**Scientific Name:** *Neotoma fuscipes* subsp. *annectens*  
**Common Name:** San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat  
**Global Rarity:** Imperiled/Vulnerable  
**State listing:** CA Species of Special Concern; Imperiled/Vulnerable  
**UCSC Rarity:** Common

## General Description
The San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat is the local subspecies of the more broadly distributed Dusky-footed Woodrat. Like members of the broader species, individuals construct large stick nests with distinct chambers for raising young, sleeping, and eating. These nests, which are either built on the ground or up to 5-10 m in trees or shrub branches, provide essential shelter for many other species such as salamanders, snakes, lizards, mice, frogs, crickets, beetles, and millipedes. A single woodrat may keep multiple houses, and visit them to broaden their forage range.

## Identification
**Fur:** Brown-gray above, white/cream below chest, sooty-gray feet, and may have sooty-gray face  
**Tail:** ~17-22 cm, all dark or faintly bicolored, lightly haired  
**Body length:** ~19-23 cm

## Geographic Range
This subspecies is largely restricted to the Santa Cruz Mountains and a few areas within the greater Bay Area of California.
**Conservation Status**

*California Species of Special Concern*

**UCSC Distribution**

Common in appropriate habitat, which includes chaparral, mixed evergreen forest, and riparian areas.

---

**Life History**

**Habitat:** Oak woodland; chaparral; conifer, hardwood and mixed forest; riparian areas

**Reproduction:** Females choose the males and may mate with multiple males. One litter of 2-3 pups per year. Pups stay with mother for up to a year. The daughters tend to stay near the mother, and may even inherit her house. The males disperse up to 500 ft.

**Behavior:** The adults live alone in their nests, but they nest close to each other and form neighborhoods. They are primarily nocturnal.

**Diet:** Leaves, flowers, berries, seeds, nuts, acorns, and fungi. Favorite foods include poison oak, coast live oak, bay laurel, and coffeeberry

**Predators:** Coyotes, bobcats, foxes, owls

---

**Fun Facts**

- They are also called packrats or trade rats for their habit of picking up shiny objects while gathering food and sticks.

- Dusky-footed Woodrats rattle the tip of their tails in their nests when disturbed, something that is readily audible.

---

**Threats**

**Statewide**

1. Habitat loss
2. Wildfire or prescribed fire
3. Grazing in certain habitats may reduce cover needed for nesting and foraging

**UCSC campus**

1. Development
2. Wildfire or prescribed fire

---

**Ways You Can Help**

1. Work with the UCSC Campus Natural Reserve to map San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat nests on the UCSC campus
References and Photo Credits


Cover Page Top: Photo by Rob Schell, used by permission.

Cover Page Bottom: Photo by Alex Jones, used by permission.

Page 1 Middle Right: Photo by UCSC Small Mammal Research in Forests program, used by permission. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collecting Permit #12383.

Page 1 Bottom Left: Photo by Alex Jones, used by permission.

Page 2 Bottom Left: Photo by Alex Jones, used by permission.