



PLATE 18 MARMOTS

MARMOTS – These large, chunky squirrels have short stubby tails. Because of their terrestrial and diurnal habits, they can be easy to observe. Often leave feces on rocks or logs. All retreat to their burrows for protection, and to hibernate. These vegetarians are typically found near open, grassy habitats.



ALASKA MARMOT *Marmota broweri* ♂ 58–65cm, 15–18cm, 3.0–4.0kg; ♀ 54–60cm, 13–16cm, 2.5–3.5kg

A dark marmot with a black nose and top of the head. Tail is short. Typically hibernates September to June. Only marmot in the Brooks mountain range, not known from south of the Yukon river. Found near boulder fields and talus slopes.



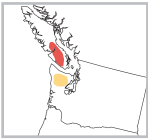
YELLOW-BELLIED MARMOT *Marmota flaviventris* ♂ 49–70cm, 15–22cm, 3–5kg; ♀ 47–67cm, 13–22cm, 1.6–4.0kg

A small gray marmot with yellow on the belly and neck. There is a white band across the nose. Top of head is black. Hibernates to avoid cold and snow; timing of hibernation depends on age, sex, and local weather. Uses meadows adjacent to talus slopes or rock outcrops.



HOARY MARMOT *Marmota caligata* 62–85cm, 17–25cm, 5–6kg

A large gray marmot with a relatively long tail. Hairs on the rump are tinged buff. The tail is brownish. Face is marked with white in front of the eyes and a dark band on snout. Dark streaks also mark the side of the head and neck. Typically hibernates from September to May. Alpine-montane specialist except in Alaska where it ranges down to sea level, not known from north of the Yukon river. Lives in treeless meadows where rocky outcrops and talus provide burrows.



OLYMPIC MARMOT *Marmota olympus* 68–78cm, 19–25cm, 5–7kg

A large, drab brown marmot from the Olympic Peninsula, Washington (yellow area on map). Browner than the Hoary Marmot, but otherwise similar in having a long tail, white nose, and white band in front of the eyes. Coat bleaches yellowish in the summer. Males are larger. Typically hibernates from September to May or June. Prefers montane slopes with rock talus and lush meadows between 1700 and 2000m.

VANCOUVER ISLAND MARMOT *Marmota vancouverensis* 58–75cm, 16–30cm, 3.0–6.5kg

A dark marmot from British Columbia (see red area on map of Olympic Marmot) with white on the face, chest, and belly. Males are larger. Typically hibernates October to April or May. Endangered because of restricted range. Lives in alpine and subalpine meadows from 1000 to 1460m altitude.



WOODCHUCK *Marmota monax* 41–67cm, 10–15cm, 3–4kg

A grizzled grayish or brown marmot with reddish-brown underparts. Feet are typically blackish brown, but are pinkish in Alaska. The subspecies *M. m. ochracea* from northwest Canada and Alaska is reddish cinnamon in color. Males are larger. Widespread and common in meadows and along forest edges.



YELLOW-BELLIED
MARMOT

ALASKA MARMOT

HOARY MARMOT

VANCOUVER
ISLAND
MARMOT

OLYMPIC
MARMOT

cinnamon morph
far north

WOODCHUCK