



© Valary Bloom, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Saltmarsh Harvest Mouse

The **Saltmarsh Harvest Mouse**, *Reithrodontomys raviventris*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This tiny rodent inhabits salt and brackish marshes around San Francisco Bay, California, and is one of very few mammals able to drink sea water.

The saltmarshes inhabited by this species have undergone widespread destruction and degradation as a result of development, agriculture, diking, commercial salt production, and subsidence and flooding caused by groundwater pumping. Pollution, an influx of freshwater from sewage treatment, and invasive plants have also altered the vegetation, while the species also faces predation by cats and Red Foxes. The Saltmarsh Harvest Mouse may now number only a few thousand individuals, and its small, fragmented populations are at risk of inbreeding.

A Recovery Plan aims to protect, enhance and restore marsh habitat, and to undertake research into the species and its requirements. Although some efforts are underway to preserve saltmarsh habitat, for example through removing invasive plants, more urgent action will be needed if this unique rodent is to survive in the long-term.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.