

NAVAJO MOUNTAIN VOLE
(*MICROTUS MOGOLLONENSIS*)

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

Distribution: Range of *M.mogollonensis* is AZ, NM and Mexico with small populations in southern UT, CO, and TX. *M.m.navaho* range extends from Williams, AZ to Mesa Verde, CO, including four locations on Navajo Nation: Navajo Mountain, Black Mesa, Defiance Plateau, and Chuska Mountains.

Habitat: Typically occupy dry grassy vegetation in conifer forests, with variations including: dense prostrate shrub patches in ponderosa pine forests (Navajo Mountain); monotypic sagebrush stands, thick grasses in greasewood/ desert-olive stands and juniper stands, shrubby tamarisk thickets and chained pinyon and juniper woodlands (Black Mesa); and clear-cut pine flats with regenerating grasses and scattered oak (Chuska Mountains). Ground cover vegetation is necessary.

Similar Species: *Clethrionomys gapperi* has reddish fur on dorsum; *Microtus montanus* and *M. longicaudus* have slightly longer tails and four pair of mammary glands.

Phenology:

m.APR-l.AUG: pregnancy, birthing, lactating of young
e.SEP-m.APR: non-breeding season

Survey Method: ≥1 pedestrian survey for habitat evaluation and presence of runways; species identification requires live-trapping.

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

References:

- Frey, J.K. and C.T. LaRue. 1993. Notes on the distribution of the mogollon vole (*Microtus mogollonensis*) in New Mexico and Arizona. Southwestern Naturalist 38:176-178.
- Hoffmeister, D.F. 1986. Mammals of Arizona. University of Arizona Press. (description p.441).
- Spicer, R.B. 1987. Status of the Navajo Mountain Mexican vole (*Microtus mexicanus navaho* Benson) along the Arizona-Utah border. Arizona Game & Fish Dept., Phoenix.