

# Looking at Impacts of Construction of the Ruby Pipeline on Pygmy Rabbits in Rich County, UT



**BY:**  
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# A Special Thank You!

- Rich County CRM
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- Deseret Land and Livestock- Rick Danvir and Todd Black
- UDWR Pam Kramer and Adam Brewerton
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# Background Information:

## Pygmy Rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*)



- Smallest rabbit in North America  
9-12 inches in length and about 450 g.
- They breed during the spring and summer.
- Have on average six young per litter and can have multiple litters a year.
- They have high mortality rates of about 88% of population dying each year largely from predators.
- They are a food source for badgers, weasels, and hawks.
- Sagebrush habitat loss is greatest threat to this species. They need sagebrush to survive.
- Keeping areas of connected healthy sagebrush is important to keeping healthy populations.
- They are not listed on the endangered species list.

# Current Pygmy Rabbit Distribution



# Our Study Goals For This Summer

- This will be last year of studying how far new born pygmy rabbits travel from birth place and if the pipeline right of way is restricting their movements. To monitor this we will be catching new born pygmy rabbits and attaching tracking devices that will allow us to know where they move.
- We are studying the diet of adult and new born pygmy rabbits, by analyzing feces we will collect this summer.
- Observing with wildlife cameras if and how often pygmy rabbits are using the cleared area of the pipeline right of way.
- Lastly, measuring the number of active pygmy rabbit burrows surrounding pipeline ROW and comparing it to before it was built and previous years to see how populations have changed in relation to the pipeline construction.



# Purpose of Our Study

- From our results we will be able to provide future recommendations on how to reduce potential negative impacts on pygmy rabbits and other species of interest that can occur from pipelines in the future.

# Conclusion

“ I would like to thank again all of you who have helped to make this project possible. If you have any further questions or would like to help out in anyway let me know. My contact info is below. Thanks!



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