### Taxonomy

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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Account Type</strong></td>
<td>This account represents the entire species, including any and all subspecies recognized in the Southwest. There are no separate subspecies accounts relating to this species.</td>
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</table>

Note: If you have any questions, concerns or updates for this species, please click [HERE](http://bison-m.org/booklet.aspx?id=050395) and let us know.

Tip: Use Ctrl-F on your keyboard to search for text in this booklet.
**Taxonomic References** 01, 04, 12, 17, 19, 31

**Comments on Taxonomy**

NEW MEXICO: Two subspecies of plains harvest mouse have been confirmed in New Mexico: R.m. griseus (V. Bailey) and R.m. montanus. A third subspecies, R.m. albescens (Cary) might be expected. *17* There is confusion on how to classify Old World mice and rats, the New World mice and rats, and the microtines. The tendency is to regard all three groups as subfamilies of one family - Muridae. But for the purposes of the New Mexico system the Old World mice and rats will be placed in the family Muridae, and the New World (and a few Old World) mice and rats will be placed in the family Cricetidae.*19, 20* COLORADO: TYPE SPECIMEN OF R. M. WAS SUPPOSEDLY COLLECTED IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY. HOWEVER, THE PROVENANCE OF THE TYPE IS UNCERTAIN. R. M. HAS NOT BEEN CAPTURED IN THE SAN LUIS VALLEY SUBSEQUENTLY DESPITE CONCERTED COLLECTING. IT SEEMS REASONABLE THAT R. M. DOES NOT OCCUR IN THE VALLEY AND THAT THE HOLOTYPE WAS MIS-LABELLED, THEREFORE SUBSPECIES MONTANUS WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THIS ACCOUNT*01, 08, 09*.

**Legal Status** (section updated on 10/21/2008) Back to top

**Status**

- USFS Sensitive: Region 3 (NM,AZ) 47
- State NM: Provides limited protection 18
- State NM: Not a Game Species 18
- Heritage Global: Demonstrably Secure (G5) 28, 33
- Heritage NM: Apparently Secure in NM (S4) 39
- Heritage AZ: Uncommon or Restricted in AZ (S3) 28

**Concern**

No Data Submitted

**Comments on Legal Status**

1995: Reithrodontomys montanus was listed under the Natural Heritage Global Rank "G5" ("G5" = "Demonstrably Secure") (AGFD, 1995) *28*.

This listing was made on September 18, 1990 (NMNHP, 1997) *39*.

1996: The complete Natural Heritage Global Rank for the subspecies Reithrodontomys megalotis megalotis was "G5TH" (CNHP, 1996) *33*.

NEW MEXICO 1997: Reithrodontomys montanus was listed under the Natural Heritage NM State Rank "S4" ("S4" = "Apparently Secure") on August 5, 1991 (NMNHP, 1997) *39*.

ARIZONA 1995: Reithrodontomys montanus was listed under the Natural Heritage Arizona State Rank "S3" ("S3" = "Uncommon or Restricted") (AGFD, 1995) *28*.

2007: U.S. Forest Service included the species Reithrodontomys montanus its region 3 sensitive species list (USFS, 2007) *47*.

**Comments on Population Trends and Threats**
No Data Submitted

**Comments on Cultural Importance**
No Data Submitted

**Species Distribution**  (section updated on 9/21/2009)

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<tr>
<td>AZ: Extant</td>
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**New Mexico County Occurrence**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Abundance</th>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>References</th>
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<td>Chaves</td>
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<td>Curry</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
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**Accident County Occurrence**
No Data Submitted

**Historical County Occurrence**
No Data Submitted

**Expected County Occurrence**

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**Arizona County Occurrence**

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<td>Graham</td>
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<td>Greenlee</td>
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<td>Pinal</td>
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<td>Santa Cruz</td>
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**Hydrological Area**

No Data Submitted

**Historical Hydrological Area**

No Data Submitted

**Other Distribution - New Mexico**

**Land Unit**

FOREST SERVICE LANDS, NEW MEXICO
- USFS - CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST
- USFS - KIOWA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
- USFS - PIKE/SAN ISABEL N.F, USFS (REGION 2)
- USFS - CIMARRON NAT. GRASSLAND, SW KS
MILITARY LANDS, NEW MEXICO
- MILITARY LANDS - MCGREGOR RANGE
US NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES, USFWS, NEW MEXICO
- US NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES - MAXWELL

**Other Distribution References** - 13, 14, 24, 27, 45, 46

**Other Distribution - Arizona**

**Land Unit**

US FOREST SERVICE LANDS, ARIZONA
- CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
- PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

**Other Distribution Arizona References** - 27

**Mountain Range**

No Data Submitted

**Comments on Distribution**

NEW MEXICO 1975: In the Rio Grande Valley the species has been taken in well-developed grasses in the flood plain, and, in Hidalgo County, we took one in the grassland of the upper Animas Valley. Its distribution in central and western New Mexico may be patchy and discontinuous (Findley et al., 1975) *12*.

1990: Plains harvest mouse is found in the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge (Maxwell NWR, 1990) *13*.

1994: Plains harvest mouse is possibly found in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Hypothetical within range and habitat, may be found in short grass areas of refuge (Stolz and Najera, 1994) *14*.


http://bison-m.org/booklet.aspx?id=050395
ARIZONA 1986: Found in Chino, Skull, and Verde valleys, Santa Rosa Wash, and southeastern corner of Arizona, including the Sulpher Springs and San Pedro valleys. Several of these areas are located near the center portion of the state (Hoffmeister, 1986)*22*.

TEXAS 1987: This species is cited in northwestern Texas and so straddles the Texas/New Mexico border (Jones et al., 1987)*26*.

OKLAHOMA 1989: Reithrodontomys montanus occurs in Oklahoma (Tyler, 1989)*32*.

Comments on Prehistoric Distribution
No Data Submitted

Habitat Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Habitat</th>
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Comments on Habitat Associations

Indicator of Great Plains grasslands (Hafner, 1995)*31*.

Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gap Vegetation Type</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Gap Importance</th>
<th>References</th>
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<td>JUNIPER SAVANNA</td>
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<td>SCRUB</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAND SCRUB shinnery oak</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAND SCRUB sand sage/indigobush</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREAT BASIN sagebrush</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREAT BASIN rabbitbrush/winterfat/etc</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
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<td>CHIH DESERT creosotebush</td>
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<td>Casual Use</td>
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<td>MID-GRASS PRAIRIE sideoats/wheatgrass</td>
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<td>Important</td>
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<td>TALL GRASS PRAIRIE big/sand bluestem</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
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<td>CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND black grama</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND tabosa/sacaton</td>
<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
<td>Casual Use</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Yr-Rnd</td>
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</table>
Comments on Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

Plains harvest mice are typical of Plains-Mesa Grasslands in New Mexico (Frey and Yates, 1996) *34*.

Near Santa Rosa, this mouse was collected "among the mesquite bushes on the flats. ... It occupies the grassy prairies and field borders and seems to have much the same habits as the other species of harvest mice (Bailey, 1931) *41* This is the rarest of the harvest mice occurring in the Trans-Pecos. It has been recorded from Jeff Davis and Presidio counties, where it occurs in the shortgrass association surrounding the Davis Mountains at elevations as high as fifty-two hundred feet (Schmidley, 1977) *42*.

The plains harvest mouse is a species of semiarid grasslands in the central and southern Great Plains. It favors well-developed grass and forb cover of low or moderate height or pastures where scattered rock provide cover. In eastern Colorado, Moulton et al. (1981, a, b) found the species in ungrazed and grazed grassland, in silvery wormwood prairie, and in grazed riparian areas. Mohamed (1989) found it in moderately grazed yucca-grassland communities on sandy soils in Weld county. In southeastern Wyoming, it was commoner on sites with less than 40 percent bare ground (Maxwell and Brown 1968). This mouse is also found in margins of croplands along fence rows and in similar disturbed but productive weedy habitats, but it is not as common in such areas as the western harvest mouse (Fitzgerald, Meaney, and Armstrong, 1994) *43*.

In the more xeric areas of western Oklahoma, Marin and Preston (1970) found R. montanus to be common (12.5 percent of all individuals collected in a live-trap study) on the mesquite plains in Harmon county. ... Other habitats from which R. montanus has also been collected include the edge of grain fields and from intermontane meadows in the Witchita Mountains (Hays, 19568; Glass and Halloran, 1961) (Caire, Tyler, Glass, and Mares, 1989) *44*.

Land Use / Land Cover Associations

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<td>Cropland and Pasture</td>
<td>12?, 01?, 06?, 07?</td>
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<td>12?, 01?, 06?, 07?</td>
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Comments on Land Use / Land Cover Associations

No Data Submitted

National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted

Comments on National Wetlands Inventory

No Data Submitted
**Habitat SAF**
No Data Submitted

**Habitat PNV**

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**Habitat Eco Regions**

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<td>Mexican Highlands-Shrub Steppe</td>
<td>01?</td>
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<td>CO Plateau: Grama-Galleta Steppe/Juniper-Pinyon Woodland Mosaic</td>
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**Habitat Life Zones**

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<td>UPPER SONORAN: PINYON-JUNIPER</td>
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**Comments on General Habitat Associations**

This mouse is restricted to grassland. It often nests under stones in pasture associated with prickly pear cactus and some weedy species *06, 07*.

This is a mouse of short and mid-grass prairie. In New Mexico the animals seem to become uncommon as aridity increases and continuous grass cover dwindles. In the Rio Grande Valley the species has been taken in well-developed grasses in the flood plain, and, in Hidalgo County, we took one in the grassland of the upper Animas Valley *12*.

Arizona Plains harvest mice in Arizona live in xeric conditions, often where there is mesquite, creosote bush, tumbleweeds, some grass, and usually in desert-scrub or chaparral. At a place 9 mi N Douglas, Cochise County, traps were set in a dry area with mesquite and creosote bush with some grass in shallow swales where water accumulated infrequently. We took a plains harvest mouse at one location with brush, cottonwood logs, and tall weeds *22*.

**Food Habits**

**Trophic**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INVERTIVORE-eats invertebrates</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMNIVORE-eats plants and animals</td>
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**Trophic Comments**

No Data Submitted

**LifeStage**

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<td>VASCULAR PLANTS:</td>
<td>Leaves/Needles</td>
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<td>Fruit/Seeds/Cones</td>
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http://bison-m.org/booklet.aspx?id=050395
### LifeStage References

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<tr>
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<td>07, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>07, 10</td>
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**Comments on Food Habits - General**

DIET CONSISTS MOSTLY OF SEEDS, BUT FOLIAGE AND INSECTS ALSO EATEN*07, 10*

**Comments on Food Habits - Important**

No Data Submitted

**Comments on Food Habits - Adult**

No Data Submitted

**Comments on Food Habits - Juvenile**

No Data Submitted

**Comments on Food Habits - Larval**

No Data Submitted

### Environmental Associations

**LifeStage** | **Environmental Associations**
--- | ---
Breeding Adult | Livestock Grazing: Associated with rangeland
Breeding Adult | Livestock Grazing: Specified in Comments
General | Vegetation Mosaics/Edges: Specified in Comments
General | Movement Corridors: Continuous cover required
General | Movement Corridors: Specified in Comments
General | See Comments On Environmental Associations
General | Elevation: 4001-5000 ft. (1220 - 1520 m)
General | Elevation: 5001-6000 ft. (1520 - 1830 m)
General | Human Association: Wildlife refuges/sanctuaries
General | Human Association: Specified in Comments
General | Water Level: Seasonally/Intermittently flooded
General | Riparian Habitat: Specified in Comments
General | Desert: Desert Scrub
General | Grassland: Prairies - flat, grassy plain; tall grasses
General | Grassland: Climax (USFS class:Excellent)
General | Grassland: Specified in Comments
General | Veg. Successional Stage: Specified in Comments
### Comments on General Environmental Associations

OFTEN SYMPATRIC WITH *R. MEGALOTIS* BUT IS FOUND IN DRIER MORE OPEN HABITAT THAN THE LATTER*06, 07*.

This is a mouse of short and mid-grass prairie. In New Mexico the animals seem to become uncommon as aridity increases and continuous grass cover dwindles. In the Rio Grande Valley the species has been taken in well-developed grasses in the flood plain, and, in Hidalgo County, we took one in the grassland of the upper Animas Valley*12*.

Plains harvest mouse is found in the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge *13*.

Plains harvest mouse is found in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge *14*.

ARIZONA Plains harvest mice in Arizona live in xeric conditions, often where there is mesquite, creosote bush, tumbleweeds, some grass, and usually in desert scrub or chaparral *22*.

### Comments on Limiting Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Breeding Adult Environmental Associations

RESTRICTED TO GRASSLAND, OFTEN NESTS UNDER STONES IN PASTURE ASSOCIATED WITH PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS AND SOME WEEDY SPECIES*06, 07*.

### Comments on Feeding Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Resting Adult Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Resting Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Feeding Juvenile Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted

### Comments on Larvae Environmental Associations

No Data Submitted
Comments on Resting Larvae Environmental Associations
No Data Submitted

Comments on Feeding Larvae Environmental Associations
No Data Submitted

Comments on Pupa Environmental Associations
No Data Submitted

Comments on Egg Environmental Associations
No Data Submitted

Life History

Description

THIS IS A SMALL MOUSE WITH A LONG TAIL. IT CLOSELY RESEMBLES R. MEGALOTIS BUT IS DISTINGUISHED BY A MORE NARROW CAUDAL STRIPE, ABOUT ONE-FOURTH DIAMETER OF TAIL, MORE WELL-DEFINED DORSAL STRIPE, RELATIVELY SHORT ROSTRUM, AND CONDYLOBASAL LENGTH LESS THAN 19 MM. BOTH SPECIES HAVE GROOVED FACES ON UPPER INCISORS. THE DORSUM IS GRAYISH BROWN WITH A DARK MEDIAL STRIPE, AND UNDERPARTS ARE WHITE \textbf{01, 07, 10}.

THE EXTERNAL MEASUREMENTS OF THREE MALES FROM YUMA COUNTY AND A FEMALE FROM LOGAN CO. ARE LENGTH, 136, 132, 127, 122: TAIL, 67, 59, 53, 53: HINDFOOT, 16, 17, 15, 16: EAR, 14, 13, 12, 14. SKULL MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHTS OF THREE MALES FROM YUMA CO., GREATEST LENGTH OF SKULL, 20.8, 20.6, 19.9: CONDYLOBASAL LENGHT, 19.1, 18.9, 18.3: ZYSOMATIC BREADTH, 10.9, 10.9, 10.7: WEIGHTS, 11.2, 12.9, 10.6 \textbf{01, 07, 10}.

Reithrodontomys montanus is distinguished from R. megalotis only with great difficulty. Identification should be confirmed by a specialist \textbf{12}.

ARIZONA A small-sized Reithrodontomys with C-shaped upper third molars in which the dorsal tail stripe is usually narrow; tail short, usually less than 60 mm, length of tail usually between 74 and 91 percent of body length (average, 83.1 percent); body small, usually less than 68 mm; cranium short, but with a relatively broad though short rostrum; greatest length of skull usually less than 20 mm; skull narrow, as across zygomatic arches and braincase; baculum short \textbf{22}.

Reproduction

THE BREEDING SEASON OCCURS IN WARMER MONTHS; FEBRUARY-NOVEMBER IN OKLAHOMA. THE GESTATION PERIOD IS 21-22 DAYS. SEXUAL MATURITY OCCURS AT 3 MONTHS. THE BREEDING BEHAVIOR IS POLYESTROUS WITH POSTPARTUM HEAT. THE LITTER SIZE RANGES 2-5, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 3 \textbf{07, 10}.

THEY OFTEN NEST BENEATH ROCKS. THE YOUNG ARE HIGHLY ALTRICIAL AND THE FEMALE TAKES CARE OF THEM. THE WEIGHT AT BIRTH IS 1.0-1.3 GM, AND WEANING DAY AT 14 \textbf{07, 10}.

Behavior

THEY SHOW HIGH TOLERANCE. THE HOME RANGE IS ABOUT ONE-HALF ACRE. THEY ARE NOT MIGRATORY. THEY ARE NOCTURNAL AND DO NOT HIBERNATE \textbf{16} ARIZONA This is a trap-shy species, often taking several consecutive trap-nights before a specimen is caught. At no place have we ever caught more than three plains harvest, even in several
nights of trapping *22*.

("Trap-ability" or population density?): Traps were set in a dry area with mesquite and creosote bush with some grass in shallow swales where water accumulated infrequently. Although trapping started on April 23, the one plains harvest mouse caught here was not taken until April 28. At no place have we ever caught more than three plains harvest mice, even in several nights of trapping *22*.

**Species Origin**

No Data Submitted

**Limiting Factors**

THEY ARE LIMITED TO DRIER, UPLAND GRASSLAND *06, 07*

**Population Attributes**

("Trap-ability" or population density?): Traps were set in a dry area with mesquite and creosote bush with some grass in shallow swales where water accumulated infrequently. Although trapping started on April 23, the one plains harvest mouse caught here was not taken until April 28. At no place have we ever caught more than three plains harvest mice, even in several nights of trapping *22*.

**Life History Codes**

Origin: Native to NM

Gestation/Incubation Period: 3-4 weeks (15-28 days)

Gestation/Incubation Period: Specified in Comments

Reproduction: Viviparous/Ovoviviparous (live bearing)

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: 2

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: 3-4

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: 5-7

Offspring per Reproductive Effort: Specified in comments

Development of Young at Birth/Hatching: Altricial

Parental Care of Young: Female

Birthing/Egg Laying Site: Under rocks/rock outcrops

Activity Pattern: Nocturnal - Active at night

Activity Period: Specified in Comments

Home Range Size: 0.25 - 1 ac. (0.1 - 0.4 ha)

Home Range Size: Specified in Comments

**Life History Code References - 07, 10, 16, 22, 38**

**Comments on Life History Codes**

+1199+ THE GESTATION PERIOD IS 21-22 DAYS *07, 10*.

+2199+ THE LITTER SIZE RANGES 2-5, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 3 *07, 10*.
THEY ARE NOCTURNAL AND DO NOT HIBERNATE. *

THE HOME RANGE IS ABOUT ONE-HALF ACRE.

Comments on Species Association

BROADLY SYMPATRIC WITH R. MEGALOTIS IN EASTERN COLORADO (and Arizona), BUT HABITAT SEGREGATION OCCURS WITH R. MEGALOTIS PREFERENCES SLIGHTLY MOISTER, CONDITIONS, WITH TALLER, MORE DENSE VEGETATION WHILE R. MONTANUS UTILIZES DRYER, MORE OPEN GRASSLAND WHICH INCLUDES PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS.

Wildlife Disease and Parasites

No Data Submitted

Comments on Disease

No Data Submitted

Management Practices

Comments on Special or Standard Techniques

Young weigh about 1 gram at birth, eyes open in about eight days, and young are weaned at two weeks. They attain much of their growth by five weeks and sexual maturity at about two months (Davis, 1966:180).

Effects

Management Action

Adverse

ADC: Zinc Phosphide, below ground (grain bait)

Adverse

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC) Chemical

Adverse

Habitat; large trees - den/nest/roost

Adverse

ADC: Zinc Phosphide, above ground (grain bait)

Beneficial

Wildl. Mgt; regulate take:

- amt/method/season/age/sex

Beneficial

Veg Seral stage; early

Effects

References

Adverse

07, 36, 37

Beneficial

07

Comments on Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Animal Damage Control Methods

NOTE: The BISON-M coding of potential impacts of ADC practices (e.g., M-44’s, traps, snares and poisons) in the “RESULTS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES” (MGT.FIELD & MGT fields) section, assumes the practice occurs in occupied habitat and is applied without mitigation. For more information, contact Jon Klingel, Conservation Services Division, NM Dept of Game and Fish. Santa Fe, NM. Zinc phosphide is highly toxic to rodents (USDA, 1994)*36* and (Johnson and Fagerstone, 1994)*37*. 

http://bison-m.org/booklet.aspx?id=050395
### Comments on Recommended Management Practices
No Data Submitted

### Comments on Historical Management Practices
No Data Submitted

### Comments on Population Status
No Data Submitted

### References

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2 - HESS, D., ED. 1977. TODAY'S STRATEGY---TOMORROW'S WILDLIFE. COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, DENVER, 96 PP.

3 - BISSELL, S.J., ED. 1982. COLORADO MANNAL DISTRIBUTION LATILONG STUDY. COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE, DENVER, 24 PP.

4 - HALL, E.R. 1981. THE MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA. JOHN WILEY AND SONS, N.Y., 2 VOLS.


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11 - WTFHR APPENDIX.


15 - Species list of Mammals in Socorro County, New Mexico. Compiled by Marikay Ramsey.

16 - Information from Colorado database. Reference(s) not available. Coordinator in Colorado is Donald Schrupp, 6060 North Bradway, Denver, CO. 80216. Phone (303) 291-7277.


18 - New Mexico Statutes Annotated Chapter 17, Game and Fish, Pamphlet #33, 1988, Replacement Pamphlet, 17-2-3. Protected wildlife species and game fish defined. Michie Co., Law Publishers, Charlottesville, VA.


21 - Distribution of Mammals. Database from the Museum of Southwestern Biology. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM.


29 - Klingel, Jon T. Biologist, Conservation Services Division, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM. Personal Communication September, 1995.


31 - Hafner, David J. December, 1995. New Mexico Museum of Natural History. 1801 Mountain Road NW. Albuquerque, NM 87104. Personal communication. (BISON-M species account partially reviewed)


33 - Colorado Natural Heritage Program. 1996. Colorado's Natural Heritage: Rare and Imperiled Animals, Plants, and...

35 - Arizona Game and Fish Department. June, 1996. Natural Heritage Program. Phoenix, AZ.


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999 - BISON-M. This reference information came from the BISON-M (Biota Information System of NM) database. The information was derived directly from data in this species account. See other references in this account for data verification.