

Color and discover!



Scurrying squirrels

Fall is a time to see squirrels collecting nuts and seeds to store for the winter. A squirrel can make thousands of caches each season! All this foraging and digging has an ecological benefit: It turns up the soil and spreads beneficial fungal microbes. Oregon is home to four native species of tree squirrel. In this region, the most common are the large western gray squirrel and the Douglas squirrel. (The nocturnal northern flying squirrel is rarely seen.) These native squirrels' numbers are dwindling due to habitat loss and competition from invasive squirrel species.

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