

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife Yellow-bellied marmot

Yellow-bellied marmot

Much of the alpine and subalpine area of northern New Mexico is covered by a thick blanket of snow in the winter. Peaks and ridges form a harsh environment for animals that live there. One creature, unfamiliar to many humans, is the yellow-bellied marmot, also sometimes called the rock chuck. Our western marmot is closely related to the eastern woodchuck, or groundhog.

They are also called whistlers or whistle pigs because of their loud, shrill alarm call.

Marmots live in burrows among the rocks of talus slopes near grassy, high-mountain meadows of northern New Mexico. They may have lived in all of the state's mountain ranges in the late Pleistocene period.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

888-248-6866

