy, and monitor trends	3	WDFW
	1.1.a	a. Identify the type, number and timing of surveys required to determine occupancy, including refining process to determine area occupied		WDFW, FWS
	1.1.b	b. Identify the type, number and timing of surveys required to determine population numbers		WDFW
	1.1.c	c. Develop and test cost effective and efficient monitoring protocols at multiple scales		
	1.2	2. Implement survey/monitoring scheme	11	
	1.2.a	a. Refine and update gopher distribution		Ongoing (WDFW)
2. Protect Existing Populations and Habitat	2.1	1. Protect occupied habitat via land purchase, easements, voluntary conservation, etc.	1	
	2.1.a	a. Develop and implement management agreements (e.g. ESMP, Mgmt. Plan)		In Progress JBLM, WDFW, CNLM, FWS
	2.1.b	b. Explicitly include gophers in incentive programs that support habitat protection, (e.g. NRCS, FRPP)		Ongoing NRCS
	2.2	2. Protect occupied habitat via regulation		
	2.2.a	a. Create long-term strategy to address development pressure via regulation (e.g. mitigation bank, interim permitting strategy, HCP)	2	In Progress Thurston County, FWS, WDFW, CNLM
	2.2.b	b. Improve conservation effectiveness and implementation of regulatory process for local permitting offices, consultants and DFW		Ongoing WDFW, Thurston Co.
	2.2.b.i	i. Develop and implement compliance monitoring measures		
	2.2.c	c. Assess effectiveness of habitat protection areas for gopher conservation (e.g., set-aside, mitigation bank)		
	2.2.c.i	i. Develop conservation performance criteria for habitat protection areas		
3. Manage, Enhance, and Maintain Habitat	3.1	1. Implement habitat restoration, maintenance and enhancement	6	
	3.1.a	a. Control pest plants at occupied sites (e.g. trees, shrubs, pasture grasses)		Ongoing
	3.1.b	b. Expand occupied habitat through restoration (e.g. tree removal)		
	3.1.c	c. Assess site-specific vegetation composition and structure, improve as needed		
	3.2	2. Develop and implement spatially-explicit plans to restore, enhance, maintain habitat	10	
	3.2.a	a. Identify compatible/incompatible land uses and redirect incompatible land use (e.g. recreation, military training, grazing, prescribed fire)		
	3.2.b	b. Explicitly include gophers in incentive programs that support habitat management (e.g. FWS Partners Program, NRCS Stewardship Programs - WHIP, EQIP)		Ongoing FWS, NRCS
	3.3	3. Identify important habitat features	4	
	3.3.a	a. Identify key food plants (native & non) that are tied to survival and reproduction		
	3.3.b	b. Identify vegetation structure favorable to Mazama pocket gophers		
4. Increase Sizes and Numbers of Populations	4.1	1. Identify sites that are suitable for translocation (actual implementation of translocation is pending regulatory decisions)		
	4.1.a	a. Identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential translocation sites		
	4.1.b	b. Develop criteria to identify source populations for translocations		
	4.1.b.i	i. Incorporate genetic and demographic research results as appropriate		
	4.2	2. Evaluate the range-wide need to increase numbers of populations through translocation vs. sizes of existing populations through habitat manipulations.		
	4.3	3. Conduct translocation research	9	
	4.3.a	a. Evaluate efficacy and feasibility of translocating gophers		In Progress WDFW
	4.3.b	b. Refine translocation methods		
5. Additional Research	5.1	1. Conduct demographic and genetic studies		
	5.1.a	a. Describe subspecific taxonomy of Washington populations based on DNA including mapping boundaries of distinct populations	5	In Progress FWS, WDFW
	5.1.b	b. Determine population vital rates and factors that might affect those rates (e.g., survival, reproduction, etc.)	8	
	5.1.c	c. Identify characteristics of dispersal that would affect population structure and viability (e.g., timing, distance, and demographics)		In Progress WDFW
	5.1.d	d. Determine sustainable population size relative to habitat patch size and quality	13	
	5.1.e	e. Determine whether and how populations are structured (i.e. panmictic, metapopn, isolated)		In Progress FWS, WDFW
	5.1.f	f. Evaluate genetic diversity of existing populations		
	6.1	1. Develop and implement a regional, cooperative communications strategy for multiple audiences	7	
	6.1.a	a. Direct outreach to landowners of existing populations		In Progress WDFW, Thurston Co., CNLM, Conservation District
	6.1.b	b. Improve public perception of gophers through positive PR & other means		In Progress CNLM
	6.1.c	c. Educate public on regulatory and incentive programs (e.g., ESA, CAO, HCP, Farm Bill, Futures)		Ongoing Thurston Co.
	6.1.d	d. Develop guide for voluntary conservation (e.g. who to contact, how to do it).		
	6.1.d.i	i. Update habitat management guidance for land managers and private landowners		
	6.1.e	e. Update, clarify, and explicitly link private, federal, county and state on-line information (e.g., PHS, CAO)		
	6.2	2. Maintain active working group, information sharing, and collaborative action	12	Ongoing CNLM, Partners