

Western Bat Working Group

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Species Accounts

Developed For the 1998 Reno Biennial Meeting

Updated at the 2005 Portland Biennial Meeting

Myotis keenii

KEEN'S MYOTIS

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I. DISTRIBUTION: *Myotis keenii*, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, has a very limited distribution, reaching from southeastern Alaska south along the coast and coastal islands of British Columbia to the area of Puget Sound in Washington. The winter range is unknown.

II. STATUS: Global Rank - G2G3. State Ranks: WA - SH; BC - S2?. *M. keenii* was designated rare in 1988 (WHERE?) in 1988; in 1990 the designation known as rare was changed to a new designation, vulnerable.

III. IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND LIFE HISTORY: *M. keenii* is an inhabitant of dense, mature forests. The only known maternity colony of 70 animals roosts under rocks heated by a natural hot spring. Other likely roost sites are hollow trees, rock crevices and small caves. This species has been observed foraging over hot spring pools, over shrubs, and possibly in the forest canopy, along the forest edge, and over ponds and clearings. Juveniles and lactating females have been observed in late July, suggesting young are born in late June or early July. This species has recently been discovered hibernating in a cave in British Columbia.

IV. THREATS: Habitat (roosting as well as foraging) loss through logging and forest fires seem to be the main limiting factors for Keen's long-eared bats. Old growth forests and riparian areas appear to be essential for continued viability of this species.

V. GAPS: Information is needed on *M. keenii* regarding the status of the species, size of population, biology, and ecology. There is little information on this species due to difficulties in field identification. *M. keenii* is virtually identical to *Myotis evotis* which has longer ears (3 mm longer) and very similar to *Myotis thysanodes* which has a fringe of hairs on the edge of the tail membrane and shorter ears.

VI. RELEVANT LITERATURE:

Chatwin, T.A., M. Davis, and D. Nagorsen. 1997. [ABS]. Bat usage of the Weymer Creek cave system on northern Vancouver Island, Canada. Bat Research News 38(3). In Press.

Nagorsen, D. W. and R. M. Brigham 1993. Bats of British Columbia. Vol. University of British Columbia Press, Vancouver, BC. 164 pp.

Parker, D.I., J.A. Cooko., and S.W. Lewis. 1996. Effects of timber harvest on bat activity in southeatern Alaska's temperate rainforests. Pp. 277-292 in R. M. R. Barclay and M. R. Brigham, eds. Bats and Forests Symposium, October 19-21, 1995, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Research Branch, Ministry of Forests, Victoria, British Columbia, Working Paper 23/1996.

van Zyll de Jong, C. G. 1985. Handbook of Canadian mammals. Vol. 2: Bats. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario. 212 pp.

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