



Abert's Squirrel

Sciurus aberti

-Abert's Squirrels are tree squirrels that remain active year-round.

-Abert's Squirrels have dark gray backs with a red-brown patch, white bellies, and long fluffy white tails. Their most distinctive features are their large ears topped with tassels of fur.

-Abert's Squirrels feed on the cones, buds, and twigs of Ponderosa pine trees as well as fungus and tree sap.

-When Abert's Squirrels dig up and eat Ectomychorrhizal fungus they disperse spores aiding in the reproduction of the fungus. Ectomychorrhizal fungus benefit Ponderosa pines by growing around the roots of the trees and helping the trees to maintain moisture in an arid environment.

-Abert's Squirrels are excellent climbers. They can hang onto a tree limb using only their rear feet while keeping their front feet free to handle food.



-Abert's Squirrels build nests high in Ponderosa pine trees. The nests look like a large, messy bird nest. Abert's collect pine duff to create a warm, snugly home. Here, in late spring or early summer, female Abert's give birth to their tiny, pink, hairless babies.

-Young Abert's emerge from the nest by late summer to forage along side their parents.

-In early spring, Abert's squirrels can be spotted clinging to the side of Box elder trees and consuming their sweet sap.

