

FACT SHEET

LEPUS MILLIPEDIS



HABITAT

Coniferous forests, extending into some deciduous forest types. Ground-dwelling, burrowing mammal associated with high-productivity ecosystems. Must have reliable perennial water supply. The species especially favors protected enclosures that are large enough to contain mosaiced patterns of vegetation patches. This may be because of its timid nature and need to seek protected foraging opportunities along the edge of vegetation patches.

The only known predator, *Predatoris vulgaris*, can have serious impacts on young, unestablished *L. millipedis* communities, where the natural community-behavior roles have not been fully developed. The species is most likely to attack during the many feeding periods of *L. millipedis*, often with devastating results.

PHYSICAL

Weighing 10 to as much as 15 kg, the species is multi-pedal variation on the common jackrabbit, mixed in with some DNA from several multi-pedal invertebrates. An obligate herbivore, *L. millipedis* thrives on succulent shoots of many shrub species found in forest areas. The gestation period is 10 weeks, with litters of 8 to 10 common. Leg counts range from 6 to 8. Fur colors include white and a rare black and white spotted color.

PRODUCTION VALUE

The species is know to have an excellent feed-conversion ratio, be incredibly prolific, improve ecosystem health, and provide quality recreational value for wildlife viewers. In initial studies, the antics entertained recreational enthusiasts at a level similar to the river otter. At the present time, there are markets for the meat, milk, and fur being investigated by market research firms. 0