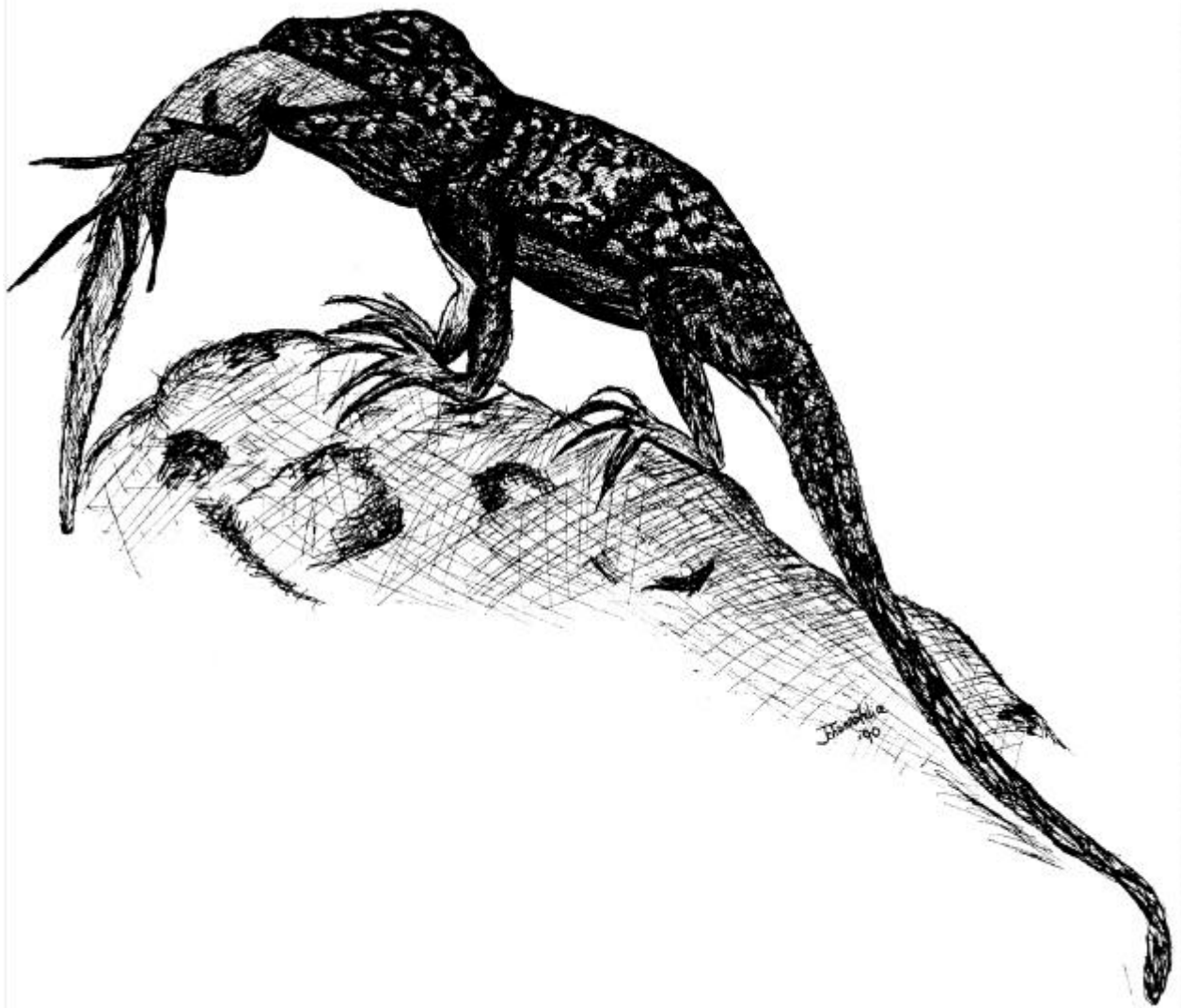


Southeastern Utah's Reptiles



Southeastern Utah's Reptiles (Reptilian Species)

There are 36 species of reptiles inhabiting southeastern Utah. All are native and it is believed that these same species were present at the time of settlement (1847). Nine species have become rare, although sufficient numbers exist for survival. Proper planning and management should keep any reptile species from being jeopardized.

The distribution of reptiles spans all ecosystems of southeastern Utah, but is concentrated in the sagebrush/grass, mountain brush, pinyon juniper, blackbrush, and grassland ecosystems of desert and submontane ecological associations. Riparian areas of all elevations are also utilized by a large number of species (Table 3).

Unlike the naked amphibian skin, reptilian skin is covered by scales composed of keratin deposits. There is also a distinct reduction in the presence of secretory glands. These factors combine to create a skin covering that is more impervious to body fluids than amphibian skin. Reptiles are thus able to inhabit drier ecosystems without the continuous requirement of immediate water sources. Wetland areas are, however, critical to many reptilian species in providing moist soil for egg deposition. Reptile eggs require a humid microenvironment to prevent desiccation.

Deep, loose soil is an important habitat component for reptiles. In addition to depositing eggs in the soil, burrows are excavated for shelter and hibernation. Reptiles rely heavily on the temperature of their environment for maintenance of body temperature. Open areas and rocks are used for basking in the sun.

Activity times are directly correlated with body temperature regulation. Many species are crepuscular (morning and evening twilight hours) or nocturnal (nighttime) and are inactive during warmer daytime temperatures. Diurnal (daytime) species are generally active only in the morning or late afternoon. When temperatures exceed the preferred range, they seek cover in burrows or under rocks. Cold weather also tends to promote inactive periods.

It is important for land use planners and biologists to realize the occurrence of active and inactive periods for these species. Life requisite information in this section identifies activity temperatures and months for most species.

As with all wildlife, crucial breeding seasons and critical habitats are factors of immense importance when considering potential impacts of a project. This information has been carefully outlined in the narratives.

Table 3. Number (#) of reptilian species that now (1990) inhabit geographic areas and the proportion (%) of that total which each ecosystem by ecological association within southeastern Utah.

Geographic Areas (Elevation in feet)/#	Proportion (%) of species that inhabit each ecosystem by (1) Cold Desert (3,700 -5,800 ft.); (2) Submontane (5,500-8,500 ft.); and (3) Montane (6,500-12,721 ft.) ecological associations.																																																																				
	UPLANDS															WETLANDS																																																					
	Urban			Agricultural			Alpine			Spruce/Fir			Aspen			Ponderosa			Sagebrush/Grass			Mountain Brush			Pinyon/Juniper			Saltbrush/Grass			Blackbrush			Grassland			Barren			Marsh			Mesic Meadow			Riparian			Stream			Lake																	
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3																					
Wasatch Plateau (5,500-10,741)/8	18	18		59					0		47			53			71			88	65		88			82						76	53		53	35		12	12		24	24		94	76		12	12		12	12																		
Tavaputs Plateau (5,500-10,118)/8				50						28				33			50			94	50		94			89						89	44		67	17		6	6		17	17		83	56		6	6		6	6																		
Cedar Mountain (5,500-7,664)/5																				100			93			93						93			86			7			7			71			7			7																			
Henry Mountains (5,500-11,506)/9				44					0		11			17			33			100	39		94			94						100			94	33		83	28		11	6		11	6		78	39		6	6		6	6															
Abajo/Elk Ridge (5,500-11,362)/9	9			56					0		22			26			30			96	43		91			91						96			91	39		70	26		9	4		17	13		74	48		4	4		4	4															
LaSal Mountains (5,500-12,72)/9	4			6					0		23			27			41			91	41		94			91						91			86	36		59	23		9	4		18	14		82	50		4	4		4	4															
Dolores Triangle (3,937-7,428)/6				47	47															94	94		94			94			94	94		88	88		70	70		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6																		
San Rafael Desert (4,120-7,920)/7	11	11		50	50															94	94		89			89			100			100	94		94	89		83	78		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6															
Burr Desert (4,500-6,522)/6	6			41																94	88		82			82			100			100	88		94	82		94	82		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6		6	6															
Cisco Desert (3,937-5,300)/7	6			50																94												89			72			6			6			78			6			6			6																
Canyonlands (3,700-10,388)/10	6	6		48	48						19			22			35			80	80		35			77			77			87			87	81		87	77		29	71		64	19		6	6		3	13		13	10		68	71		42	3		3	3		3	3		3	3

Reptilian Species (*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																	
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
Family: Iguanidae *collared lizard <i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	k u c c c c c c c k c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							S	S	S	S	S	S	C					
These carnivorous nongame lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They seem to require rocks for basking and open, unvegetated areas for running. Activity occurs diurnally when air temperatures are 82-92°F. Nesting occurs from April-June when 1 to 2 clutches of up to 12 eggs are buried and incubated for one month. Unlawful commercialization could challenge the species' safety, in spite of their aggressive behavior. Only the yellow-headed subspecies (<i>C.c. auriceps</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.													S	S	S	C				
desert collared lizard <i>Crotaphytus insularis</i>	k k k k k k k k o l k l	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands											S	S	S	C				
These nongame lizards inhabit the cold desert zone. They are carnivorous and diurnal. The species is normally active at air temperatures of 86-95°F. Nesting occurs from May-June, and 3 to 8 eggs are laid. Since they are a hardy pet, unlawful commercialization could challenge the species' safety. Only the Great Basin subspecies (<i>C.i. bicinctores</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																				

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																	
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
long-nosed leopard lizard <i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	k k c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	S								S	S	S	C						
			These nongame lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They are found in gently sloping areas where deep soil is mounded around the bases of shrubs. The presence of rodent burrows is also required. They are carnivorous and diurnal, active at temperatures of 59-95°F. Breeding occurs in the spring. Four to seven eggs are laid in moist soil between May and July, and incubated for 43-61 days. Second clutches may be laid in August. Only the small-spotted subspecies (<i>G.w. punctatus</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																	
lesser earless lizard <i>Holbrookia maculata</i>	k k k k k k k k k k k l	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	S								S	S	S	C			S			
			These nongame lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They require generally flat sand or gravel areas. They are insectivorous and diurnal, active at air temperatures of 80-98°F. Nesting occurs from July-August, and an average of 6-7 eggs are laid. Incubation probably lasts 35 days or more. There are no recognized subspecies.																	

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Reptilian Species (*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands					
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
short-horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma douglassii</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	C				S		
			These nongame lizards inhabit all elevations. Sparsely vegetated sandy or rocky soil provides preferred habitat, but the soil must be loose enough and deep enough to provide overwintering. They are carnivorous and diurnal. They are active from April to October at an average air temperature of 79°F. Breeding occurs in late spring. A single live-birth of 6-31 young occurs between July and August.																		
desert horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	k k k k k k k k k k k l	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							S			S	S	S	C						
			These carnivorous nongame lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. Preferred habitat consists of flats, washes, and valleys dominated by shrubs. Diurnal activity occurs at air temperatures of 95-111°F. Breeding occurs in April and May, and 2-10 eggs are laid. Two clutches may be laid in one year followed by none the next year. The southern subspecies <i>{P.p. calidiarum}</i> inhabits southeastern Utah. It is restricted to the Navajo Indian Nation south of the San Juan River and Lake Powell, although suitable habitat exists to the north.																		

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Reptilian Species (*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																			
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands						
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake		
desert spiny lizard <i>Sceloporus magister</i>	k k k l l k k l l k l	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							S	S	S	S	S	S	C				C			These nongame lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They are omnivorous and diurnally active at air temperatures of 86-91°F. They use a variety of logs, rocks, debris, and burrows for shelter. Availability of shelter and vegetation seems to determine densities of the lizards in an area. Breeding occurs from April-June, after which 7-19 eggs are laid. Incubation lasts 8-11 weeks. A second clutch may be laid. Only the orange-headed subspecies (<i>S.m. cephaloflavus</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.
eastern fence lizard <i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							H	S	H	L	L	S	C							These nongame insectivorous lizards inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They require rocky, deep soil areas with openings to allow basking. Diurnal activity occurs at an average air temperature of 76°F. Breeding occurs from April- August, after which 3-13 eggs are laid in moist soil. Yearlings deposit only 1 clutch, while adults deposit 2-4 clutches. Eggs incubate for 2 months. Only the northern plateau subspecies (<i>S.u. elongatus</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.

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Reptilian Species (*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands					
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
tree lizard <i>Urosaurus ornatus</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands						S	L	C	C	L	L	L	C				C		
			These nongame lizards inhabit cold desert, submontane, and montane zones. They are insectivorous and diurnal. Rocky areas are required for shelter, nesting sites, and feeding areas. Scattered pinyon-juniper stands are also critical for feeding. Breeding occurs in May and June with as many as 6 clutches of 3-13 eggs deposited. Eggs hatch after 2 1/2 months. Only the northern subspecies (<i>U.o. wrighti</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																		
side-blotched lizard <i>Uta stansburiana</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands						S	L	S	S	S	H	C					S		
			These insectivorous nongame lizards inhabit arid and semi-arid open shrublands of cold desert and submontane zones. They are diurnally active from May-October at air temperatures of 68-84°F. Breeding begins by April and the young appear in late July or August after an incubation period of 60-100 days. Three clutches of 2-6 eggs are laid in moist soil. The validity of subspecies classification is uncertain.																		

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Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																	
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
Family: Xantusiidae *desert night lizard <i>Xantusia vigilis</i>	k k k k k k k k r k r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	S H S S S C	These nongame insectivorous lizards inhabit open areas of cold desert zones that supply Yucca cactus. Diurnal activity occurs at air temperatures of about 86°F. Crepuscular and nocturnal activity is also known. Breeding occurs in May and June. Live birth of 1 to 2 young occurs in September or October. Only the Utah subspecies (<i>X.v. utahensis</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah. It is considered a sensitive species.																
Family: Teiidae western whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	k c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	S S S S S S C	These nongame lizards inhabit sparsely vegetated areas of cold desert and submontane zones. They are insectivorous and diurnal. Breeding occurs in April and May. Two clutches of 1 to 4 eggs can be laid. They hatch in July and August after a 50 day incubation period. The Painted Desert subspecies (<i>C.t. septentrionalis</i>) and the Great Basin subspecies (<i>C.t. tigris</i>) are common throughout southeastern Utah.																

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Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																
			Distribution by Geographic Area																
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands			
														Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
(*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value. *plateau striped whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus velox</i>	k k k k k k k k k k k r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	S	L	S	S							C			S			
			These insectivorous nongame lizards inhabit submontane and montane zones. They seem to require moist, sandy soil for burrowing and nesting. Ecotone areas are commonly inhabited. The species is diurnally active from May-October. No mating occurs, as they are unisexual. A clutch of 3-5 eggs is laid in June or July. Eggs hatch after a 50 day incubation period. A single specimen has been collected at Bluff.																
Family: Scincidae *many-linked skink <i>Eumeces multivirgatus</i>	k k k k r k k k k k k r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L	L		L	L	L	S	L	L	S	S	S	C			H	
			These insectivorous nongame lizards inhabit moist areas at all elevations. They are diurnally active from April through September at air temperatures of 87-93°F. Breeding occurs in the spring and summer after which a clutch of 5-7 eggs is laid. This species appears to adapt to human habitation. Only the variable subspecies (<i>E.m.gaiageae</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah. It is restricted to the Elk Ridge area, and the Navajo Indian Nation south of the San Juan River and Lake Powell.																

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Reptilian Species (* high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands					
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
western skink <i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	k k l k k k k k k k k k	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							H	H	H			S	C				H		
Family: Boidae rubber boa <i>Charina bottae</i>	u u k k k k k k k k k k	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands				S	S	S	L	S				S					S	H	
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																	Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
Family: Colubridae *glossy snake <i>Arizona elegans</i>	k k k k k k k k k k r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands							S	S	S	S	S	S	C						These nongame snakes inhabit open areas of cold desert and submontane zones. The species is normally active when air temperatures range from 66-95°F; 80°F provides optimum temperature. They are carnivorous and subterranean. Breeding occurs in the spring and eggs hatch 10 to 12 weeks later. The young become active by September. Only the Painted Desert subspecies (<i>A.e. philipi</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah. It is restricted to the Navajo Indian Nation south of the San Juan River and Lake Powell. It is sensitive to human disturbance.	
racer <i>Coluber constrictor</i>	u u u u u u u u u u u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands		S						H	H	H	S	S	H	C				H		These carnivorous nongame snakes inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. Mating occurs from April to June. Laying of a 5-28 egg clutch occurs from mid-June through August, after which young hatch in 6-8 weeks. Availability of rocks or burrows for nesting is a limiting factor. Racers den in large numbers along with other species. They are active at an average body temperature of 89°F or when air temperatures are between 68°F and 93°F. Only the western yellow-bellied subspecies (<i>C.c. mormon</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.

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Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																			
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																	Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
ring-neck snake <i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	u k k k k k k u k k k	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L	L		H	H	H												C		
*corn snake <i>Elaphe quttata</i>	k k k k k u u k k u u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands		H		H	H	H		S	S									C		

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																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
(*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value. night snake <i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L						H	H	H	H	H	H	H				H		
			These nongame snakes inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. Their preference is for rocky, pinyon/juniper slopes, although they have been found in grasslands without rocks. They are carnivorous, secretive, and nocturnal. They appear to be most active from May through October at air temperatures of 86°F to 93°F. Little is known about breeding, but a clutch of 4-6 eggs is laid between April and July. Hatching occurs 7-8 weeks later. The night snake's saliva is mildly toxic.																		
*common king snake <i>Lampropeltis getulus</i>	k k k r r r k k k k k r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	H				S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S				S	H	C	
			These nongame snakes inhabit all elevation zones. They are often at vegetated rocky outcrops or under old logs. They are carnivorous and primarily diurnal. Breeding occurs from mid March into June. A clutch of 3 to 24 eggs is laid between mid May and August. hatching occurs 8 to 12 weeks later. These animals are unlawfully commercialized due to their attractiveness as pets. The California subspecies (<i>L.g. californiae</i>) may inhabit the Henry Mountains and environs south of the San Juan River. It is a sensitive species.																		

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
			Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																	Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
coachwhip <i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	k k k u u u k k u u u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands		S					H	H	H	H	H	H	C				C		
			These nongame snakes inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. Burrows and rock crevices are used for shelter. They are carnivorous and diurnal, maintaining average body temperatures of 89°F. They are active from April through September. Breeding occurs in the spring. A clutch of 4-16 eggs is laid in June or July. A depth of at least one foot of moist, loose soil is necessary for nesting. Incubation lasts 6-11 weeks. Only the red subspecies (<i>M.f. piceus</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																		
striped whip snake <i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands		L				S	S	H	H	S	S	L	C				C		
			These carnivorous nongame snakes inhabit cold desert, submontane, and montane zones. They are diurnal snakes, maintaining average body temperatures of 89°F. Breeding occurs in late April and May. A clutch of 3-12 eggs is laid during June and July in abandoned rodent burrows. Hatching occurs in August after a 44-50 day incubation period. Degradation of riparian areas represents a substantial impact to this snake. Only the desert subspecies (<i>M.t. taeniatus</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																		

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands					
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
(*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.			H															C	C		
			*smooth green snake <i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	u u k k u u k k k k u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	These insectivorous snakes are diurnally active at all elevations from April-September. They prefer areas abundant with ground debris and humus. Breeding occurs in May and June. A clutch of 3-11 eggs is laid in July or August. Communal egg laying sites exist. Incubation lasts 4-23 days. Only the western subspecies (<i>O.v. blanchardi</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah, however, insufficient data on its status exists. Loss of habitat and pesticide use are harmful to these snakes.															
pine snake <i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>			H		S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H	H	C					H		
			pine snake <i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	These nongame snakes inhabit open areas of cold desert, submontane, and montane zones. They are carnivorous and primarily diurnal, although nocturnal activity is common in hot weather. The species is active at air temperatures of 61-91. Breeding occurs in the spring. A clutch of 3 to 24 eggs is laid between June and August. Incubation lasts 64 to 79 days. The Great Basin subspecies (<i>P.m. deserticola</i>) is found throughout southeastern Utah.															

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																	
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
Long-nosed snake <i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	k u k k u u k u k k u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L					S	L	L	H	H	H					S		
			These carnivorous nongame snakes prefer open grasslands of cold desert and submontane zones. Nocturnal and crepuscular activity occur at temperatures ranging from 61-88°F. During the day, the snakes remain subterranean. Breeding occurs in the spring. A clutch of 4-9 eggs is laid in an underground nest. Incubation lasts 2-3 months. Only the western subspecies (<i>R.l. lecontei</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																	
*California black-headed snake <i>Tantilla planiceps</i>	k k k r r r r k k r r	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands						S	S	S	S	S	S					C		
			These nongame snakes inhabit cold desert and submontane zones. They are insectivorous and diurnally subterranean. Nocturnal activity following rains is typical of these secretive snakes. Activity normally occurs when air temperatures are 68-86°F. Breeding is believed to occur in the spring. A clutch of 1 to 3 eggs is laid in May or June. Due to an uncertain taxonomy, subspecies are not accepted. It is considered a sensitive species.																	

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																	
			Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands				
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake
black-necked garter snake <i>Thamnophis cyrtopsis</i>	k k k k u u k k k k u	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L		S	H	S	L	S	L	L	L	L			H	C			
			These nongame snakes inhabit cold desert, submontane and montane zones. They require deep soil for shelter in the winter. They are carnivorous and diurnal. Activity occurs from March through November at temperatures between 60°F and 95°F. A single live birthing incident of 7-25 young occurs between late June and August. The western subspecies (<i>T.c. cyrtopsis</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																	
western terrestrial garter snake <i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	c c c c c c c c c c c c	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L	H		S	S	S	S	S	L	L	L	S		C	C	C	H	H
			These carnivorous nongame snakes inhabit all elevations. At lower elevations, they are diurnally active from March through November at air temperatures of 53°F to 86°F. Garter snakes are dependent upon ecosystems near aquatic habitats. Breeding occurs in the spring. A single live birthing event of 4-19 young occurs between July and September. Garter snakes hibernate in rodent burrows or beneath rocks. The wandering subspecies (<i>T.e. vagrans</i>) inhabits southeastern Utah.																	

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area

Reptilian Species (*) high-interest because of economic, aesthetic, educational, scientific, or ecological value.	Relative Abundance ¹	indigenous/exotic	Relative Biological value of Ecosystems: (C) critical; (H) high priority;																		
		Distribution by Geographic Area	Urban	Agricultural	Alpine	Spruce/Fir	Aspen	Ponderosa	Sagebrush/grass	Mountain Brush	Pinyon/juniper	Saltbrush/grass	Blackbrush	Grassland	Barren	wetlands					
																Marsh	Mesic Meadow	Riparian	Stream	Lake	
common garter snake <i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	c k k k k k k k k k k	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands	L	H		S	S	S	S	S	L	L	L	S	C	C	C	C	H	H	These nongame snakes inhabit all elevations. They are carnivorous and diurnal. Garter snakes are terrestrial, but dependent upon ecosystems near aquatic habitats. They bask on the ground or emergent vegetation. Breeding occurs in the spring soon after emergence from the hibernaculum. Live birth of 14-15 young occurs between late June and early fall after a 3-4 month gestation period. Large numbers hibernate together. The valley subspecies (<i>T.s. fitchi</i>) inhabits the Wasatch Plateau.
				H			L	L	S	S	S	S	S	S	C				L		
Family: Viperidae western rattlesnake <i>Crotalus viridis</i>	k k k k k k k k k k l	Indigenous Wasatch Plateau Tavaputs Plateau Cedar Mountain Henry Mountains Abajo/Elk Ridge LaSal Mountains Dolores Triangle San Rafael Desert Burr Desert Cisco Desert Canyonlands		H			L	L	S	S	S	S	S	C				L			These nongame carnivorous snakes inhabit all elevations. Activity hours are dependent upon temperature. Live birth of 4-21 young occurs in the fall after a 3-4 month gestation period. They hibernate with their own and other species. The prairie (<i>C.v. viridis</i>) and Hopi (<i>C.v. nuntius</i>) subspecies are found in Grand and San Juan Counties. The midget faded subspecies (<i>C.v. concolor</i>) is found throughout southeastern Utah. The Great Basin subspecies (<i>C.v. lutosus</i>) is found on the Wasatch Plateau.

1. Relative Abundance: (c) common; (u) uncommon; (l) limited; (r) rare; (e) endangered; (t) threatened; (o) occasional; (a) accidental; (k) unknown to inhabit area