4 subspecies of Mazama Pocket Gopher:
Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama glacialis*)
Olympia Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*)
Tenino Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama tumuli*)
Yelm Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama yelmensis*)

5-Year Review:
Summary and Evaluation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Ecological Services
Lacey, Washington

September 2025

5-YEAR REVIEW
4 subspecies of Mazama Pocket Gopher
Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama glacialis*)
Olympia Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*)
Tenino Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama tumuli*)
Yelm Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama yelmensis*)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Species: Four subspecies of Mazama pocket gopher: Olympia pocket gopher, Roy Prairie pocket gopher, Tenino pocket gopher, and Yelm pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis, T. m. glacialis, T. m. tumuli,* and *T. m. yelmensi*s)
Date listed: April 9, 2014
FR citation(s): 79 FR 19760
Classification: Threatened
Critical habitat designated: April 9, 2014 for three of the four subspecies, Olympia pocket gopher, Tenino pocket gopher, and Yelm pocket gopher
FR citation: 79 FR 19711
4(d) rule published concurrently with the listing rule, on April 9, 2014, in 79 FR 19760
Recovery priority number: 6C

Methodology used to complete the review: In accordance with section 4(c)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), the purpose of a 5-year review is to assess each threatened species and endangered species to determine whether its status has changed, and it should be classified differently or removed from the Lists of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants. Public notice of this review was given in the *Federal Register* and a 60-day comment period was opened on March 20, 2024 (89 FR 19861). Data for this review were solicited from interested parties through this *Federal Register* notice as well as on our U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Washington Fish and Wildlife Office website. We requested information from all parties (e.g., Federal and state agencies) responsible for the conservation of the subspecies (also referred to as 'species' throughout), researchers who work with or have worked with the subspecies of pocket gophers, and other conservation partners who may have expertise. Additionally, to support this review and recovery documents for the species, we developed a species biological report (SBR) which evaluated the biology and status of the four subspecies of Mazama pocket gopher (MPG) (Service 2022a). The SBR represents our evaluation of the best available scientific and commercial information, including subspecies ecological needs, factors influencing the subspecies, and the current condition of the subspecies in terms of resiliency, redundancy and representation and overall viability. Peers, partner representatives and technical reviewers provided their review of and comments on the SBR before it was used as our scientific basis to support this 5-year review decision-making process. In addition, the Service developed and finalized a recovery plan (Service 2022b) and recovery implementation strategy (Service 2022c) for the four subspecies. Current staff contributed additional recent updates not captured in these documents.

FR Notice citation announcing the species is under active review: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Initiation of 5-Year Status Reviews for 100 Species in American Samoa, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. 89 FR 19861. March 20, 2024.

REVIEW ANALYSIS

Overview: There is no new information available to indicate that a change in the current listing status for any of the MPG subspecies is warranted. Threats identified and discussed in the listing rule remain the same. There is some new information from recently developed abundance monitoring methods, which provides population estimates within a defined area, not a population census, and has not yet produced trend information. There is also new information about conservation measures being implemented that will protect habitat and contribute toward recovery criteria to varying degrees for each subspecies.

Updated Information and Current Species Status

Biology and Habitat: The species' life history traits, habitat, and distribution are well-described and summarized in the SBR (Service 2022a, pp. 9-25). The four listed subspecies of MPG are associated with glacial outwash prairies, which now occupy a small fragment of their historical distribution. MPG are dependent on specific soils and availability of herbaceous vegetation for forage. Pertinent new information since the last status review is a survey methodology developed to estimate site-specific MPG abundance (Olson 2017; Olson and Keren 2020; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW] 2024) and the first report summarizing estimated abundances at a subset of sites (LeGrande et al. 2025). Results from the surveys are discussed in the Recovery Criteria section for each subspecies.

Threats Analysis: When analyzing factors influencing the species, we distinguish between factors that have negative impacts (threats) and those that have positive impacts (conservation measures). Additionally, we consider whether the impacts are of a scope and magnitude where they have population-level effects.

Threats: In the SBR, we evaluated a number of stressors that may affect the viability of MPG subspecies and determined that the most significant threats continue to be the destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; predation by cats and dogs; inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; direct mortality and harm to the Roy Prairie pocket gopher (RPPG) and the Yelm pocket gopher (YPG) from military training impacts; direct mortality and harm from land uses and management within its habitat; control as a pest species (poisoning and trapping); and small population effects (Service 2022a, pp. 9-29) (Table 1). Improved regulatory mechanisms have begun to be implemented in portions of the ranges of each subspecies through Thurston County's habitat conservation plan and a Department of Defense ESA § 7(a)(1) program. Otherwise, the threats have not changed since the last status review (Service 2021a) or the SBR.

Table 1. Threats and listing factors for MPG subspecies.

Threat	Listing Factor
Loss, Degradation, or Fragmentation of Habitat	A
Development	A
Military Training	A, D
Restoration Activities	A
Predation by Cats and Dogs	C
Direct Mortality and Harm from Military Training Impacts (RPPG and YPG only)	E
Direct Mortality and Harm from Land Uses and Management	E
Application of Pesticides and Herbicides	E
Prescribed Fire or Wildfire	E
Use of Heavy Equipment	E
Recreation	E
Control as a Pest Species	E
Small or Isolated Populations	E

Conservation Measures: The threats of development and military training (Factors A, D, and E) have started to be addressed by Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and programmatic long-term conservation programs with the U.S. Department of Defense. These programs are considered conservation measures and will help achieve recovery criteria in the recovery plan (Service 2022b). Each is in early stages of implementation and are expected to improve conservation outcomes for MPG subspecies in the coming years. Additionally, the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary habitat conservation and restoration program that has created meaningful partnerships within the community and resulted in the conservation of many acres of habitat to benefit MPG and other prairie dependent species.

Development: The recently permitted Thurston County HCP (Thurston County 2022) provides a plan for municipal and residential development throughout most of the ranges of the YPG and the Tenino pocket gopher (TPG), and some of the range of the Olympia pocket gopher (OPG). Through implementation of the HCP over 30 years, 8,456 acres of development in suitable habitat for OPG, TPG, and YPG would result in mitigation with permanent protection and management on 2,779 acres of occupied habitat (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, pp. 48-49). Through this plan the threat of development will be offset for OPG, TPG, and YPG in the county jurisdiction, and there will be progress towards recovery by the establishment of occupied reserves (Service 2022d, pp. 66, 70, 79). The progress on these conservation actions is summarized below.

Military Training: Military training was identified as a stressor for the RPPG and the YPG. Since the last status review (Service 2021a), U.S. Department of Defense Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) established two conservation strategies in consultation with the Service.

- The *JBLM Conservation Crediting Program*, documented in a biological opinion, would permanently conserve and perpetually manage off-base properties for the benefit of the RPPG and the YPG (in addition to other listed species) (Service 2021b). That program

would replace gopher-occupied habitats destroyed by military training on JBLM with the permanent protection of occupied habitat outside of JBLM.

- The *JBLM Mission Sustainment Program* programmatic biological opinion (PBO) established "species biological goals" for the RPPG and the YPG (Service 2025). This is a program of indefinite duration, with a pace of progress at the discretion of JBLM, and the goals can be met on the installation or outside of the installation through the Readiness and Environmental Integration Program. Accordingly, the Service's biological opinion concluded that despite continued impacts from JBLM's military training, the program would significantly contribute to recovery of the RPPG and YPG subspecies (Service 2025, pp. 85, 89).
    - The RPPG goal is equivalent to the recovery plan's goal of three populations of 1,000 individuals.
    - The YPG goal is for one population of 1,000 individuals in the Tenalquot/Weir Prairie portion of the YPG-East recovery unit, which aligns with the same regional goals in the recovery plan (Service 2022b).

Voluntary Conservation: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land. In Washington, PFW supports the recovery of MPG subspecies through habitat restoration and enhancement efforts across working lands and conservation properties within the South Puget Sound Prairie ecosystem. PFW has completed nine projects on four private properties, resulting in the restoration or enhancement of 692 acres of MPG habitat, supported by $177,526 in PFW funding and double that amount in partner contributions. Additionally, PFW has provided technical assistance to 21 private landowners by supporting implementation of best management practices for a suite of prairie-dependent species, including MPG, across 1,182 acres. These efforts build strong partnerships with landowners and the agricultural community to maintain or improve habitat conditions essential to the long-term viability of the species.

Recovery Criteria

Recovery Plan: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2022. Recovery plan for four subspecies of Mazama pocket gopher. Portland, Oregon. xi +33 pp.+ appendices.

The objectives in Service's recovery plan are to conserve, restore, and properly manage the quantity, quality, and connectivity (or configuration) of RPPG, OPG, TPG, and YPG habitats to address habitat fragmentation, degradation, or loss and to ensure the long-term persistence and viability of each subspecies across its range, and address other known threats. The recovery criteria, common to all four subspecies of the MPG, inform the characteristics of reserve cores and reserve complexes (reserve satellites functionally connected by protected matrix), population targets and monitoring metrics for each reserve, and habitat quality and quantity targets for each. The Service previously identified reserve priority areas (RPAs) to assist in planning MPG conservation and recovery (Service 2015). RPAs, combined with designated MPG critical habitat

and proposed critical habitat that was exempted or excluded (79 FR 19711), are areas most important for and most likely to support conservation and recovery of OPG, TPG, and YPG (Service 2022b, p. 9). More specifically, the delisting criteria include:

> 1) The establishment of protected reserves managed over the long-term for pocket gophers;
>
> 2) A self-sustaining population of at least 1,000 individuals in each reserve; and
>
> 3) Approximately 250 to 500 acres of medium- or high-quality habitat in each reserve.

At this time, recovery criteria have not been fully met for any of the subspecies. The following describes the subspecies-specific reserve criteria with a summary of the MPG reserve progress (Table 2). The available monitoring results quantifying progress towards the population criteria are also summarized for each subspecies.

> RPPG: At least three reserves.
>
> OPG: At least three reserves, including at least one on each side of Interstate-5.
>
> TPG: At least two reserves, including one on Rocky Prairie.
>
> YPG: At least seven reserves across the range, including:
>
> > North recovery unit: At least two reserves.
> >
> > East recovery unit: At least two reserves (one on Johnson/Weir/Tenalquot Prairie; one on Yelm Prairie).
> >
> > South recovery unit: At least three reserves (one on each side of Interstate-5; one on Frost Prairie).

<u>RPPG</u>

The recovery plan specifies the need for three reserves in the range of the RPPG. **This criterion has not been met.** Monitoring by JBLM shows the RPPG to be distributed across 91st Division Prairie and Marion Prairie. The total occupied area is approximately 9,068 acres (Service 2025, pp. 48-50), on lands used for military training.

The RPPG population size (Olson 2017; Olson and Keren 2020; LeGrande et al. 2025) has not yet been measured. Notably, the Army provided funding for the Service and Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute to study if RPPG populations in the Artillery Impact Area (a partly inaccessible part of the 91st Division Prairie) can be effectively monitored using drones.

Given the broad distribution of occupied RPPG habitat on JBLM, it is likely that there are three occupied areas of 250 to 500 acres of medium- or high-quality habitat. These areas have not been designated as reserves or managed over the long-term for the RPPG as described in the recovery plan. As noted above, JBLM's Mission Sustainment Program provides a long-term framework for the conservation of three populations of 1,000 RPPG, in the RPPG's range either on the installation or off-installation (Service 2025).

OPG

The OPG recovery plan recommends establishing three reserves in the northern portion of the OPG's historical range where individuals are currently known to occur. Reserves are recommended on each side (east and west) of Interstate-5. Based on the currently known distribution of the OPG, reserves are most likely to be effective in the three areas mapped as RPAs. Reserves further south could be effective if more OPG individuals are located in that portion of the subspecies' historical range. **This criterion has not been fully met** because there are currently no complete 250–500-acre reserves for the OPG.

Since listing, permanent conservation sites for the OPG were established under separately permitted habitat conservation plans on sites ranging from 7 acres to 63 acres. These sites are protected from development with permanently funded habitat management plans and are physically separated from each other.

An RPA east of Interstate-5 includes the only designated critical habitat for OPG, which is centered on the Olympia Airport. Recent population monitoring by WDFW estimated there to be 2,782 pocket gophers (2,376-3,434 95% credible interval) on the Olympia Airport (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 7). Adjacent to the Airport, the Deschutes Corridor site is an OPG-occupied 51-acre mitigation site protected in perpetuity by the Kaufman HCP (Krippner Consulting 2016), though occupancy is currently limited to the margins of the site. Near the southern end of the same RPA, The Preserve HCP permanently conserved a 64.6-acre site with 39 acres of OPG habitat (Kripper Consulting 2018, p. 34).

In an RPA west of Interstate-5, the 63-acre Tumwater West Preserve mitigation site was permanently protected under the Tumwater East Distribution and Commercial Center and Tumwater West Conservation Site HCP. The site is conserved under a conservation easement with a permanently funded management plan for the long-term benefit of the OPG. Recent surveys by WDFW estimated 328 individual OPG (197-665 credible interval) at this site (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 6). Additionally, 7.24 acres of OPG-occupied habitat adjacent to the same RPA west of Interstate 5 was permanently conserved under an HCP implemented by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) (PSE 2020).

In the other RPA west of Interstate-5 (between Littlerock Road SW and Black Lake), there is no protected OPG habitat, and no OPG population estimates.

The Service permitted the Thurston County HCP, which plans to permanently conserve approximately 346 acres of occupied OPG habitat (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, p. 65). The first OPG conservation sites under the Thurston County HCP are expected to be established soon. The Service is also providing technical assistance to the City of Tumwater and Port of Olympia for development of an HCP that would be a framework similar to the Thurston County HCP for permanently mitigating impacts to the OPG resulting from construction and maintenance work at the Olympia Airport and throughout the urbanizing range of the OPG in the City of Tumwater.

Overall, the four existing conservation sites could contribute to the recommended reserves if additional OPG-occupied habitat is protected in connected networks. Collectively, 146 acres of

OPG habitat are permanently conserved among four sites. Each site is in or near an RPA and would likely contribute to the recommended reserves when additional lands in a connected network become protected. At this time, in each OPG RPA, additional conservation actions to protect and restore OPG habitat are recommended to improve the long-term abundance and distribution of the OPG, and to stabilize self-sustaining OPG populations on managed reserves.

TPG

The recovery plan recommends two reserves for the TPG, including one on Rocky Prairie and one elsewhere in the subspecies range. **This criterion has not been met**. Though TPG individuals are rare within their range, there are still multiple opportunities to conserve areas of suitable soils 250-500 acres in size.

The Thurston County HCP plans to permanently conserve approximately 101 acres of occupied TPG habitat and has begun through protection of a few acres (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, p. 68).

On West Rocky Prairie, a 241-acre portion of the West Rocky Prairie Unit of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area is being managed by the WDFW for the benefit of MPG. WDFW recently estimated that there are 389 pocket gophers (263-639 credible interval) in those 241 acres (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 7). This site is adjacent to a 5-acre conservation site occupied by TPG, which is protected with a funded management plan for the benefit of TPG by the PSE HCP. The Port of Tacoma owns approximately 500 acres of suitable soils for MPG adjacent to the WDFW's West Rocky Prairie Unit and coordination is ongoing.

On Rocky Prairie, Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) manages the 47-acre Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve occupied by the TPG. Across the railroad tracks to the east, 400 acres of designated critical habitat for TPG on private land is also occupied by the TPG.

Other MPG subspecies were translocated into the range of TPG prior to listing and this remains a challenging area of uncertainty. The recovery plan, SBR, and RIS recommend studying if and how translocated populations within the range of TPG are affecting demographic and genetic characteristics of the TPG subspecies (Service 2022c).

In summary, conserving more TPG habitat on Rocky Prairie and West Rocky Prairie would advance TPG toward recovery criteria. Additionally, research into how translocated populations within the range of TPG are affecting demographic and genetic characteristics of this subspecies is recommended.

YPG

The recovery plan recommends seven reserves in the range YPG, with reserves in each of the three recovery units. **This criterion has not been met**. Conserved lands across the three recovery units of YPG are being secured and managed for YPG at different rates, and none have achieved the acreage, habitat quality, and population demographic criteria to fulfill the reserve recommendations in the recovery plan. Progress toward recovery in the North, South and East units are further described below.

YPG North

The recovery plan recommends two reserves within the YPG-North recovery unit. **This criterion has not been met.** The Service advises reserve development (250-500 acres) in a 2,640-acre RPA in the YPG-North recovery unit. There are no parcels of this size in this RPA, or anywhere in YPG-North, that are conserved and managed explicitly for YPG.

The Puget Sound Energy HCP established the first permanent conservation site for YPG in the YPG-North RPA on two adjacent parcels totaling 10 acres of YPG-occupied habitat.

The Thurston County HCP is planning up to 2,720 acres of development and other impacts in YPG-North with approximately 744 acres of occupied land conservation as mitigation (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, p.73). Implementation of the HCP is still in early stages and no YPG-North mitigation properties have been acquired. There are no reserves for YPG in the YPG-North recovery unit.

YPG South

The recovery plan recommends establishing three reserves in the YPG-South recovery unit: one reserve west of Interstate-5, one reserve east of Interstate-5, and one reserve on Frost Prairie (northeast of Bucoda, Washington). **This criterion is partially met.**

The Thurston County HCP plans to permanently conserve approximately 726 acres of occupied habitat in YPG-South, approximately 200 acres of which are already conserved for this mitigation purpose (Mazama Meadows and the Violet Prairie East Conservation Banks are the largest) (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, p. 77; Thurston County 2025).

West of Interstate-5, WDFW's Scatter Creek Wildlife Area has north and south units that are both managed for the long-term benefit of the YPG. Scatter Creek North has approximately 314 acres of YPG habitat and approximately 1,620 individual Yelm pocket gophers (1,392-1,887 credible interval). Scatter Creek South has approximately 324 acres of YPG habitat and approximately 1,261 pocket gophers (1,000-1,640 credible interval) (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 7). Additionally, a 40-acre conservation site occupied by YPG in the YPG South unit west of Interstate-5 was established under the Puget Sound Energy HCP.

East of Interstate-5, the Violet Prairie unit of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area is in the early stages of being managed for the long-term benefit of YPG. WDFW assessed 85 acres of this unit in 2021 and estimated it supported 550 pocket gophers (430-733 credible interval). Then in 2024, WDFW assessed a different 143 acres and estimated it supported 500 pocket gophers (324-978 credible interval) (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 7). Colvin Ranch is over 450 acres adjacent to the Violet Prairie unit, is occupied by YPG, and has a long-term agricultural easement through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. There are also several other smaller YPG-occupied conserved areas east of Interstate-5 and west of the Violet Prairie unit.

On Frost Prairie, the Service recommended conservation actions in a 461-acre RPA. In that RPA, WDFW holds a conservation easement on the Wildridge Estate. WDFW estimated that there are 275 pocket gophers (201-399 credible interval) in 52 acres of habitat in that easement (LeGrande

et al. 2025, p. 7). The Cavness Ranch was conserved by The Nature Conservancy and is being managed for prairie qualities by the Center for Natural Lands Management, but YPG do not occupy this area.

Overall, progress toward the YPG recovery criteria in YPG-South has been substantial. There are multiple, large, conserved habitats with more than 1,000 individual YPG east and west of Interstate-5. However, the recovery plan recommends more conserved habitat to support larger populations in Frost Prairie.

YPG East

In the easternmost recovery unit for the YPG, the recovery plan recommends one reserve on Yelm Prairie and one reserve on Johnson/Weir/Tenalquot Prairie. **This criterion is partially met.** The Thurston County HCP plans to permanently conserve approximately 563 acres of occupied habitat in YPG-East; only a few acres have been dedicated to this purpose so far (Thurston County 2022, p. 146; Service 2022d, p. 74).

On Yelm Prairie, there are two RPAs, but no significant lands conserved or managed for YPG. The RPAs total 1,245 acres, much of which is already developed, fragmented, and/or divided into small parcels with little opportunity to develop a single 250–500-acre reserve. The City of Yelm is currently developing an HCP with the Service that would mitigate the effects of urban development on the YPG in the future. Per the recovery plan, additional conservation actions are recommended to support resilient populations of the YPG subspecies in YPG-East.

On Johnson/Weir/Tenalquot Prairie, no significant lands are conserved or managed for the YPG in the RPAs. However, this prairie contains the Tenalquot Prairie and Deschutes Prairie Preserves. WDFW assessed 110 acres of habitat at the Tenalquot Preserve in 2024 and estimated the presence of 313 individual pocket gophers (180-562 credible interval) (LeGrande et al. 2025, p. 7). To the north on this same prairie, JBLM manages 1,505 acres of occupied YPG habitat on Weir and Johnson Prairies. The primary use of these prairies is military training, although they are incidentally managed as medium- to high-quality habitat for YPG. As described above, through the Mission Sustainment Program, JBLM intends to support a population of 1,000 YPG on or off the installation into the indefinite future.

There is likely to be one reserve of Johnson/Weir/Tenalquot Prairie and none on Yelm Prairie. More conserved habitat in the Yelm-East recovery unit is important for supporting a self-sustaining population of YPG. Implementation of the Mission Sustainment Program is expected to continue and following formal assessment of population status on Johnson/Weir/Tenalquot Prairies will help determine if the area on JBLM could be considered a reserve.

Table 2. Protected sites that are managed for MPG in Thurston and Pierce Counties.

Subspecies (Recovery unit)	Recovery Sub-unit	Site Name	Ownership	Managed by	Area of occupied habitat (acres)*	Notes
RPPG	**N/A**	JBLM (91st Division Prairie/ Marion Prairie)	JBLM	JBLM	9,068	Note that this site is not conserved for the management of RPPG, but JBLM's management plans and programs incentivize equivalent outcomes for recovery.
		Puget Sound Energy HCP mitigation site	Private, w/conservation easement	Ecostudies Institute	8	
OPG	**East of I-5**	The Kaufman HCP Deschutes Corridor mitigation site	Kaufman Holdings	Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM)	37	Note that portions of the site are managed for OPG habitat, but occupancy of the site is currently limited.
		The Preserve HCP Century Preserve mitigation site	UCP Sagewood	CNLM	39	
	West of I-5	The Puget Western HCP Tumwater West mitigation site	Puget Western	CNLM	63	
		Puget Sound Energy HCP mitigation site	Puget Sound Energy	Ecostudies Institute	7	

*** Area of occupied habitat determined from the best available information and does not necessarily represent total site acreage.**

Table 2. continued.

Subspecies (Recovery unit)	Recovery Sub-unit	Site Name	Ownership	Managed by	Area of occupied habitat (acres)*	Notes
TPG	**Rocky Prairie**	West Rocky Prairie	WDFW	WDFW	241	
		Puget Sound Energy HCP mitigation site	Puget Sound Energy	Ecostudies Institute	5	
		Thurston County mitigation site	Thurston County (TC)	Thurston County	5	
		Wolf Haven	Wolf Haven	CNLM	33	
		Rocky Prairie NAP	WDNR	WDNR	47	
YPG (North)	**N/A**	Puget Sound Energy HCP mitigation site	Puget Sound Energy	Ecostudies Institute	10	
YPG (South)	**East of I-5**	Mazama Meadows	Thurston County	Thurston Conservation District	137	
		Violet Prairie Seed Farm	CNLM	CNLM	76	Note that only a portion of the site is managed for YPG.
		Violet Prairie (WDFW/TC)	WDFW/TC	WDFW/TC	300	
		Colvin Ranch (Conservation easement)	Private, w/easement	Landowner	450	Note that this is an *agricultural* easement that protects from development, but the site is not managed for YPG.
		PSE HCP mitigation site	Puget Sound Energy	Ecostudies Institute	5	
		The Kaufman HCP Leitner Prairie mitigation site	Kaufman Holdings	CNLM	36	

*** Area of occupied habitat determined from the best available information and does not necessarily represent total site acreage.**

Table 2. continued.

Subspecies (Recovery unit)	Recovery Sub-unit	Site Name	Ownership	Managed by	Area of occupied habitat (acres)*	Notes
YPG (South) continued	West of I-5	Scatter Creek N	WDFW	WDFW	314	
		Scatter Creek S	WDFW	WDFW	324	
		Puget Sound Energy HCP mitigation site	Puget Sound Energy	Ecostudies Institute	36	
	Frost Prairie	Wildridge Estates	Private, w/WDFW easement	Landowner	52	
YPG (East)	Tenalquot/Johnson/Weir Prairie	Tenalquot Prairie Preserve	The Nature Conservancy (w/WDFW easement)	CNLM	110	
		Deschutes Prairie Preserve	CNLM	CNLM	25	
		Weir Prairie (JBLM Training Areas 21 and 23)	JBLM	JBLM	1344	Note that this site is not conserved for the management of YPG, but JBLM's management plans and programs incentivize equivalent outcomes for recovery.
		Johnson Prairie (JBLM Training Areas 22)	JBLM	JBLM	222	Note that this site is not conserved for the management of YPG, but JBLM's management plans and programs incentivize equivalent outcomes for recovery.
	Yelm Prairie	No sites				

*** Area of occupied habitat determined from the best available information and does not necessarily represent total site acreage.**

Synthesis

After reviewing the best available scientific and commercial information, we conclude that the four listed subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher: Olympia pocket gopher, Roy Prairie pocket gopher, Tenino pocket gopher, and Yelm pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis, T. m. glacialis, T. m. tumuli,* and *T. m. yelmensis*) remain threatened. Some threats have not changed since the last update, while others like development have been partially addressed through conservation planning (HCPs, PBOs). The total amount of occupied habitat protected from development and managed to prevent degradation is increasing, though not yet adequate to support the long-term needs and recovery of the subspecies' populations. Although progress has been made in conserving habitat and reducing threats, the evaluation of the threats affecting the species under the factors in 4(a)(1) of the Act and analysis of the status of the species in our original listing review remains an accurate reflection of the subspecies' current status.

RESULTS

Recommended Classification:

____ **Downlist to Threatened**
____ **Uplist to Endangered**
____ **Delist** (*Indicate reasons for delisting per 50 CFR 424.11):*
  ____ *Extinction*
  ____ *Recovery*
  ____ *Original data for classification in error*
__X__ **No change is needed**

New Recovery Priority Number: No change

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

As identified in the recovery plan and recovery implementation strategy, the following actions should be prioritized:

(1) Strengthen outreach and cooperation with stakeholders and partner agencies. (Recovery Action 4, Activities 4.1 & 4.2)

(2) Review and approve additional habitat conservation plans for OPG and YPG. (Recovery Action 1, Activity 1.3 & 1.4)

(3) Continue implementation of permitted habitat conservation plans. (Recovery Action 1, Activity 1.3 & 1.4)

(4) Support land acquisition or easements of occupied sites for creation and protection of reserves. (Recovery Action 1, entire)

(5) Implement habitat restoration, maintenance and enhancement at reserves and other occupied sites. (Recovery Action 1, Activity 1.4; Recovery Action 3, Activity 3.10)

(6) Provide technical assistance to JBLM in implementation of their Conservation Crediting Program and Mission Sustainment Program. (Recovery Action 1, Activity 1.5, Recovery Action 2, Activities 2.7 & 2.8)

(7) Work with partners to refine and implement best management practices across the range of each subspecies. (Recovery Action 2, Activities 2.1, 2.5, 2.7-2.9)

(8) Monitor each subspecies' population to determine status and trend toward recovery. (Recovery Action 3, Activity 3.11)

(9) Prioritize research to identify and address

- limiting factors for Mazama pocket gophers and
- other recovery information needs. (Recovery Action 2, entire)

(10) If needed, create new local populations or increase population sizes on conserved lands. (Recovery Action 3, entire)

REFERENCES

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Krippner Consulting. 2018. The Preserve habitat conservation plan for the Olympia subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugentensis*) and the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) in Thurston County, Washington. Prepared for UCP Sagewood, LLC. August 2018. 146 pp.

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
5-YEAR REVIEW of 4 subspecies of Mazama Pocket Gopher:
Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama glacialis*)
Olympia Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama pugetensis*)
Tenino Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama tumuli*)
Yelm Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys mazama yelmensis*)

Current Classification: Threatened

Recommendation resulting from the 5-Year Review:

____ Downlist to Threatened
____ Uplist to Endangered
____ Delist (Indicate reasons for delisting per 50 CFR 424.11):
    ____ Extinction
    ____ Recovery
    ____ Original data for classification in error
_X_ No change needed

Appropriate Listing/Reclassification Priority Number, if applicable: NA

FIELD OFFICE APPROVAL:

ANN FROSCHAUER Digitally signed by ANN FROSCHAUER Date: 2025.09.17 14:26:32 -07'00'

_____ Date_____
Field Supervisor, Washington Ecological Services