

## Western Bat Working Group

<http://www.wbwg.org>

### Species Accounts

Developed For the 1998 Reno Biennial Meeting

Updated at the 2005 Portland Biennial Meeting

### *Myotis ciliolabrum*

### WESTERN SMALL-FOOTED MYOTIS

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I. DISTRIBUTION: *Myotis ciliolabrum*, a member of the Family Vespertilionidae, ranges across the western half of North America from British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan in Canada, throughout most of the United States west of the 100th Meridian, and into central Mexico.

II. STATUS: Global Rank - G5. State Ranks: AZ - S3; CA - S?; CO - S4; ID - S4; MT - S4; NM - S5; NV - S3; OR - S3; TX - S3; UT - S3S4; WA - S3; WY - S4; AL - S2; BC - S2S3. Former category 2 candidate species. U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management list as special status; generally regulated by state permit procedures.

III. IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS AND LIFE HISTORY: *M. ciliolabrum* is a small bat with a keeled calcar, small foot, black ears, and a black mask across the eyes and nose. Pelage varies from brown to pale yellow. *Myotis ciliolabrum* differs from *M. californicus*, which is sympatric and similar in appearance, by having a longer, broader, and flatter skull with a gradual slope from cranium to rostrum; overall it is a more robust bat. However, these two species are often difficult to distinguish in the field. *M. ciliolabrum* occurs in deserts, chaparral, riparian zones, and western coniferous forest; it is most common above piñon-juniper forest. Individuals are known to roost singly or in small groups in cliff and rock crevices, buildings, concrete overpasses, caves, and mines. They forage early in the evening, feeding on various small insects. Copulation takes place in the fall, with sperm being stored in females until spring when ovulation occurs. *M. ciliolabrum* produces one young per year in late spring or early summer. Individuals have been known to live up to 12 years. Older literature refers to this species as *M. subulatus* and *M. leibii*.

IV. THREATS: May be affected by closure of abandoned mines without adequate surveys and by recreational caving. Contaminant poisoning is a possibility.

V. GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE: No information known on population trends, and use and acceptance of bat gates. More information is needed on roosting and foraging requirements.

### VI. RELEVANT LITERATURE:

Bogan, M. A. 1974. Identification of *Myotis californicus* and *M. leibii* in southwestern North America. Proceedings Biological Society Washington 87:49-56.

Bogan, M. A. In Press. *Myotis ciliolabrum*. In: Mammals of North of America, D. E. Wilson, ed. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C.

van Zyll de Jong, C.G. 1984. Taxonomic relationships of Nearctic small-footed bats of the *Myotis leibii* group (Chiroptera:Vespertilionidae). Canadian Journal Zoology 62:2519-2526.

van Zyll de Jong, C.G. 1985. Handbook of Canadian mammals; 2, bats. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, 212 pp.

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