

## Great Basin pocket mouse (*Perognathus parvus*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Heteromyidae. There are 12 subspecies including *Perognathus parvus olivaceus* which occurs in the region.

### **Description:**

Have small rounded ears and large feet and external, fur-lined cheek pouches. Color yellowish-gray above, whitish below, with a yellowish lateral line. Tail is slightly longer than the head-body length, dark above and white below with a slight tuft at tip.

Total length: 160-190mm; Tail length: 77-95mm; Hind foot: 22-25mm; Ear: 6-9mm; Weight: 17-21g.



### **Distribution:**

South-central British Columbia south through central Washington and Oregon and the Great Basin to the northernmost part of Arizona. Common in desert shrub habitat along the Wasatch Front.

### **Ecology and diet:**

Great Basin pocket mice are common in a wide variety of habitats in the intermountain region, but are most abundant in areas with sandy soil that are dominated by sagebrush. They occupy underground nests and are active at night, although occasionally are seen near dusk. They hibernate during winter months. They are primarily seed eaters but also consume succulent vegetation and insects.

### **Life History:**

Reproduction occurs from early spring through late summer. Females have 1-3 litters of 2-8 offspring annually. Gestation length is 21-28 days.

**References:** Verts & Kirkland 1988; Kirkland 1999.