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Booklet data last updated on 9/21/2009

Mouse, Harvest, Plains

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Taxonomy

Species IDa

050395

Name

Mouse, Harvest, Plains

Other Common No Data Submitted

Names

Category

05 Mammals

Elcode

AMAFF02010

BLM Code

REMO

Phylum

Chordata

Subphylum

Vertebrata

Class

Mammalia

Subclass

Theria

Order

Rodentia

SubOrder

Myomorpha

Family

Muridae

Genus

Reithrodontomys

Species

montanus

Subspecies

montanus (NM); griseus

(NM)

Authority

(Baird)

Scientific Name Reithrodontomys montanus

Account Type

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.



Click here to search Google for images of this species.

Taxonomic 01, 04, 12, 17, 19, 31
References

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)

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References
47
18
18
28, 33
39
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Concern References

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 Submitte	ed						
Comments on C	ultural I	mportance					
No Data Submitte	ed						
Species Distrib	ution (s	ection updat	ed on 9/21/20	09)			Back to top
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NM: Extant					12		
AZ: Extant					28		
CO: Species occu	urs(ed)				33		
TX: Species occu	urs(ed)				30		
OK: Species occu	urs(ed)				32		
New Mexico Cou	unty Occ	urrence					
County	Data	Season	Regular	Abundance	Behavior	References	
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Chaves						12	
Colfax						12, 48	
Curry						12	
De Baca						12, 21	
Guadalupe						12, 21	
Hidalgo						12, 21, 48	
Lea						12	
Lincoln						12	
Roosevelt						12	
Sandoval						12, 21	
San Miguel						12, 21	
Socorro						12, 21, 15	
Torrance						12, 21	
Union						21	
Valencia						12	
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Accident County	y Occurre	ence					
No Data Submitte	ed						
Historical Count		rence					
No Data Submitte							
Expected Count	y Occurr	ence					

No Data Submitted

Arizona County Occurrence

County	Data	References
Cochise		35
Graham		35
Greenlee		35
Pinal		35
Santa Cruz		35

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*.

2004: The species Reithrodontomys montanus occurs in Hidalgo and Colfax counties (Frey, 2004) *48*.

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 Back to top

General Habitat	References
TERRESTRIAL	01?
TERRESTRIAL	07?
LOWLANDS	40

Comments on Habitat Associations

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

Gap Analysis Habitat Associations

Gap Vegetation Type	Season	Gap Importance	References
WOODLANDS	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
JUNIPER SAVANNA	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
SCRUB	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
SAND SCRUB shinnery oak	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
SAND SCRUB sand sage/indigobush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
GREAT BASIN sagebrush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
GREAT BASIN rabbitbrush/winterfat/etc	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
CHIH DESERT creosotebush	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	22
CHIH DESERT tarbush/mesquite/ocotillo	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	22, 41
GRASS	Yr-Rnd	Important	999
SHORT GRASS STEPPE gramma+buffalograss	Yr-Rnd	Important	12, 34, 42, 43, 44
MID-GRASS PRAIRIE sideoats/wheatgrass	Yr-Rnd	Important	12
TALL GRASS PRAIRIE big/sand bluestem	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40
CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND black grama	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	22
CHIH DESERT GRASSLAND tabosa/sacaton	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	22
RIPARIAN	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999

AGRICULTURAL: DRYLAND Yr-Rnd Casual Use 999 AGRICULTURAL: DRYLAND Yr-Rnd Casual Use 41, 43, 44 Vr-Rnd URBAN Yr-Rnd Casual Use 999 URBAN: VEGETATED Yr-Rnd Casual Use 999 Vr-Rnd Casual Use 40	LOWLAND RIPARIAN cottonwood/sycamore	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	22
AGRICULTURAL: IRRIGATED Yr-Rnd Casual Use 41, 43, 44 URBAN Yr-Rnd Casual Use 999	AGRICULTURAL	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
URBAN Yr-Rnd Casual Use 999	AGRICULTURAL: DRYLAND	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	41, 43, 44
	AGRICULTURAL: IRRIGATED	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	41, 43, 44
URBAN: VEGETATED Yr-Rnd Casual Use 40	URBAN	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	999
	URBAN: VEGETATED	Yr-Rnd	Casual Use	40

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

Land Use / Land Cover	References
Agricultural Land	12?, 01?, 06?, 07?
Cropland and Pasture	12?, 01?, 06?, 07?
Rangeland	12?, 01?, 06?, 07?
Herbaceous Rangeland	12?, 01?, 06?, 07?

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

Eco Pogion

PNV References

Grama-Buffalo Grass (Bouteloua-Buchloe) 01?

Habitat Eco Regions

Eco Region	References
Great Plains-Short Grass Prairie: Grama-Buffalo Grass	01?

Mexican Highlands-Shrub Steppe

CO Plateau: Grama-Galleta Steppe/Juniper-Pinyon Woodland Mosaic 01?

Habitat Life Zones

Life Zone References

UPPER SONORAN: PINYON-JUNIPER 22

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*.

01?

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 plam, 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*.

Back to top **Food Habits**

Trophic References **INVERTIVORE-eats invertebrates** 999

OMNIVORE-eats plants and animals 07

Trophic Comments

No Data Submitted

LifeStage	Food Item Consumed	Part of Food Item
General	VASCULAR PLANTS:	Leaves/Needles
Important	VASCULAR PLANTS:	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	VASCULAR PLANTS:	Fruit/Seeds/Cones
General	Insecta	Not Specified

LifeStage	References
General	10, 07
Important	07, 10
Adult	07, 10
Adult	07, 10

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 Back to top

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 Back to top

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 *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 *01, 07, 10*.

Reithrodontomys montanus is distinguished from R. megalotis only with great difficulty. Identification should be confirmed by a specialist *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 *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 *07, 10*.

THEY OFTEN NEST BENEATH ROCKS. THE YOUNG ARE HIGHLY ALTRICIAL AND THE FEMALE TAKES CARE OF THEM. BTHE WEIGHT AT BIRTH IS 1.0-1.3 GM, AND WEANING DAY AT 14 *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 *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

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+1199+ THE GESTATION PERIOD IS 21-22 DAYS *07, 10*.
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+2199+ THE LITTER SIZE RANGES 2-5, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 3 *07, 10*.

+5399+ THEY ARE NOCTURNAL AND DO NOT HIBERNATE *16*.

+8199+ THE HOME RANGE IS ABOUT ONE-HALF ACRE *16*.

Comments on Species Association

BROADLY SYMPATRIC WITH R. MEGALOTIS IN EASTERN COLORADO (and Arizona), BUT HABITAT SEGREGATION OCCURS WITH R. MEGALOTIS PREFERRING SLIGHTLY MOISTER, CONDITIONS, WITH TALLER, MORE DENSE VEGETATION WHILE R. MONTANUS UTILIZES DRYER, MORE OPEN GRASSLAND WHICH INCLUDES PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS *06, 07, 22*.

Wildlife Disease and Parasites

No Data Submitted

Comments on Disease

No Data Submitted

Management Practices Back to top

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) *22*.

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

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*.

Comments on Recommended Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Historical Management Practices

No Data Submitted

Comments on Population Status

No Data Submitted

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- 16 Information from Colorado data base. Reference(s) not available. Coordinator in Colorado is Donald Schrupp, 6060 North Bradway, Denver, CO. 80216. Phone (303) 291-7277.
- 17 New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish Endangered Species Program. 1990. Checklist of the native mammals of New Mexico. September 12, 1990. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
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