

Petrified Forest

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Petrified Forest National Park
Arizona

Common Animals



Although Petrified Forest is best known for its fossil clues to an ancient environment, it is also a living Park. Despite its seemingly barren appearance, Petrified Forest National Park supports hundreds of animal species. In this often demanding environment, animals have adapted many behavioral and physical means of survival. For example, black-tailed jackrabbits very long ears are radiators, helping to cool the animal during the heat of summer. Other creatures only come out in the relative cool of morning and evening. Some animals migrate or hibernate to escape the cold of winter. Keep your eyes open and watch for signs of the many animal species, large and small, that make Petrified Forest their home. (Bird information is available in the park Bird Checklist.)

Amphibians



Couch's spadefoot

Can you imagine living underground for nine months of the year and not eating, drinking, or defecating? An amazing group of animals do just that—amphibians. It's hard to imagine that in this dry region animals that require consistent moisture could thrive. Permeable skin allows amphibians to live in Petrified Forest. Amphibians do not drink; instead, they absorb water through their skins. Spadefoot toads, residents of the park, absorb water from the soil in which they hibernate. Although permeable skin allows for water absorption, it provides little barrier to evaporation. This causes amphibians' water balance to be in constant flux. Evaporative water loss also results in loss of body temperature. This is why you often see amphibians on warm pavement in the evening. It is not an easy life for amphibians in this dry grassland.

Ambystoma tigrinum Tiger Salamander
Anaxyrus (Bufo) cognatus Great Plains Toad
Anaxyrus Bufo punctatus Red-spotted Toad
Anaxyrus (Bufo) woodhousii Woodhouse's Toad
Scaphiopus couchii Couch's Spadefoot
Spea multiplicata Mexican Spadefoot (formerly *Scaphiopus multiplicata*)
Spea bombifrons Plains Spadefoot



Tiger salamander

Reptiles



Collared lizard

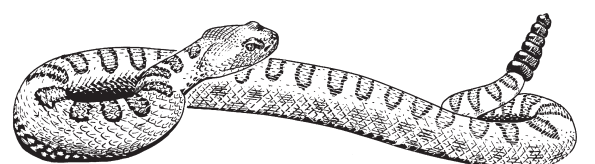
Well adapted to the often dry environment of the region, reptiles play an important part in maintaining the health of the ecosystem. Over sixteen varieties of lizards and snakes make Petrified Forest their home. Reptiles occupy a variety of habitats ranging from grassland to rocky slopes. They consume large quantities of insects, spiders, scorpions, other reptiles and small mammals thereby preventing infestations of any single species. Respecting the entire reptile community helps to preserve this vital link.

Snakes

Arizona elegans Glossy Snake
Crotalus viridis viridis Prairie (Hopi) rattlesnake
Hypsiglena torquata Nightsnake
Lampropeltis getula Common Kingsnake
Lampropeltis triangulum Milksnake
Masticophis taeniatus Striped Whipsnake
Pituophis catenifer Gophersnake
Thamnophis cyrtopsis Black-necked Gartersnake

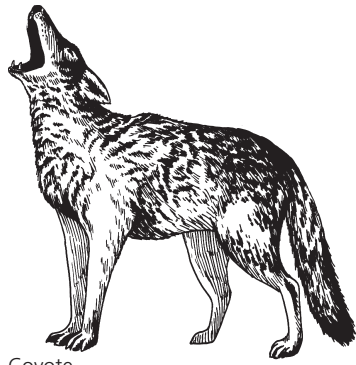
Lizards

Aspidoscelis pai Pai Striped Whiptail (formerly *A. inornatus* Little striped whiptail)
Aspidoscelis neomexicana New Mexico Whiptail
Aspidoscelis velox Plateau Striped Whiptail
Crotaphytus collaris Eastern Collared Lizard
Holbrookia maculata Common Lesser Earless Lizard
Phrynosoma hernandesi Greater Short-horned Lizard (formerly *P. douglasii* Short-horned lizard)
Sceloporus graciosus Sagebrush Lizard
Sceloporus tristichus Plateau Lizard (Formerly *S. undulatus* Eastern fence lizard)
Uta stansburiana Common Side-blotched Lizard



Hopi rattlesnake

Mammals



Coyote



Pallid Bat



White-tailed antelope ground squirrel

Invertebrates



White-lined sphinx moth



Tarantula



Pillbug

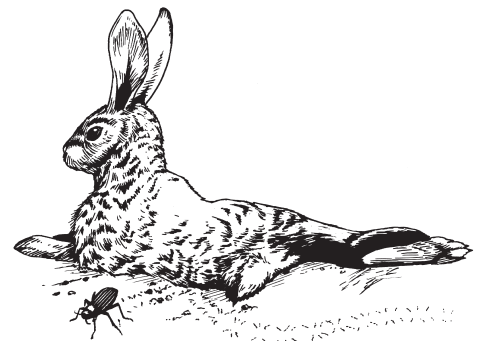
Taking Care of Wildlife

Mammals are a diverse group of animals, ranging from the delicate white-footed mouse to the elegant mule deer. Mammals have fur or hair, produce milk for their offspring, and are warm-blooded. In the often extreme climate of the plateau country, mammals use such survival strategies as hiding in

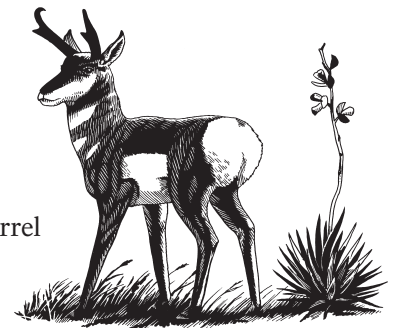
Canis latrans
Urocyon cinereoargenteus
Vulpes velox
Lynx rufus (Felis rufus)
Odocoileus hemionus
Antilocapra americana
Bassariscus astutus
Procyon lotor
Taxidea taxus
Mephitis mephitis
Spilogale gracilis
Lepus californicus
Sylvilagus audubonii
Notiosorex crawfordi
Antrozous pallidus
Corynorhinus townsendii
Myotis californicus
Myotis thysanodes
Myotis yumanensis
Pipistrellus hesperus
Erethizon dorsatum
Cynomys gunnisoni
Ammospermophilus leucurus
Spermophilus pilosoma
Spermophilus variegatus
Thomomys bottae
Neotoma albigula
Neotoma cinerea
Neotoma mexicana
Neotoma stephensi
Dipodomys ordii
Perognathus flavus
Onychomys leucogaster
Peromyscus boylii
Peromyscus crinitis
Peromyscus leucopus
Peromyscus maniculatus
Peromyscus truei
Reithrodontomys megalotis
Mus musculus

Coyote
 Gray fox
 Swift fox
 Bobcat
 Mule deer
 Pronghorn
 Ringtail
 Raccoon
 Badger
 Striped skunk
 Western spotted skunk
 Black-tailed jackrabbit
 Desert cottontail
 Desert shrew
 Pallid bat
 Townsend's big-eared bat
 California myotis
 Fringed myotis
 Yuma myotis
 Western pipistrelle
 Porcupine
 Gunnison's prairie
 White-tailed antelope ground squirrel
 Spotted ground squirrel
 Rock squirrel
 Botta's pocket gopher
 White-throated woodrat
 Bushy-tailed woodrat
 Mexican woodrat
 Stephens' woodrat
 Ord's kangaroo rat
 Silky pocket mouse
 Northern grasshopper mouse
 Brush mouse
 Canyon mouse
 White-footed mouse
 Deer mouse
 Pinon mouse
 Western harvest mouse
 House mouse

their burrows or migration as well as physiological adaptations like hollow hairs for insulation. Many of the mammals found in Petrified Forest National Park are rodents, a main stay prey for many predators of the region. Early morning is the best time to view mammals while in the park.



Desert cottontail rabbit



American pronghorn



Ord's kangaroo rat

Invertebrates include far more animals that can be listed here. Arthropods—one of the most diverse groups of creatures in the world—consist of such animals as spiders, crustaceans, and insects. Please remember that even these

Insects
 Tarantula hawks *Pepsis* and *Hemipepsis* spp.
 Praying mantids (Order Mantodea)
 Bumblebee *Bombus sonororus*
 Velvet ant *Dasymutilla* spp.
 Black witch moth *Ascalapha odorata*
 Pipevine swallowtail butterfly *Battus philenor*
 White-lined sphinx moth *Hyles lineata*
 Painted lady butterfly *Vanessa cardui*
 Pinacate beetle *Eleodes* spp.
 Stick Insect *Parabacillus* spp.

Crustaceans
 Pillbug (Isopod)

“bugs” have their place in the environment, often one of great importance. Invertebrates enrich the soil, decompose, and control pests. This is just a tiny sample of the many invertebrates in the park.

Arachnids
 Tarantula, *Aphonopelma* spp.
 Wolf spider *Lycosa* spp.
 Western black widow *Latrodectus hesperus*
 Arizona bark scorpion *Centruroides exilicauda*
 Giant hairy scorpion *Hadrurus arizonensis*
 Solpugid, windscorpions *Eremobates* spp.

Myriapods
 Desert Millipede *Orthoporus ornatus*
 Giant desert centipede *Scolopendra heros*
 House centipede *Scutigera coleoptrata*



Millipede

Only a fraction of animals found in the park are listed in this publication. Birds are not included here, having their own checklist.

National parks create oases of protection for many species of animals. Do not approach, feed, or harass any wildlife in Petrified Forest or any other national park area.