

Pygmy Rabbit

(*Brachylagus idahoensis*)

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Appearance:

Smaller than all other North American rabbits. Distinguished by its small, inconspicuous tail with a tan, rather than white, underside and very short, rounded ears. Scurries rather than leaps like other rabbits.

Measurements:

Overall Length = 10 – 11”
Weight = 13 – 15 oz.

Similar Species:

In western Wyoming, the Pygmy Rabbit and the Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) occur together. However, the Desert Cottontail's ears are long and pointed, and its tail is dark above and white underneath.



BEST TIME FOR OBSERVATIONS:

Most active at dawn and dusk, but it can often be observed feeding at other times of the day, even within the upper canopy of sagebrush.

STATUS:

Native Species Status 3 (NSS 3) – Populations are restricted in distribution, and its habitat is vulnerable, although there is no ongoing significant habitat loss.

WHERE TO FIND:

Occupies dense, tall stands of Wyoming big sagebrush. It is uniquely dependent on sagebrush, which comprises 99% of its winter diet. Soft, deep soil is also a key habitat feature since the Pygmy Rabbit excavates its own burrow

Pygmy Rabbit Distribution

