

# Pygmy Rabbit

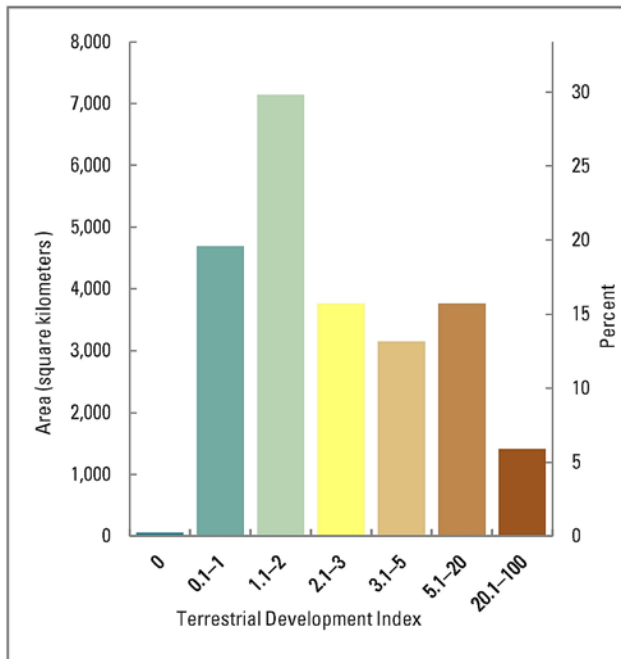
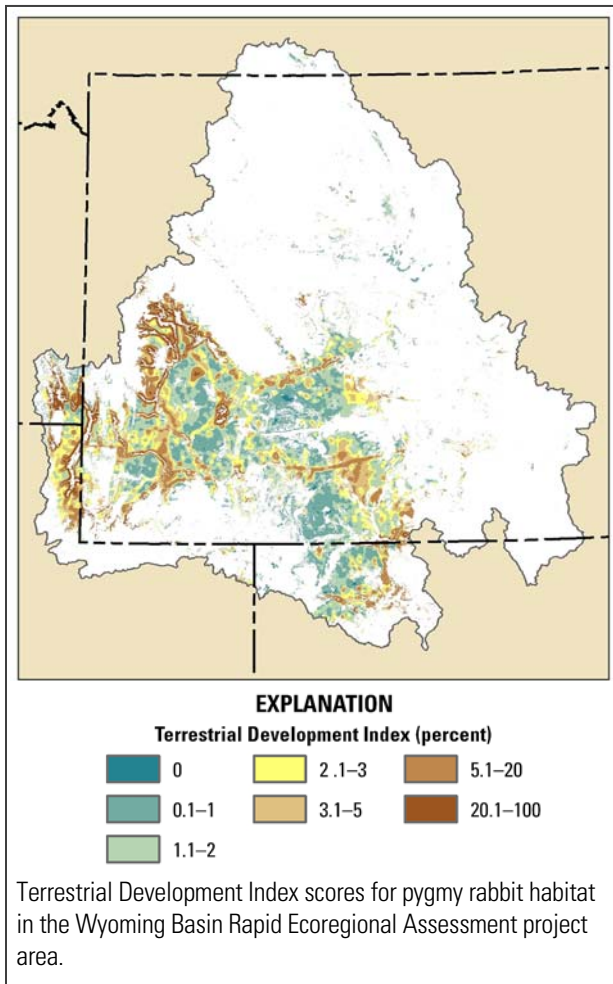
## Management Questions

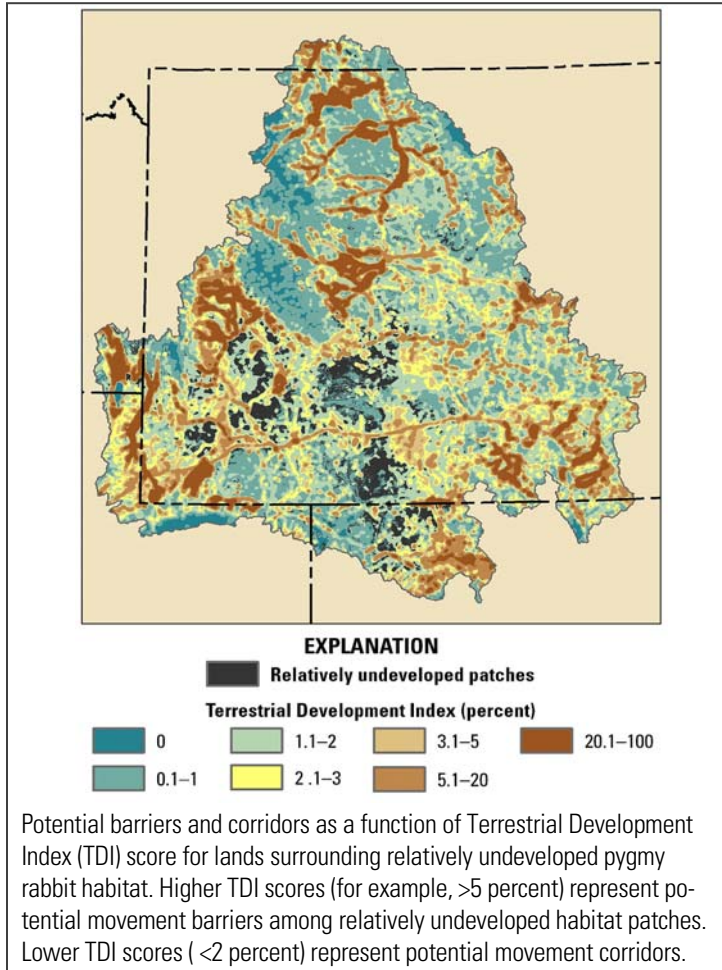
- Where is baseline pygmy rabbit habitat, and what is the total area?
- Where does development pose the greatest threat to baseline pygmy rabbit habitat, and where are the relatively undeveloped areas? (Left map below)
- How has development fragmented baseline pygmy rabbit habitat, and where are the large, relatively undeveloped patches?
- How has development affected structural connectivity of pygmy rabbit habitat relative to baseline conditions?
- Where are potential barriers and corridors that may affect animal movements among relatively undeveloped habitat patches? (Top left map following page)



Photo credit: Steve Germaine, U.S. Geological Survey.

- Where have recent fires occurred in baseline pygmy rabbit habitat, and what is the total area burned per year?
- How does risk from development vary by land ownership or jurisdiction for pygmy rabbit habitat?
- Where are the townships with the greatest landscape-level ecological values? (Top right map following page)
- Where are the townships with the greatest landscape-level risks? (Center right map following page)
- Where are the townships with the greatest conservation potential? (Bottom right map following page)

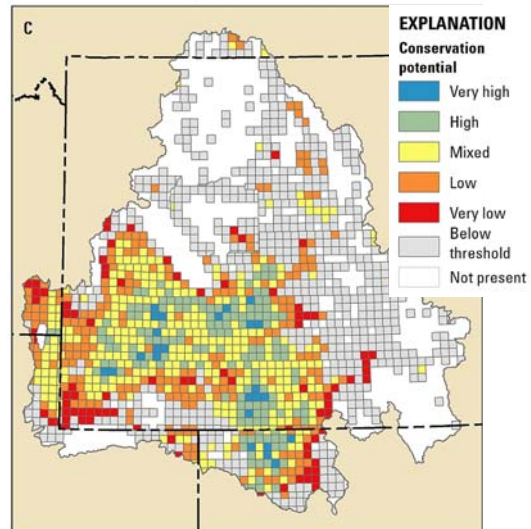
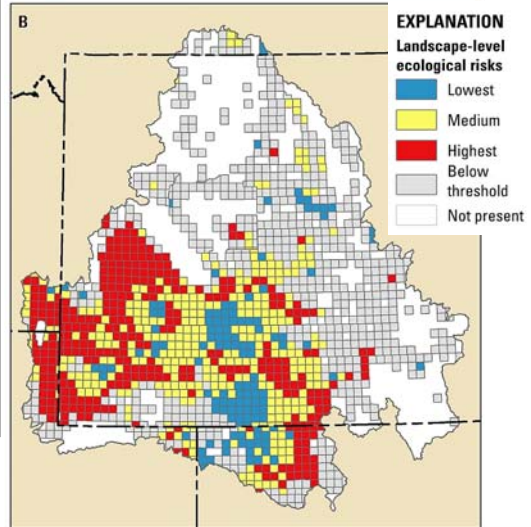
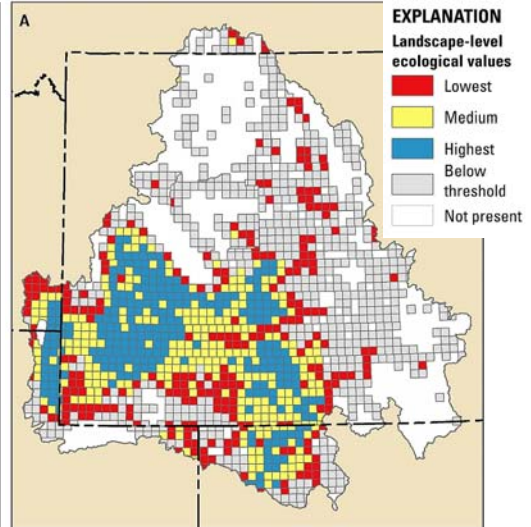




### Summary

Baseline pygmy rabbit habitat totals 23,950 square kilometers (9,247.2 square miles) or 13 percent of the Wyoming Basin Ecoregional Assessment project area. Approximately 20 percent of potential pygmy rabbit habitat is relatively undeveloped and 35 percent is highly developed. Development has effectively fragmented habitat into smaller patches relative to baseline conditions; approximately 8 percent of relatively undeveloped areas are in patches >100 square kilometers (38.6 square miles). The largest patches of relatively undeveloped habitat are west of Rock Springs and south of Rawlins. Development also has reduced structural connectivity of potential pygmy rabbit habitat and barriers may result from I-80 and the high density of roads and energy development south of Pinedale (fragmenting large, relatively undeveloped habitat). Pygmy rabbit dispersal may be impeded by high levels of development outside relatively undeveloped areas.

Most pygmy rabbit habitat is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 28 percent is on private land. Habitat on BLM lands is less developed and most of the habitat on private land occurs in a checkerboard distribution with BLM land. Many of the townships with the highest conservation potential for pygmy rabbit habitat occur within areas that may provide strongholds for sagebrush shrublands under projections of climate change.



(A) Landscape-level ecological values, (B) ecological risks, and (C) conservation potential of pygmy rabbit habitat summarized by township.