

Quarterly Progress Report Q4 Deliverable 12

Agency/Organization: BEC Environmental, Inc.

Project Name: Desert Pocket Mouse Threats Analysis and Population Monitoring

Project Number: 2023-BEC-2340A

Reporting Period: October – December 2024 Q4 [Deliverable D12]

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 three trapping sessions during Quarter Four of 2024 as described in the *Fall/Winter 2024 Trapping Session & Summary Memo – Deliverable 10*. These sessions were successfully completed at the Bunkerville East parcel, where BEC biologists trapped and gathered data on the target species, *Chaetodipus penicillatus*.

The data collected from these trapping sessions will contribute to the final analysis of population dynamics for the target species in the area. Additionally, the findings will support the habitat assessment study, offering valuable insights into the prevalence and distribution of the species within the study area.

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

During the third trapping occasion, starting on November 14, 2024, the field team encountered colder temperatures than preferred for trapping conditions. To address this, cotton balls were added to the traps alongside bait to provide bedding and insulation for the captured animals overnight. Despite this mitigation, one *C. penicillatus* was found deceased in a trap the next morning, potentially due to the low temperatures. In response, the team adjusted their trapping technique by conducting two evening checks to reduce overnight stress: one at 8:00 PM to inspect and reset the traps and another at 11:00 PM to check and close them. The revised method successfully prevented further animal mortalities.

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?

37% completion.

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

The Riverside Parcel was deemed unsuitable as a trapping location due to external factors that could impact trapping success, including the presence of a predatory animal interfering with the traps and irrigation issues that caused flooding at the site. The team is evaluating alternative parcel options for trapping efforts, including the Bunkerville West site.

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:

- D09. Quarterly Progress Report Q3 2024 – July 3, 2024
- D10. Fall/Winter 2024 Trapping Session & Summary Memo Deliverable 10
- M04. 2024 Annual Project Status and Report