

Salt Marsh Harvest Mouseketers

From their big round eyes and ears to their thick unicolored tail the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse is the cutest animal you may ever see. Watching this magnificent mouse munching on a piece of pickleweed will melt your heart! However, seeing them is quite difficult, unless you're a member of the "Mouseketers", a group of Wildlife Volunteers helping to study the



A Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse in its habitat of Pickleweed and Frankina

distribution and abundance of these federal and state listed endangered species. This listing is due to the massive loss of salt marsh habitat in the San Francisco Bay. Prime Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse locations contain a majority of pickleweed interspersed with *frankinia* and salt grass, which may be found along our 40 miles of East Bay Regional Park District managed shorelines.

Another difficulty in positively identifying this mouse from its closely related cousin, the Western Harvest Mouse, is that both are smaller bodied mice with grooved incisors. The Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse has dark colored fur and feet, and a short, thick tail. In contrast, the Western Harvest Mouse has lighter coloring on its back and feet and a thin, long tail.



"Mouseketers" team

Thanks to the "Mouseketers" efforts a number of these endangered mice have been found. As we continue embarking on this long-term effort to study these rare, reddish rodents, there is a giant need for passionate people like you who are willing to aid in their recovery.



Patch given to volunteers