

MAMMALS



water shrew

(*Sorex palustris*)

DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE: Water shrews appear to be relatively uncommon throughout the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula, but accurate assessments of abundance are problematic to obtain due to the difficulty of capturing shrews and their restrictive habitat requirements.

ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE FEATURES: *aquatic:* small lakes; cold headwaters/small tributaries; headwaters/small tributaries; gradient: slow; gradient: moderate; gradient: fast; gradient: very fast; banks: rock; bog; ephemeral wetland; inland emergent wetland; swamp; rock substrates; woody structure; clear water; other (undercut bank or thick overhanging vegetation); *terrestrial:* lowland shrub; lowland conifer; bog; inland emergent wetland; submergent wetland; ephemeral wetland; pond; inland lake; river/stream/riparian/floodplain corridor; inland rock/cliff/ledge; down woody debris

ASSOCIATED THREATS: altered hydrologic regimes; thermal changes; conversion to agriculture lands; dredging & channelization; fragmentation; altered hydrologic regimes; forestry practices; pesticides & herbicides; urban, municipal, and industrial pollution; wetland modifications

COMMENTS: Need surveys to determine abundance and trends. Road building and other development may pose a significant threat. Populations are naturally fragmented. Because they largely feed on aquatic invertebrates, they may be affected by aquatic pollution.