



Wildlife Checklist

(Amphibians, Mammals and Reptiles)



At first glance, Craters of the Moon may seem a lifeless place. Lava flows and cinder cones combined with hot dry summers and cold snowy winters create inhospitable conditions. Rain and melting snow drains quickly into the porous rock and out of reach of many animals. Temperatures can soar into the 90's and dip well below zero.

Despite the harsh conditions, many animals make Craters of the Moon home for all or part of the year. Animals use many strategies to survive. Some venture out only at night or are most active at dusk and dawn seeking shelter in the hottest hours of the day. In winter, some hibernate while others migrate to avoid winter altogether. Some even harvest and store food to eat over winter.

Since there are no streams and few water holes in the lava fields, animals get most of the moisture they need directly from their food.

The following list should assist you in identifying the animals you see during your visit. Even if you do not see animals, be alert to evidence of their presence: tracks, trails, nests, burrows, gnawed cones and twigs, fur, feathers, bones, droppings, calls, and smells.

Checklist Codes:

Abundance:

A Abundant

C Common

U Uncommon

R Rare

LS Locally or Seasonally common

X unknown

Occurrence:

P Probable

NC Not Confirmed

OF NOTE! In addition to the animals found on the following list, Evidence from remains and/or historical records suggests several other species may have occurred here in the past including: bison, bighorn sheep, Canada lynx, and grizzly bears.

**Reptiles and
Amphibians**

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| ☐ Boreal Chorus Frog – R | ☐ Short-Horned Lizard – U |
| ☐ Desert Horned Lizard – R | ☐ Striped Whipsnake – P |
| ☐ Gopher Snake – U | ☐ Terrestrial Garter Snake –C |
| ☐ Great Basin Spadefoot Toad – NC | ☐ Western Fence Lizard - NC |
| ☐ Long-nosed Leopard Lizard – R | ☐ Western Rattlesnake – U |
| ☐ Night Snake - P | ☐ Western Skink – C |
| ☐ Pacific tree Frog – R | ☐ Western Toad - R |
| ☐ Rubber Boa – C | ☐ Western Whiptail - P |
| ☐ Sagebrush Lizard – A | ☐ Western Yellow-Bellied Racer – C |
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Mammals

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Badger – U | ☐ Muskrat – R |
| ☐ Beaver – R | ☐ Northern Pocket Gopher – C |
| ☐ Big Brown Bat – X | ☐ Northern Grasshopper Mouse - P |
| ☐ Black Bear – U | ☐ Ord’s Kangaroo Rat – C |
| ☐ Black-tailed Jackrabbit – C | ☐ Pallid Bat – X |
| ☐ Bobcat – R | ☐ Pika – LS |
| ☐ Bushy-tailed Woodrat – C | ☐ Piute Ground Squirrel – X |
| ☐ California bat – X | ☐ Porcupine – U |
| ☐ Columbian Ground Squirrel – U | ☐ Pronghorn – LS |
| ☐ Coyote – C | ☐ Pygmy Rabbit – X |
| ☐ Deer Mouse – A | ☐ Raccoon – U |
| ☐ Dusky Shrew – R | ☐ Red Fox – C |
| ☐ Elk – LS | ☐ Red Squirrel – LS |
| ☐ Fringed Myotis (bat) – X | ☐ River Otter - R |
| ☐ Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel – A | ☐ Sagebrush Vole – P |
| ☐ Gray Wolf - U | ☐ Short-tailed Weasel – P |
| ☐ Great Basin Pocket Mouse – A | ☐ Silver-haired bat - P |
| ☐ Hoary Bat – X | ☐ Snowshoe Hare – U |
| ☐ Kit Fox – NC | ☐ Striped Skunk – U |
| ☐ Least Chipmunk – C | ☐ Townsend's Big-eared Bat – C |
| ☐ Little Brown bat – X | ☐ Vagrant Shrew – P |
| ☐ Long-eared bat – C | ☐ Western Harvest Mouse – C |
| ☐ Long-legged bat – X | ☐ Western Jumping Mouse – U |
| ☐ Long-tailed Vole – U | ☐ Western Small-footed bat – C |
| ☐ Long-tailed Weasel – U | ☐ Western Spotted Skunk – P |
| ☐ Merriam’s Shrew – P | ☐ White-tailed deer - R |
| ☐ Montane Vole – U | ☐ White-tailed Jackrabbit – R |
| ☐ Moose – LS | ☐ Wolverine - NC |
| ☐ Mountain (Nuttall’s) Cottontail – C | ☐ Yellow-bellied Marmot – C |
| ☐ Mountain Lion – U | ☐ Yellow-pine Chipmunk – A |
| ☐ Mule Deer – C | ☐ Yuma bat - X |
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