CHISEL-TOOTHED KANGAROO RAT  
(DIPODOMYS MICROPS)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G4 / not listed under the ESA.

Distribution: Species found throughout most of NV and extending into southeast OR, eastern CA, western UT and northwest AZ; subspecies D.m.leucotis is limited to Marble Canyon and House Rock Valley of Coconino County, AZ. Only known population on Navajo Nation is near Navajo Bridge of Marble Canyon; potential range is likely restricted to upper Marble Canyon area.

Habitat: Construct burrow system with multiple entrances on a discrete, raised mound (2-4 m diameter) in Great Basin desertscrub habitat with open, sandy areas and vegetation dominated by sparse grasses, shadscale, four-wing saltbush, or blackbrush. Preferred areas have surface soils with rock or gravel component, and are relatively undisturbed by cattle grazing.

Similar Species: Dipodomys ordii is shorter in hind-foot (40 vs. 43 mm), tail (137 vs. 164 mm), and total lengths (245 vs. 280 mm); and faces of lower-incisors are rounded rather than flat and broad; Dipodomys spectabilis has four toes on hind foot; all Perognathus spp. (pocket mice) have shorter body and hind feet and no white fur on hips and sides of tail.

Phenology:
c.MAY-l.SEP: pregnancy, birthing, lactating of young
l.SEP-c.MAY: non-breeding season

Survey Method: ≥1 pedestrian survey for habitat evaluation and presence of burrows/mounds; live-trapping necessary for species identification.

Avoidance: Recommended no activity (year-round) within 60 m of occupied habitat that could result in destruction of burrows/mounds and take of individuals.

References: