

did you know?

The Buena Vista Lake shrew is facing some big challenges to survival because it doesn't have much room left to roam. Found only in Kern and Kings County, it was listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2002.

95

The species has lost more than 95 percent of its historic habitat.

1

The Buena Vista Lake shrew is one of eight subspecies of ornate shrews found in California.

1932

By the time biologists first discovered the shrew in 1932 most of the marshes the shrews depend on had been drained or dried up from water diversions.

1/7

The shrews weigh about the same amount as a quarter; 1/7th of an ounce and grows to about 4 inches in length.

4-6

Only a single litter of four to six young are produced per year.

1+

Shrews are good neighbors, benefitting surrounding plant communities by eating large quantities of insects. In fact, shrews must eat more than their own weight daily to avoid starvation.



<100

Current distribution is unknown but likely to be very restricted due to the loss of habitat. Surveys in the last decade have found less than 100 of these rare mammals.

Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
www.fws.gov/sacramento
March 2013