Species: Snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*)
Global Rank: G5
State Rank: S3S4
State Wildlife Action Plant Priority:
Climate Change Vulnerability: Not Vulnerable/ Increase Likely
Confidence: Low

Habitat:

The snowshoe hare is most common in mountainous sections of the northern half of Pennsylvania. In the northwestern portion of the state, it inhabits high ridges marked by mountain laurel and rhododendron. In the Poconos, snowshoe hare favors mature forests with swamps and bogs at high elevations. In the Allegheny Mountains, the species is found on steep, heavily forested slopes of hemlock, rhododendron, and mountain laurel with a dense, brushy understory (Merritt 1987).

Threats:

The primary threats to this species are loss of habitat due to maturing forests and competition with large deer populations for food.

Main Factors Contributing to Vulnerability Rank:

The CCVI rank suggests that based on available evidence, snowshoe hare abundance and/or range extent within most of the northern half of Pennsylvania is likely to increase by 2050. It is possible that the species may shift northward and perhaps leave some of the range it occupies currently in Pennsylvania.

Literature Cited:

Merritt, J. E. 1987. Guide to the mammals of Pennsylvania. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA.