



Mammals



Please Don't Feed the Animals!

More than fifty mammals make their home at Crater Lake National Park. They range in size from the little brown bat to the Roosevelt elk. While most visitors to the park hope to see a bear or an elk, you're more likely to encounter chipmunks or ground squirrels. These animals live in a harsh volcanic landscape that is buried by snow eight months of the year. Be a gracious guest during your visit-- enjoy watching the wild animals, but do not feed them! No matter how much they may beg or plead for your food, feeding animals is not permitted because of some of the good reasons below.

It's Bad for the Animals

Animals that learn to depend on human handouts lose their instinctive abilities to find food for themselves. Even a single potato chip is bad for wild animals - potato chips do not naturally occur in their diet. Neither do cheese curls, candy, sandwiches, or even peanuts or raisins. Animals quickly recognize humans as a food source, and can forget their natural food seeking skills. When winter comes, the easy food supply they've come to depend on disappears. The human food they store will rot faster than natural sources, starving the animal because they have lost their self-sufficiency.

Wild animals that are fed by humans are soon no longer "wild." They lose their natural fear of humans and become vulnerable to other animals that would harm them. Increased territorial behavior and fighting may occur when many animals are crowded into small areas competing for the same food.

Crater Lake National Park receives around a half million visitors per year. If each person feeds just one animal just one treat, that still equals about half a million instances of feeding every year.

It's Bad for the Environment

Every creature plays an important role in natural ecological cycles. Disrupting these cycles may have dramatic consequences.

Wild animals seem to face difficult challenges for survival. It's natural to want to "help out." However, this is the life for which they are designed and adapted. Even with good intentions, we may easily disrupt natural processes. Consider the following example:

Feeding birds and squirrels is a common practice in some areas. However, without our snacks,

these animals would be collecting pine seeds to eat now and to store in winter caches. These caches are also an important food source for larger animals, such as bears. Many of the stored seeds may germinate since they have, in effect, been "planted." Research indicates that small mammals or birds plant most of the whitebark pines which cling to the rim of the caldera. When these animals rely on us for food, they stop gathering pine seed and whitebark pines cease to be planted. Whitebark pine roots, in turn, play a role in stabilizing the rim of the caldera. Feeding wild animals can break the whole chain.

Feeding Wild Animals is Dangerous	All of the animals in the park are wild. Wild animals do, indeed, often bite the hand that feeds them. Wild animals - and the ticks, fleas, and lice they carry - may also carry diseases. Such diseases	as Lyme's, Bubonic Plague and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can be transmitted to you through contact with animals or their feces.
But I Didn't Hand It Any Food!	If you are a messy camper or a litterbug, you are, in effect, feeding wildlife. "Fedding" may result not only from giving food to an animal, but indirectly from leaving food out at your campsite	or scraps left at your picnic site. These actions are in fact unlawful in national parks. Just like direct hand-to-paw feeding, it is punishable by a citation and a fine.
How Can I Help?	Glad you asked! Make sure that you leave a clean camp or picnic site. Leave no trace of your visit - not even an apple core. If you see others feeding	wildlife, ask them to stop. Enjoy Crater Lake and all its inhabitants in their wild and natural state.
Mammal Checklist	Another way you can help us out is to report any sightings of animals listed as other than abundant or common to a park visitor center. Please report all bear sightings.	A -Abundant C -Common LC -Locally Common U -Uncommon R -Rare P -Present, but not often seen + federally listed species of concern * federally listed threatened species
	<u>Su</u> <u>Wi</u>	<u>Su</u> <u>Wi</u>
Opossums	Virginia Opossum	U P Western Pocket Gopher C P
Shrews and Moles	Marsh Shrew	U P Great Basin Pocket Mouse R P
	Pacific Shrew	U P Deer Mouse A P
	Water Shrew	C P Bushy-tailed Woodrat LC P
	Fog Shrew	R P Dusky-footed Woodrat U P
	Trowbridge's Shrew	U P Western Red-backed Vole C P
	Vagrant Shrew	C P Heather Vole U P
	Shrew-mole	C P Red Tree Vole LC P
	Broad-footed Mole	U P Long-tailed Vole LC P
Bats		Montane Vole U P
	California Myotis	R - Creeping Vole U P
	Long-eared Myotis+	U - Water Vole U P
	Little Brown Myotis	C - Townsend's Vole LC P
	Long-legged Myotis+	U - Common Muskrat R R
	Yuma Myotis+	R - Western Jumping Mouse LC P
	Hoary Bat	C - Pacific Jumping Mouse LC P
	Silver-haired Bat	R - Common Porcupine C P
	Big Brown Bat	C - Carnivores
	Pallid Bat	R - Coyote C C
Pikas, Rabbits, and Hares		Red Fox C R
	American Pika	C P Common Gray Fox U R
	Snowshoe Hare	C U Black Bear C P
	White-tailed Jackrabbit	U U Common Raccoon R P
Rodents		Marten C LC
	American Beaver	R R Fisher+ R P
	Mountain Beaver	U P Ermine R P
	Yellow-pine Chipmunk	C P Long-tailed Weasel C P
	Least Chipmunk	R P Mink R R
	Siskiyou Chipmunk	U P Wolverine+ R R
	Townsend's Chipmunk	A P American Badger C P
	Yellow-bellied Marmot	C P Western Spotted Skunk U R
	California Ground Squirrel	LC P Striped Skunk LC R
	Belding's Ground Squirrel	LC P Northern River Otter R R
	Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	A P Mountain Lion R R
	Western Gray Squirrel	R R Lynx* R R
	Douglas' Squirrel	C P Bobcat R R
	Northern Flying Squirrel	C P Deer, Elk, and Pronghorn
	Botta's Pocket Gopher	U P Elk C R
		Mule Deer C R
		Pronghorn R -