

SONORAN DESERT STREAM SPECIES

Lowland leopard frog

Rana yavapaiensis



- Grows up to 3½ in. long with distinctive “leopard” spots
- Lives in permanent and ephemeral desert streams and pools

Canyon tree frog

Hyla arenicolor



- Up to 2½ in. long, varies from light grey to brown, and changes color for camouflage
- Clings to rocks with adhesive pads on toes
- Lives in rocky canyons with water flow

Sonoran mud turtle

Kinosternon sonoriense



- Up to 6¼ in. long with a light brown or yellowish high-domed shell
- Lives in desert streams and ponds
- Often sits with only head poking above water surface

Black-necked garter snake

Thamnophis cyrtopsis



- Grows up to 42 in. long with distinctive white stripes on either side of body and yellow stripe down center
- Hunts for tadpoles, lizards, and insects in shallow water

American bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana



- Up to 8½ in. long with olive green-gray skin
- **INTRODUCED** to AZ, is native to central/eastern US
- Lives almost anywhere with permanent water
- Eats anything that fits in its mouth

Gila topminnow

Poeciliopsis occidentalis



- Approx. 2 in. long with tan or olive-green body color and white belly
- Threatened species
- Eats small invertebrates including mosquito larvae

SONORAN DESERT RIPARIAN MAMMALS

Desert whitetail deer

Odocoileus virginianus



- Identified by white fluffy underside of tail that it raises when alarmed
- Lives in both desert and higher elevation forest habitats
- Smaller ears than mule deer

Javelina

Tayassu tajacu



- Resembles small boar, but not closely related
- Has bristly salt-and-pepper coat with light “collar”
- Uses sharp canine teeth for self defense
- Travels in family groups

Bobcat

Lynx rufus



- About twice the size of a housecat, with large paws and a short tail
- Adapts to many habitats but prefers rocky areas with vegetation shelter

Mountain lion

Felis concolor



- Large cat with a 3 ft long black-tipped tail
- Uses ambush hunting to take down prey even bigger than itself
- Hides killed prey and returns to feed over a few days

Coati

Nasua nasua



- Related to raccoon and ringtail
- Holds long striped tail in the air as it forages with its large claws
- Travels in bands of females and young, while males are solitary

Spotted skunk

Spilogale gracilis



- Much smaller than other skunks, adults only grow to 2 pounds
- Often shares other animals' dens
- Only skunk able to climb trees to forage