

SNOWMELT THICKET



Although not as well studied, the Snowmelt Thicket population of Island mice are likely similar to their neighbors to the east across the river in Dead Man Dunes. Further, the Snowmelt Thicket mice are less adapted to the spring floods which drown or wash individuals out to Castaway Island every year. The floods last for approximately two weeks and wash approximately 50 to 100 Island mice from the Snowmelt Thicket population to Castaway Island each year.



From November until May, the cold winter trade winds blow Skull Mountain's toxic gas plume into the Snowmelt Thicket. Once exposed, most Island mice die from the toxic gases, but mice in the Snowmelt Thicket dig burrows in the forest floor to escape the fumes.



Shifts in the cold winter trade winds could redirect shipwrecks, which could increase predation by the Pirate rat.

Survey Year	2010-2015
# of Individuals (using Dead Man Dunes as a proxy)	~200