

Clark County Nevada
near Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness

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In 2021 and parts of 2022 we were on a long term project based out of Las Vegas. One of the mammals I decided to target was the Panamint Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys panamintinus*). According to the range maps I could find there is a disjunct population on the California/Clark County Nevada border west of Searchlight NV. I focused on the Nevada side of this area in my searches. I believe I went 4 times, November 27th and December 5th 2021 and was successful on my final two attempts, October 16th and 25th 2022. On the 16th we had great views, but no good photos, so I went back. On the 25th I found one that seemed attracted to my autofocus beep, so I had excellent close views. Both of the Panamints were found by driving the roads slowly and finding them in the road. They seemed less skittish than the other two species of K-rats in the area.

Other species I saw in the area were Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Kit Fox, Coyote, Merriam's Kangaroo Rat, and Desert Kangaroo Rat.

While I searched a much wider area, the dirt roads outlined in the map are where I saw most of the K-rats, including the two Panamints. I used a 4x4 truck, as that's what I have, but I think you could drive these roads with 2x4 and mid clearance. At worst one could park on the main road and walk part of it. It's flat and the road is clear.

