

**White-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*)**



**Taxonomy:**

Family Sciuridae. Nine subspecies are recognized, including *Ammospermophilus leucurus leucurus*, the regional subspecies.

**Description:**

Color pale brown-cinnamon above and whitish beneath with two white stripes down the back from shoulder to base of the tail. Tail is dark above and white below.

Total length: 188-223 mm; Tail: 43-71 mm; Hind foot: 35-40 mm; Ear: 8.5-10 mm; Weight: 96-117g.



**Distribution:**

Southern Oregon east throughout Utah, western Colorado, northwest New Mexico, northern Arizona, the length of western California and the Baja peninsula. Occurs in low elevation shrub habitats, principally west of the Wasatch Front.

**Ecology and diet:**

Unlike other diurnal ground squirrels, this species does not hibernate during the winter but is active throughout the year. These squirrels have physiological and behavioral adaptations allowing them to cope with extremes of heat and aridity.

They occur in a range of habitats from low elevation valley floors up to the juniper belt, although they are most common in desert shrub habitat with sandy or rocky soils. They are omnivorous, eating green vegetation, yucca, cacti, insects, and seeds.

**Life History:**

Reproduction occurs between February and June. Females have one litter annually of 5-14 young following a gestation of 30-35 days. Young are sexually mature at around one year old.

**References:** Belk & Smith 1990; Hafner 1999.