

Species of the Month

Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

Perognathus longimembris brevinasus



Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

- One of the smallest species of pocket mouse weighing 8-11 grams and is about 4.5 in long
- Fur is buff above and white below, and is black tipped which gives them a “salt and pepper” appearance
- Have hairs on their back toes which help them move through sandy soil
- State species of special concern
- Historically occurred in the coastal basins of southern California, from the San Fernando Valley east to Cabazon, south through the San Jacinto and Temecula Valleys to Aguanga, Warner Pass, Vail, and Temecula



Los Angeles Pocket Mouse

- Habitat consists of sandy soils in washes, uplands, and sand dune ecosystems
- Are fossorial, meaning they burrow underground
- Eat seeds which they store in fur lined cheek pouches
- Will store seeds underground for future use
- Are nocturnal and are most active during warmer months
- Will go into hibernation when it gets cold



Species Objectives

- Include within the MSHCP Conservation Area, at least 14,000 acres of suitable habitat for the Los Angeles pocket mouse with at least 2,000 acres within each of seven Core Areas within the MSHCP Conservation Area
- Currently there are 18,460 acres of conservation within the Core Areas, with two of the Core Area having over 2,000 acres of conservation
- Include within the MSHCP Conservation Area at least 10,000 acres of suitable habitat for the Los Angeles pocket mouse outside of the probable Core Areas identified, but within the Criteria Area
- Currently there are 2,795 acres of conservation outside of the Core Areas, but within the Criteria Area
- Surveys for Los Angeles pocket mouse will be conducted as part of the project review process for public and private projects within the mammal species survey area where suitable habitat is present

Species Objectives cont.

- Within the MSHCP Conservation Area, Reserve Managers shall demonstrate that each of the seven Core Areas supports a stable or increasing population that occupies at least 30 percent of the suitable habitat measured over any 8-consecutive year period
- The monitoring crew has found LAPM in 4 of the 7 core areas, surveys are planned for 2021 and 2022 in order to meet the monitoring objective for this species



Thank You



Steven Mcsweeney