Following a drought from 2009-10, the abundance of *C. baileyii* declined precipitously at the site. From 1996-2010, *C. b* accounted for approximately 10-20% of energy use on control plots and 65% of energy use on kangaroo rat exclosures; from 2010-2015, it accounted for only 0-10% of energy use on control plots and 20% of energy use on exclosures. Over the same time periods, energetic compensation by small granivores for kangaroo rat removal declined from 52% from 1996-2010 to ~20% from 2010-2020 – a level comparable to that observed from 1988-1996, prior to *C. b*’s establishment at the site. However, the ratio of total energy use on treatment plots relative to controls exhibited a less pronounced decline. From 1996-2010, total energy use on exclosures averaged 65% of controls, while from 2010-2020 it averaged ~45%; prior to *C. b*’s establishment, it averaged only 25%. Total energy use remained above its pre-1996 level, even while compensation declined, because small granivores have become proportionally more abundant on control plots since the 1980s.

Exclosure plots that were converted to control plots in 2015 exhibited essentially the same dynamics as long-term exclosures prior to 2015, and rapidly converged with control plots following the treatment change. That is, once kangaroo rats were again able to access the plots, *C. b* energy use and energetic “compensation” declined to near zero, and total energy use increased to match that on long-term control plots. The control plots that were converted to exclosure plots in 2015 matched control plots in total energy use from 1998-2015, but had energy use from *C. b*, and a proportion of small granivore energy use, intermediate between the long-term controls and the exclosure plots. After the treatment change, total energy use declined and energetic compensation increased to levels comparable to long-term exclosures, but the proportion of energy use accounted for by *C. b* remained below that on long term exclosures.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure PB energy use

Chart, line chart

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Figure Energetic compensation on treatment plots

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated

Figure Energy use on treatments relative to controls