Dark Kangaroo Mouse
*Microdipodops megacephalus*

Mammalia — Rodentia — Heteromyidae

**CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION**

- Rangewide: Secure (G5)
- Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
- ESA: No status
- USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
- BLM: Peripheral (Type 4)
- IDFG: Unprotected wildlife

**BASIS FOR INCLUSION**

Lack of essential information pertaining to Idaho; habitat threats.

**TAXONOMY**

The subspecies *M. megacephalus atrirelictus* occurs in Idaho and is endemic to the state.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE**

This species occurs in Nevada, Utah, California, and Idaho. In Idaho the species occurs only in extreme southwest Owyhee County (Hafner 1985).

**POPULATION TREND**

No trend data are available for Idaho.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**

This species is associated with gravelly or fine textured soils (Hafner 1985), frequently in vegetated dunes. Throughout the range, habitat consists of sparsely vegetated sites; characteristic vegetation includes sagebrush, black greasewood, shadscale, horsebrush, and rabbitbrush. This species eats primarily seeds, but insects are also frequently consumed. Individuals hibernate for approximately 5 months in burrows.

**ISSUES**

The distribution and current status of populations in Idaho are incompletely understood. Habitat loss is the primary threat to this species. Invasive weeds and changes in plant composition and vegetative structure as a result of livestock or recreational use have the potential to negatively affect populations.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Surveys are needed to determine the current status of the population in southwest Owyhee County. Prospective surveys are also needed in suitable habitat across southern Idaho, particularly in southern Twin Falls County, to determine if the species occurs elsewhere. Habitat protection at occupied sites may be necessary.
Microdipodops megacephalus

Map created on September 21, 2005
and prepared by Idaho Conservation Data Center.
Sources: Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (2005). Predicted distribution is from the Wildlife Habitat Relationships Models (WHR),
Predicted distribution is approximate (for more information, go to http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap_report.asp).