



# Mammals

## *Cabeza Prieta*

### *National Wildlife Refuge*

#### Mammals

The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1939, to reserve and set apart lands for the conservation and development of natural wildlife resources. Now, more than 50 years later, many species of Sonoran wildlife have benefited from the protection of the Refuge. Wilderness status was given to most of the Refuge in 1990, which means that these species, including the endangered Sonoran pronghorn and Lesser long-nosed bat, will have a better chance to survive and reach a natural balance within this part of their range.

In order to survive in the harsh Sonoran desert environment, mammals have had to adapt through a variety of means. These include nocturnal life styles, extreme efficiency in obtaining and conserving water (some live on water extracted from plant life only), and protective coloration.

Water sources on the Refuge are natural rock basins, called "tinajas," a few man-made storage areas, flowing washes after rains, and one intermittent seep. Natural adaptation has enabled these species to live for thousands of years with the available resources.

While the majestic bighorn and rare pronghorn receive a lot of attention, there are more than 40 other species of mammals whose presence is necessary to maintain the ecological balance of the Refuge.

You will notice that bats, squirrels, mice, rats, and gophers make up the majority of mammal residents on the Refuge. These small creatures play a major part in sustaining the chain of life, that includes the larger and better-known residents.

So, when a glimpse is seen of any of these wary and shy desert dwellers, you have had a unique opportunity to experience firsthand a part of this complex and fragile Sonoran desert ecosystem.



*Sonoran Pronghorn* FWS Photograph

The following list includes mammals whose presence within Cabeza Prieta boundaries has been verified.

#### Bats

California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) [Category 2 candidate species]

Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae verbabuenae*). This bat has endangered status; formerly called Sanborn's long-nosed bat.

California Myotis (*Myotis californicus stephensi*)

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus pallidus*)

Western Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus hesperus*)

Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*) (Category 2 candidate species)

Big free-tailed bat (*Tadarida macrotis*) (Category 2 species)

Big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus pallidus*)

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

Pocketed Free-tailed Bat (*Nyctinomops femorosacca*)

Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)

*Rabbits and Hares*  
Antelope jackrabbit (*Lepus alleni alleni*)

Black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus eremicus*)

Desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii arizonae*)

*Squirrels*  
Harris antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus harrisi*)

Rock squirrel (*Spermophilus variegatus grammurus*)

Round-tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus neglectus*)

### *Pocket Gophers*

Botta's pocket gopher, three subspecies  
(*Thomomys bottae growlerensis*,  
*phasma*, *pusillus*)

### *Pocket Mice*

Arizona pocket mouse (*Perognathus  
amplus taylori*)

Bailey pocket mouse (*Perognathus  
baileyi baileyi*)

Desert pocket mouse (*Perognathus  
penicillatus pricei*)

Rock pocket mouse (*Perognathus  
intermedius phasma*)

### *Kangaroo Rats*

Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys  
merriami merriami*)

Desert kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys deserti  
arizonae*)

### *Mice and Rats*

Cactus mouse (*Peromyscus eremicus  
eremicus*)

Pinacate cactus mouse (*Peromyscus  
eremicus papagensis*)  
[Category 2 candidate species]

Canyon mouse (*Peromyscus crinitus  
disparilis*)

Southern grasshopper mouse  
(*Onychomys torridus torridus*)

White-throated wood rat (*Neotoma  
albigula mearnsi*)

Desert Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida  
auripila*)

*Doglike and Foxlike Animals*  
Coyote (*Canis latrans mearnsi*)

Kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis macrotis*)

Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

*Racoons and Relatives*  
Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus  
yumanensis*)

*Weasles and Relatives*  
Badger (*Taxidea taxus berlandieri*)

Western spotted Skunk (*Spilogale  
gracilis leucoparia*)

*Cats*  
Bobcat (*Felis rufus baileyi*)

Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*)



*Desert Pocket Mouse* FWS Photograph

### *Peccaries*

Collared peccary, "javelina" (*Tayassu  
tajacu*)

### *Deer and Relatives*

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus crooki*)

### *Pronghorns*

Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra  
americana sonoriensis*). This animal is  
listed as endangered.

### *Sheep and Relatives*

Desert Bighorn (*Ovis canadensis  
mexicana*)

Following are animals which have been  
verified near the Refuge and would be  
expected to be resident or transient, but  
no verified sightings have been made on  
the Refuge.

Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida  
brasiliensis mexicana*)

Underwood's mastiff bat (*Eumops  
underwoodi*) (Category 2 candidate  
species)

Little pocket mouse (*Perognathus  
longimembris*)

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus  
virginianus couesi*)

### **Suggested Reading List**

William H. Burt & Richard P.  
Grossenheider,  
**A Field Guide to the Mammals**  
(Peterson Field Guide Series),  
Houghton Mifflin Co. 1964.

Donald F. Hoffmeister, **Mammals of  
Arizona**, University of Arizona Press,  
1986.

James A. MacMahon, **Deserts** (Audubon  
Society Nature Guide), Alfred A. Knopf,  
Inc., 1988.

Gale Monson & Lowell Summer, editors,  
**The Desert Bighorn**, University of  
Arizona Press.

Olaus A. Murie, **A Field Guide to  
Animal Tracks** (Peterson Field Guide  
Series) Houghton Mifflin Co.