

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

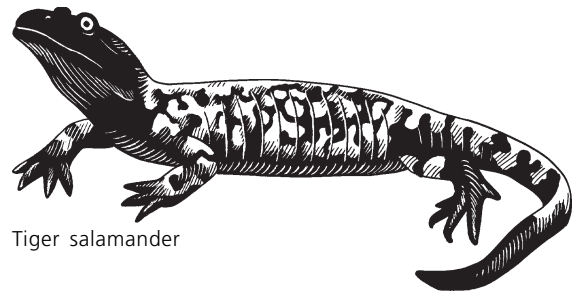


Couch's spadefoot toad

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

Tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>
Woodhouse's toad	<i>Bufo woodhousii</i>
Red-spotted toad	<i>Bufo punctatus</i>
Great Plains toad	<i>Bufo cognatus</i>
New Mexico spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus multiplicata</i>
Plains spadefoot	<i>Spea bombifrons</i>
Couch's spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus couchii</i>

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.



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.

Lizards	
Collared lizard	<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>
Side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>
Sagebrush lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>
Eastern fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>
Short-horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma douglasii</i>
Lesser earless lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>
Plateau striped whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus velox</i>
Little striped whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus inornatus</i>
New Mexico whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus neomexicanus</i>

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.

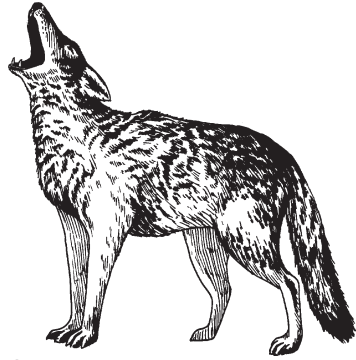
Snakes

Glossy snake	<i>Arizona elegans</i>
Gopher snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>
Night snake	<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>
Striped whipsnake	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>
Common kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>
Milk snake	<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>
Western rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus</i> (<i>Crotalus viridis</i>)

Turtles

Western box turtle	<i>Terrapene ornate</i>
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Mammals



Coyote



Pallid Bat



White-tailed antelope ground squirrel

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

- 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.

- 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*
- Corynorhinustownsendii*
- Myotis californicus*
- Myotis thysanodes*
- Myotis yumanensis*
- Pipistrellus hesperus*
- Erethizon dorsatum*
- Cynomysgunnisoni*
- 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*

Invertebrates



White-lined sphinx moth



Tarantula



Pillbug

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 “bugs” have their place

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

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

Taking Care of Wildlife

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.