

**BANNER-TAILED KANGAROO RAT**  
**(*DIPODOMYS SPECTABILIS*)**

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G4<sup>3</sup> / not listed under the ESA.

**Distribution:** Range includes most of NM, southeast AZ, western TX, and northern Mexico, with small populations of the subspecies, *D.s.baileyi*, in northern AZ. Occupied range on the Navajo Nation includes small remnant populations just west of Chinle and possibly near Navajo Mountain, with patches of the desertlands of in NM also being occupied. Potential range includes all desertlands east of the Chuska Mountains, and east and north of Black Mesa in Apache Co., AZ and San Juan Co., UT.

**Habitat:** Construct elaborate, distinctive burrow system usually with 3-12 burrow openings on a discrete, raised ( $\leq 1.2$  m tall) mound (1.5-4.5 m diameter) in Great Basin desert grassland or desertscrub, preferring areas with heavier soils than other *Dipodomys*. Presence of grasses is necessary, but habitats at the extremes of vegetation density and height are avoided. Burrow openings are invariably larger than necessary for size of animal.

**Similar Species:** All other *Dipodomys* are smaller in size, have five toes on hind foot, and black-tipped tails (*D.spectabilis* has four toes on hind foot that is usually  $> 45$ mm, and distal half of black tail is conspicuously white). *D.ordii* and *D.microps* hind-foot lengths are 36-43 mm and 42-45 mm, respectively; *D.microps* also has flat and broad faces of lower-incisors. All *Perognathus* spp. (pocket mice) have shorter body and hind feet and no white fur on hips and sides of tail.

**Phenology:**

- e.JAN-l.SEP: mating (peak percentage of pregnant females in APR)
- l.JAN-m.SEP: birthing of young (1-3 litters/year)
- year-round: mostly nocturnal, non-hibernating

**Survey Method:**  $\geq 1$  pedestrian survey for habitat evaluation and presence of burrows/mounds; live-trapping may be necessary for species identification; den mounds should be sufficiently distinctive for species identification (see Hoffmeister, p.307).

**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:**

- Hoffmeister, D.F. 1986. Mammals of Arizona. University of Arizona Press. (description p.305)  
 Vorhies, C.T. and W.P. Taylor. 1922. Life History of the Kangaroo Rat. U.S.D.A. Bulletin No.1091.  
 Project Gutenberg E-Book #17966.

<sup>3</sup>The NESL G4- candidate status applies only to the population(s) in Arizona; the species is not listed on the NESL for populations east of the Chuska Mountain in New Mexico.