

Quarterly Progress Report Q3 Deliverable 09

Agency/Organization: BEC Environmental, Inc.

Project Name: Desert Pocket Mouse Threats Analysis and Population Monitoring

Project Number: 2023-BEC-2340A

Reporting Period: July – September 2024 Q3 [Deliverable D09]

Project Contact Name and Information:

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**QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period?
How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project?
If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?**

BEC conducted the habitat characterization methodology testing in early July, small mammal identification training and population monitoring methodology field testing early in September, and the first trapping session at one location in early September.

BEC conducted the habitat characterization methodology at the Clark County Wetlands Park in representative habitat for desert pocket mice.

BEC conducted small mammal species identification training in early September. Species identification training was conducted at the University of Las Vegas Nevada with preserved specimens of the species.

BEC conducted the population monitoring methodology field testing in early September. The field methodology testing was completed at the Riverside Parcel in the Virgin River Riparian Corridor during the first portion of the Trapping Session.

BEC conducted the first Trapping Session for the season at the Riverside Parcel in September. The trapping session captured 33 specimens of which 9 were the targeted species, desert pocket mouse.

BEC held a teleconference meeting with Jed Arnold (DCP) on September 26, 2024, to provide an update of the project, the results of the first trapping session, and potential challenges. BEC informed Arnold the second trapping session will be implemented as planned at the Bunkerville location.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.

On September 25, 2024, BEC was notified of herbivore repellent applications to the Bunkerville East parcel, of which one area of application was located near the proposed trapping grid. BEC has coordinated with Arnold and Caryn Wright (DCP) and intends to implement the trapping sessions as planned.

The first Trapping Session ended a day earlier due to unexpected predator interactions. Based on tracks seen near traps, a small canid had harassed the traps during the later portion of the trapping session, which resulted in a low success rate. BEC provided a summary of the situation in the meeting with Arnold, as mentioned above.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

BEC completed all planned activities during this reporting quarter.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

12% completion.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?

The team is evaluating options for future trapping approach to reduce encounters with predators and/or avoid low trapping success.

QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

BEC has nothing additional to tell DCP at this time. BEC will continue to provide project updates and coordinate with DCP as appropriate.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

Deliverables produced and submitted include:

- D07. Spring/Summer 2024 Field Methodology Testing & Summary Memo – October 5, 2024
- D08. Quarterly Progress Report Q2 2024 – July 3, 2024