

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Big Sandy River Drainage, Mohave County, Arizona (from Upper Trout Creek Junction to Alamo Lake)

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Horned Lizard Ranch, Wikieup, Arizona, USA.

The Big Sandy River starts in the vicinity of Hackberry on old Highway 66 and flows south paralleling U.S. Hwy. 93 to Wikieup. It then veers south-westward roughly parallel with the Signal Road through the Signal/Mid-Big Sandy River area. South of Signal the river travels through a gorge that opens into the Santa Maria River and then into Alamo Lake. The area includes the northernmost extension of the Sonoran Desert with floral elements of Mohave and Great Basin Deserts as evidenced by Saguaro, Palo Verde, Joshua Trees, and California and Utah Junipers.

If the species is on the list (below) it has been observed by us (2000-2006), recorded in the literature, or recorded by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). Many were photographed (Brattstrom collection; Erik Enderson collection). Voucher specimens are in the collections of the University of Arizona and AGFD, Kingman Office. Some specific records have been sent to the AGFD, Tucson Office.

Many records fill in gaps in previous maps of the area (e.g., Kenneth Jones, 1981, unpublished BLM report). Plateau Striped Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus velox*¹) records extend the range of this species southward from higher country to the north. Gartersnakes and skinks are more common in the Burro Creek drainage to the east.

The 480-acre Horned Lizard Ranch is in Sec. 29, 34°31'N; 113°38'W; 2200'.

Several species not on the list (Black-tailed Rattlesnake [*Crotalus molossus*], Common Lesser Earless Lizard [*Holbrookia maculata*]) occur in the higher elevations south of Interstate 40 and north of the Upper Trout Creek Junction.

AMPHIBIANS

*Bufo alvarius** - Sonoran Desert Toad
*Bufo microscaphus** - Arizona Toad
*Bufo punctatus*** - Red-spotted Toad
*Bufo woodhousii** - Woodhouse's Toad

Scaphiopus couchii - Couch's Spadefoot

*Rana catesbeiana** - American Bullfrog, introduced, now extirpated
*Rana yavapaiensis** - Lowland Leopard Frog

REPTILES

Turtles

*Gopherus agassizii*** - Desert Tortoise
Kinosternon flavescens - Yellow Mud Turtle - introduced (Wikieup), now extirpated (?)
*Kinosternon sonoriensis** - Sonora Mud Turtle
*Trionyx spiniferus*²* - Spiny Softshell - introduced (?)

Lizards

*Coleonyx variegatus*** - Western Banded Gecko
*Callisaurus draconoides*** - Zebra-tailed Lizard
*Crotaphytus collaris*** - Eastern Collared Lizard
*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*** - Desert Iguana
Gambelia wislizenii - Long-nosed Leopard Lizard
*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*** - Desert Horned Lizard
*Sauromalus obesus*³** - Chuckwalla
*Sceloporus magister*** - Desert Spiny Lizard
Urosaurus ornatus - Tree Lizard
Urosaurus graciosus - Long-tailed Brush Lizard
*Uta stansburiana*** - Side-blotched Lizard



Arizona Toads (*Bufo microscaphus*). Photo by Erik Enderson.



Lowland Leopard Frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*). Photo by Erik Enderson.

*Cnemidophorus tigris*⁴ ** - Tiger Whiptail
*Cnemidophorus velox*¹** - Plateau Striped Whiptail

Eumeces gilberti - Gilbert's Skink
Eumeces obsoletus - Great Plains Skink

*Xantusia vigilis*** - Desert Night Lizard

*Heloderma suspectum*** - Gila Monster

Snakes

Leptotyphlops humilis - Western Threadsnake

*Lichanura trivirgata*** - Rosy Boa

*Arizona elegans*** - Glossy Snake

Chionactis occipitalis - Western Shovel-nosed Snake

*Hypsiglena torquata** - Nightsnake

*Lampropeltis getula** - Common Kingsnake

Masticophis bilineatus - Sonoran Whipsnake

Masticophis flagellum - Coachwhip

Phyllorhynchus decurtatus - Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake

*Pituophis catenifer*** - Gophersnake

Rhinocbeilus lecontei - Long-nosed Snake

Sahadhora hexalepis - Western Patch-nosed Snake

*Sonora semiannulata*** - Groundsnake

Tantilla bobartsmiti - Smith's Black-headed Snake

Thamnophis cyrtopsis - Black-necked Gartersnake

Thamnophis marcianus - Checkered Gartersnake

Trimorphodon biscutatus - Western Lyresnake

*Micruroides euryxanthus** - Sonoran Coralsnake

*Crotalus atrox*** - Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake

*Crotalus mitchelli*** - Speckled Rattlesnake

*Crotalus scutulatus*** - Mohave Rattlesnake

*Also Signal-Mid Big Sandy River area

** Also Horned Lizard Ranch

Names used in Crother et al. 2003: ¹*Aspidoscelis velox*;
²*Apalone spinifer*; ³*Sauromalus ater*; ⁴*Aspidoscelis tigris*.

Literature Cited

Jones, K. B. 1981. Distribution, ecology, and habitat management of the reptiles and amphibians of the Hualapai-Aquarius Planning Area, Mohave and Yavapai Counties, Arizona. Bureau of Land Management Technical Note 353:V1-134 (out of print; copy at BLM library, NSTC/ST-150A, P.O. Box 25047, Denver, Colorado 80225).

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Gilbert's Skink (*Eumeces gilberti*), juvenile. Photo by Erik Enderson.



Desert Night Lizard (*Xantusia vigilis*). Photo by Erik Enderson.



Speckled Rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*). Photo by Erik Enderson.

