

ARIZONA (WUPATKI) POCKET MOUSE
(*PEROGNATHUS AMPLUS*)

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

Distribution: Species range includes southwestern half of AZ and extreme northwestern Mexico. *P.a.cineris* occupies smaller disjunct range of a narrow swath of western Navajo Nation from northern Echo Cliffs south to Wupatki National Monument near Flagstaff, AZ. Potential range on Navajo Nation likely extends from the Colorado River (Marble Canyon) east to Kaibito Plateau, south through Cameron to Leupp area.

Habitat: Occupy Great Basin desertscrub habitat usually with sparse ground cover of greasewood, snakeweed, rabbitbrush, ephedra, shortgrass, and possibly, short junipers.

Similar Species: This species overlaps range with *P.flavus*, *P.flavescens*, *Chaetodipus intermedius*, and possibly *P.longimembris*, *P.parvus*, *C.formosus* due to construction of Navajo Bridge. Of the small *Perognathus* (body length <~75 mm), only *P.amplus* and *P.longimembris* have tails longer than the body length (10-20% longer in *P.amplus*). The other small *Perognathus* have tails shorter than body (*P.flavus* and *P.flavescens*, while the other species are larger in all measurements. *P.amplus* and *P.longimembris* are difficult to differentiate on measurements and appearance in northern AZ (see Hoffmeister, p.250), and possibly best separated by range (*P.amplus* east of, and *P.longimembris* west of, the Colorado River).

Phenology:

- l.FEB-e.MAR: mating season begins (reported for AZ, likely begins later in northern Arizona)
- e.APR-m.MAY: most females pregnant, birthing of young
- e.JUN- l.JUN: young first emerge
- year-round: mostly nocturnal, may become completely inactive in colder months (e.g. NOV-FEB)

Survey Method: ≥1 pedestrian survey for habitat evaluation; live-trapping may be necessary in suitable habitat within potential range for large ground-disturbing activities.

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

References:

Hoffmeister, D.F. 1986. Mammals of Arizona. University of Arizona Press. (description p.260)