

Appendix A: Mammals

Rock vole

Microtus chrotorrhinus

Federal Listing	N/A
State Listing	
Global Rank	G4
State Rank	S4
Regional Status	

Justification (Reason for Concern in NH)

The population status of rock voles is not well understood. It is considered common in the northern range but less abundant in the southern and eastern range (Nature Serve 2015). It is believed that rock voles occur in small isolated populations across its range thus making them susceptible to local extinctions (DeGraaf and Yamasaki 2001).

Distribution

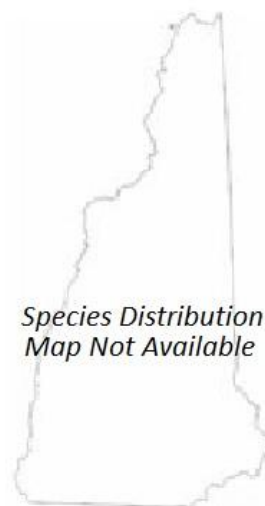
Little is known about the distribution and habitat of this species in New Hampshire. Trapping in the White Mountain National Forest of Maine and New Hampshire varied from 0.03-0.07 captures per 100 trap nights (Yamasaki 1997).

Habitat

Rock voles are found throughout the mountains of northern and western Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont in the Northeast. They inhabit coniferous and mixed forests at higher elevations or lower elevations in the Adirondacks and northern Maine. Rock voles will favor cool, damp, moss-covered rocks and talus slopes in the vicinity of streams (DeGraaf and Yamasaki 2001).

NH Wildlife Action Plan Habitats

- Northern Hardwood-Conifer Forest
- High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest



Distribution Map

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Current Species and Habitat Condition in New Hampshire

There are insufficient data to draw conclusions about the population health or distribution of rock voles.

Population Management Status

There are no management efforts for rock voles in New Hampshire.

Regulatory Protection (for explanations, see Appendix I)

None

Quality of Habitat

Rock vole habitat is throughout the mountains of New Hampshire. Significant portions are protected in the White Mountain National Forest, yet there are more habitats in northern New Hampshire where they could be more abundant.

Habitat Protection Status

Little is known about the distribution and habitat for rock voles in New Hampshire specifically.

Habitat Management Status

There are no habitat management efforts for rock voles.

Threats to this Species or Habitat in NH

Threat rankings were calculated by groups of taxonomic or habitat experts using a multistep process (details in Chapter 4). Each threat was ranked for these factors: Spatial Extent, Severity, Immediacy, Certainty, and Reversibility (ability to address the threat). These combined scores produced one overall threat score. Only threats that received a "medium" or "high" score have accompanying text in this profile. Threats that have a low spatial extent, are unlikely to occur in the next ten years, or there is uncertainty in the data will be ranked lower due to these factors.

There are no threats ranked high or medium for this species.

List of Lower Ranking Threats:

Habitat degradation due to forestry practices

Habitat loss and conversion from wind tower and turbine development

Habitat degradation due to the development of ski areas

Actions to benefit this Species or Habitat in NH

Provide technical assistance and outreach to foresters and landowners on ways to minimize impacts

Primary Threat Addressed: Habitat degradation due to forestry practices

Specific Threat (IUCN Threat Levels): Biological resource use

Objective:

General Strategy:

Political Location:

Watershed Location:

Minimize development in high elevation habitats

Primary Threat Addressed: Habitat degradation due to the development of ski areas

Specific Threat (IUCN Threat Levels): Residential & commercial development

Objective:

General Strategy:

Political Location:

Watershed Location:

Minimize development in high elevation habitats

Primary Threat Addressed: Habitat loss and conversion from wind tower and turbine development

Specific Threat (IUCN Threat Levels): Energy production & mining

Objective:

General Strategy:

Political Location:

Watershed Location:

References, Data Sources and Authors

Data Sources

DeGraaf and Yamasaki, 2001

Nature Serve 2015

Information on habitat, population distribution, and status was collected from unpublished data, scientific literature, and limited agency data.

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Data Quality

With the cooperation of the WMNF, Yamasaki conducted a 3-year systematic survey of small mammals between 1995 and 1997. This survey took place in potential habitats across three levels of vegetation management in the White Mountains region. Out of the 108 study sites surveyed across managed, unmanaged, and remote locations in the forest, rock vole captures varied between 0.03-0.07 captures per 100 trap-nights and occurred on 6% of the forested plots (Yamasaki 1997). There is very little data on the condition of the species and its habitats statewide.

2015 Authors:

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2005 Authors:

Literature

DeGraaf R. M. and M. Yamasaki. 2001. *New England Wildlife Habitats, Natural History, and Distribution*. University Press of New England, Hanover, NH.

NatureServe. 2015. *NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life* (web application). NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

Yamasaki, M. 1997. *White Mountain National Forest Small Mammal Identification and collection Report – 1996*. Unpublished report on file. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Durham, NH 38pp.