

## Uinta Ground Squirrel (*Uroditellus armatus*)



### **Taxonomy:**

Family Sciuridae. There are no subspecies.

### **Description:**

Uniform brownish or gray coloration, the head and neck is always gray but the back can vary from grayish to brown or cinnamon. Underside of tail is gray.

Total length: 270-329 mm; Tail length: 43-81 mm; Weight: 250-600 g.

### **Distribution:**

Found in the valleys, foothills, and montane meadows of the Rocky Mountains of eastern Idaho, southern Montana, western Wyoming and north-central Utah. Common at mid to high elevations in the Wasatch Front, and locally at lower elevations in hay fields, golf courses and other irrigated areas.

### **Ecology and Diet:**

When they emerge from hibernation in the spring, (usually late March, early April) Uinta ground squirrels feed on new, green vegetation. This green vegetation dries up in the summer, and the ground squirrels switch to a diet of seeds, putting on weight in preparation for a nine-month hibernation.

### **Life History**

Mating occurs a few days after emerging from hibernation. Gestation lasts 3 days with litters averaging 5.4 pups and females have only one litter per year. They enter hibernation around mid-July and are consequently only active above ground for 3 months out of the year.

**Reference:** Yensen 1999.

