



A Guide to the Mammals of Burton Mesa

Chaparral is one of California's most emblematic vegetation types, forming broad expanses across coastal and inland foothills and constituting about five percent of the state's land cover. Paradoxically, maritime chaparral, a manzanita-dominated association found only in relatively small patches near the coast, is one of our most uncommon and highly threatened vegetation communities.

Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve consists of 5,368 acres between Purisima Hills and Santa Ynez Mountains and encompasses one of the last significant stands of maritime chaparral in the state, making it a critical habitat area for many insects, plants, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Visitors to Burton Mesa may see many of California's mammal species, include badger, striped skunk, spotted skunk, black-tailed jackrabbit, brush rabbit, deer, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, gray fox, as well as a number of smaller mammals such as the California ground squirrel, deer mouse, pocket gopher, or dusky-footed wood rat. Occasionally, animals such as the black bear, ringtail, and antelope may be observed pass through the reserve.

All of these animals play important ecological roles, including increasing nutrient flow among different habitat types; yet their need for high landscape connectivity often puts them at greater risk from landuse change and human development. Reserves such as this one are important for maintaining healthy populations of these animals. For the best wildlife viewing opportunities, visit the reserve near dawn or dusk in the spring and early summer..





Mammals of Santa Barbara County

MARSUPIALS

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) *

INSECTIVORES

Desert Shrew (*Notiosorex crawfordi*)

Ornate Shrew (*Sorex ornatus*)

Broad-footed Mole (*Scapanus latimanus*)

BATS

Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)

California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*)

Yuma Myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

Western Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*)

Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis*)

Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*)

RACCOONS & RINGTAILS

Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)

Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*)

WEASELS & SKUNKS

Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)

Long-tailed Weasel (*Mustela frenata*)

Badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

CARNIVORES

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) *

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)

DEER

Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

SQUIRRELS, CHIPMUNKS & GOPHERS

Western Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*)

Fox Squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) *

California Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*)

Merriam's Chipmunk (*Tamias merriami*)

POCKET MICE, KANGAROO MICE & KANGAROO RATS

Pacific Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys agilis*)

California Pocket Mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus*)

MICE, RATS & VOLES

California Vole (*Microtus californicus*)

Dusky-footed Woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*)

Desert Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida*)

Brush Mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*)

California Mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*)

Cactus Mouse (*Peromyscus eremicus*)

Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*)

Pinon Mouse (*Peromyscus truei*)

Western Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*)

Botta's Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys bottae*)

OLD WORLD RATS & MICE

House Mouse (*Mus musculus*) *

Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) *

Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) *

HARES & RABBITS

Black-tailed Jack Rabbit (*Lepus californicus*)

Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)

Brush Rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*)

* introduced