

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

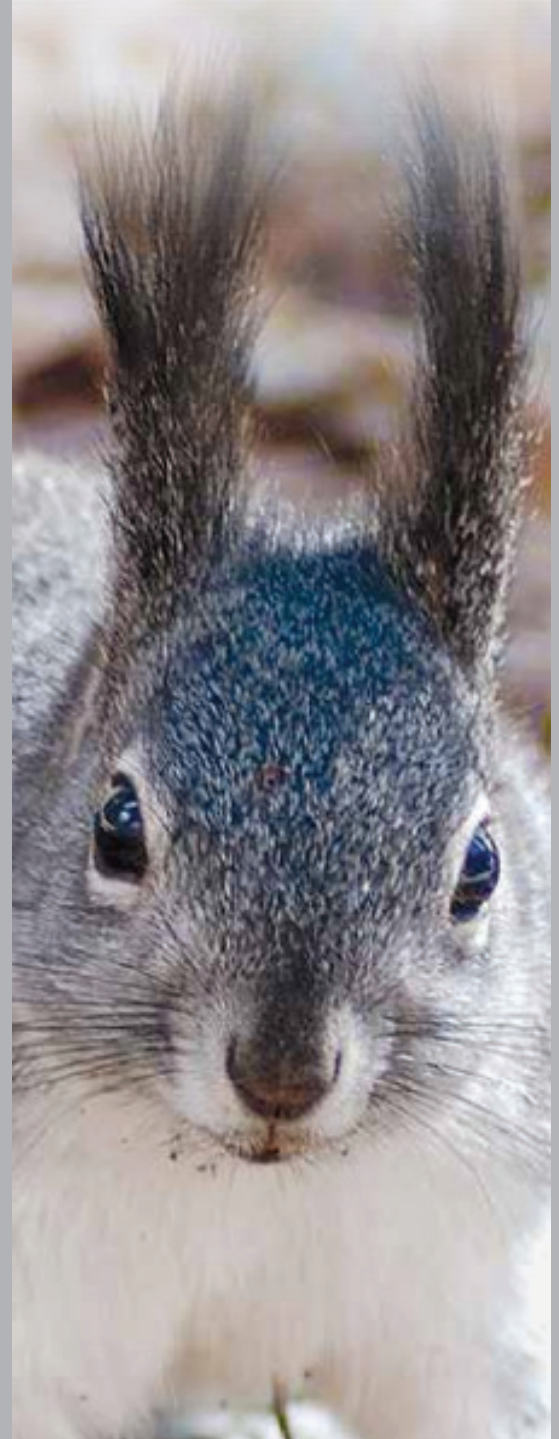
Abert's squirrel (*Sciurus aberti*)

Abert's squirrels live, nest, feed and seek refuge from enemies mostly in Ponderosa pine forests, but also can be found in mixed coniferous forests where they are likely to have been introduced by humans.

All Abert's squirrels have prominent ear tufts and long, bushy tails. During the winter, ear tassels measure about an inch in length (thus the nickname, "tassel eared squirrel") but become shorter in summer.

Ponderosa pines provide the primary diet — seeds, buds, inner bark and the male cones are all eaten. Abert's also eat mistletoe, acorns, insects, carrion and occasionally shrubs and grasses. Bones and shed antlers also are gnawed for the mineral content.

Abert's squirrels mate from early spring until early summer. Small groups of males may pursue single females for hours through the trees. After a gestation of approximately 40 days, young are born from June through early July. Litters consist of two to five hairless and blind young.



**Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife
Abert's Squirrel**



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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