

# News Release

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office  
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## Service Announces Draft Recovery Plan for Mazama pocket gophers

*A partnership-based tool to facilitate species recovery actions*

LACEY, Wash. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is announcing the availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for four Subspecies of Mazama pocket gopher (Roy Prairie, Olympia, Tenino, and Yelm pocket gophers (*Thomomys mazama glacialis*, *T. m. pugetensis*, *T. m. tumuli*, and *T. m. yelmensis*) and a 60-day public comment period.

Working with our partners, the Service uses a range of conservation tools to recover threatened and endangered species. Recovery plans are one such tool, providing a roadmap for recovery of listed species in coordination with public and private partners. This Draft Recovery Plan promotes working to establish new habitat and maintain existing habitat for these and other prairie species in Thurston and Pierce Counties. A recovery plan provides guidance on how best to help listed species achieve recovery, but it is not a regulatory document. A copy of the Draft Recovery Plan can be found at: <https://www.fws.gov/wafwo/> or [here](#).

The four threatened subspecies of Mazama pocket gophers have experienced population declines primarily due to loss of prairie habitat in Thurston and Pierce Counties. For more information on the Mazama pocket gopher and its habitat, also see: [Introducing... The Mazama Pocket Gopher: The Story of 4 Threatened Subspecies in South Puget Sound, Washington.](#)

To request additional information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods. Comments must be postmarked or received by August 30, 2021:

- *U.S. mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o Tom McDowell, 510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102, Lacey, WA 98503.
- *Internet:* You may obtain copies of this notice and supporting documents online in Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2020-N133 at <http://www.regulations.gov/>, or at <https://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>. Comments can also be filed online at <http://www.regulations.gov> or sent to [WFWO\\_LR@fws.gov](mailto:WFWO_LR@fws.gov).

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