

## **Minimum Requirements Needed to Qualify for Kangaroo Rat Recovery Permits**

- 1- A BS degree in conservation or resource management-related field; or equivalent field/work experience.
- 2-Course work in mammalogy and study-design or survey-methodology; or equivalent field experience.
- 3-Extensive experience in the design and implementation of small mammal research; >200 hours of trapping in the field.
- 4-Minimum of 2 weeks of intensive field trapping for kangaroo rats in the San Joaquin Valley under experienced researcher with valid permit.
- 5-Have captured and handled at least 50 individual kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys spp*). At least 10 of these individuals must be the target species. For the San Joaquin kangaroo rat, experience among the subspecies may be interchangeable; although the applicant should handle at least 5 individuals of the target subspecies. Exceptions may be made for the Fresno k. rat on a case by case basis.
- 6-Familiarity with kangaroo rat habitat in the San Joaquin Valley and ability to differentiate sympatric species. Accordingly, evidence of misidentification can be grounds for revocation of the permit.
- 7-In addition to what is required by the T&E permit application, all applicants should submit (1) a contingency plan for caring for animals that are injured during trapping activities, including hyper-stressed individuals, and (2) two recommendations from established researchers assessing the applicant's ability and competence as a researcher (one of these recommendations should come from the researcher under whose permit the experience with the listed species was gained).

**Disclaimer/Note to Permit Reviewers:** As always, the biologist reviewing each application need to make some judgement calls. Some that do not meet all the requirements may be great candidates, and some that meet all requirements may not be suitable researchers. Keep in mind that these species are at risk of extinction, and any trapping pose great danger of injury or death to these individuals. The bottom line is: Do you feel confident that the applicant has experience and or scientific intuition to deal with problems that may arise in the field?