



# Save the MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRREL

PROTECT | PRESERVE | PETITION

## Meet the Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*)

*What does the Mohave Ground Squirrel do for you?*

A quiet desert dweller, the Mohave Ground Squirrel plays a critical role in the longevity of the Joshua tree people know and love. By foraging and caching Joshua tree seeds in their burrows, the Mohave Ground Squirrel ensures Joshua trees are in the best place to germinate -- underground and patiently waiting for winter rain.

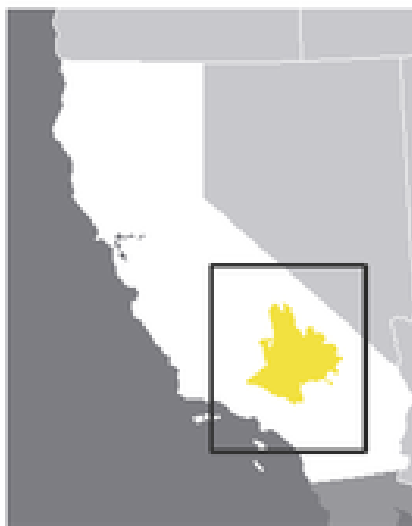


The Mohave Ground Squirrel also finds shade and seeds from the aromatic creosote bush.



NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE



California's Western Mojave Desert

- 7,000 square miles (barely bigger than the state of Connecticut!)
- Sparsely populated throughout Kern, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles County
- Found on two military bases
- Population unknown

## THREATS & CURRENT PROTECTION

- Threatened - California Endangered Species Act
- Near Threatened - IUCN Red List

**The Mohave Ground Squirrel faces habitat loss and fragmentation to their already small range from a multitude of sources:**

- Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation
- Renewable Energy Projects
- Real Estate Development
- Climate Change

As their range continues to contract, the Mohave Ground Squirrel faces local extinction.

SAVING THE MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRREL SAVES THE JOSHUA TREE



# HOW OHV USE IS "WRECK"-REATIONAL

Very little is known about the elusive, 9-inch cinnamon-brown busy burrower; however, it is known they prefer arid, flat, and gravelly terrain with shrubs for shade and foraging. Off-roading vehicles permanently alter the gravelly soil to become soft and therefore, uninhabitable for the Mohave Ground Squirrel. As a result, they are evicted from their home and abandon their flattened burrows. Any Joshua tree seeds waiting to germinate underground are brought to the topsoil and will likely lose their viability.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE

Defend Them All has the opportunity to remove the question mark looming over the Mohave Ground Squirrel with a three-pronged approach.



### 1. Protect

At the local level, OHV recreation should be strictly enforced on designated trails with updated, clear signage and penalties. This will help protect the Mohave Ground Squirrel's habitat.

### 3. Petition

At the federal level, there should be another effort to petition the Mohave Ground Squirrel under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

### 2. Preserve

There should be increased research and surveys of the Mohave Ground Squirrel by the Bureau of Land Management and California Fish & Wildlife in an effort to better ascertain their lifestyle and needs. This will help preserve their ecological role.



THE MOHAVE GROUND SQUIRREL HAS ONE HOME. EVICTION = EXTINCTION.