Black Canyon Research Natural Area Guidebook Supplement 52

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Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station General Technical Report PNW-GTR-969 February 2019

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The Pacific Northwest Research Station is publishing this guidebook as part of a continuing series of guidebooks on federal research natural areas begun in 1972.

Cover: Facing north through Black Canyon toward the northeast boundary of Black Canyon Research Natural Area, Oregon. Foreground vegetation is typical of the big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass–Idaho fescue plant association. All photographs in this report are by Sarah Canham.

Abstract

Schuller, Reid; Canham, Sarah. 2019. Black Canyon Research Natural Area: guidebook supplement 52. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-969. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 25 p.

This guidebook describes major biological and physical attributes of the 2686-ha (6,637-ac) Black Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA), Wheeler County, Oregon. The RNA contains high-quality examples of native plant associations' representative of the foothills of the Blue Mountains ecoregion.

Keywords: Research natural area, area of critical environmental concern, big sagebrush/Thurber's needlegrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/*Achnatherum thurberianum*) plant community, big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) plant community, western juniper/big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Juniperus occidentalis*/*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) plant community, big sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/*Festuca idahoensis*) plant community, western juniper/big sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Juniperus occidentalis*/ *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/*Festuca idahoensis*) plant juniper/big sagebrush–antelope bitterbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass–Idaho fescue (*Juniperus occidentalis*/*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*–*Purshia tridentata*/ *Pseudoroegneria spicata*–*Festuca idahoensis*) plant community, arrowleaf thelypody (*Thelypodium eucosmum*), threatened plant species population.

Preface

The research natural area (RNA) described in this supplement^{*i*} is administered by the Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior.

Black Canyon RNA is part of a federal system² of natural areas established for research and educational purposes.³ Of the 211 federal RNAs established in Oregon and Washington, 45 are described in *Federal Research Natural Areas in Oregon and Washington: a Guidebook for Scientists and Educators* (see footnote 1). This report is a supplement to the guidebook.

Each RNA is a site where elements⁴ are protected or managed for scientific purposes and natural processes are allowed to dominate. The objectives for establishing RNAs are to:

- Maintain a wide spectrum of high-quality areas that represent the major forms of variability found in forest, shrubland, grassland, alpine, and natural situations that have scientific interest and importance that, in combination, form a national network of ecological areas for research, education, and maintenance of biological diversity.
- Preserve and maintain genetic diversity, including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- Protect against human-caused environmental disruptions.
- Serve as reference areas for the study of natural ecological processes, including disturbance.

¹ Supplement No. 53 to Franklin, J.F.; Hall, F.C.; Dyrness, C.T.; Maser, C. 1972. Federal research natural areas in Oregon and Washington: a guidebook for scientists and educators. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. 498 p.

² Six federal agencies cooperate in this program in the Pacific Northwest: U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service; U.S. Department of Energy; and U.S. Department of Defense. In addition, the federal agencies cooperate with state agencies and private organizations in Oregon and Washington in the Pacific Northwest Interagency Natural Area Committee.

³ See Wilson et al. (2009) for a more complete discussion of rationale for establishment of RNAs.

⁴ Elements are the basic units to be represented in a natural area system. An element may be an ecosystem, community, habitat, or organism. Taken from Dyrness, C.T.; Franklin, J.F.; Maser, C.; Cook, S.A.; Hall, J.D.; Faxon, G. 1975. Research natural area needs in the Pacific Northwest: a contribution to land-use planning. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-38. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. 231 p.

- Provide onsite and extension educational activities.
- Serve as baseline areas for measuring long-term ecological changes.
- Serve as control areas for comparing results from manipulative research.
- Monitor effects of resource management techniques and practices.

The guiding principle in managing RNAs is to maintain natural ecological processes or conditions for which the site is designated. Activities that impair scientific or educational values are not permitted within RNAs. Management practices necessary to maintain or restore ecosystems may be allowed.

Federal RNAs provide a unique system of publicly owned and protected examples of relatively unmodified ecosystems where scientists can conduct research with minimal interference and reasonable assurance that investments in long-term studies will not be lost to logging, land development, or similar activities. Scientists and educators wishing to visit or use Black Canyon RNA for scientific or educational purposes should contact the Prineville BLM district office in advance and provide information about objectives, sampling procedures, and other prospective activities. Research projects, educational visits, and collection of specimens from the RNA require prior approval. There may be limitations on research or educational activities.

A person wishing to use the RNA is obligated to:

- Obtain permission from the appropriate administering agency before using the area (see footnote 2)
- Abide by the administering agency's regulations governing use, including specific limitations on the type of research, sampling methods, and other procedures.
- Inform the administering agency on progress of the research, published results, and disposition of collected materials.

The purpose of this approval process is to:

- Ensure the ecological integrity and scientific and educational values of the RNA are not compromised.
- Provide information to scientists about other research occurring on the RNA so potential collaborations may be fostered and conflicts avoided.
- Maintain records of research activities and research results to benefit the BLM, other agencies, and future researchers.

Appropriate uses of RNAs are determined by the administering agency. Destructive analysis of vegetation is generally not allowed, nor are studies requiring extensive substrate modification such as extensive soil excavation. Collection of plant and animal specimens is generally restricted to voucher specimens or approved research activities. Under no circumstances may collecting significantly reduce species populations. Collecting must also be carried out in accordance with all other federal and state agency regulations.

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Introduction

The U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) established the 2686-ha (6,637-ac) Black Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA) because it supports high-quality, representative examples of native plant communities and sensitive plant species occurring at low elevations within the Blue Mountain ecoregion (ONAP 2015, USDI BLM 2015), including:

- Big sagebrush/Thurber's needlegrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*/ *Achnatherum thurberianum*) plant community.
- Big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata/ Pseudoroegneria spicata*) plant community.
- Big sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata/Festuca idahoensis*) plant community.
- Western juniper/big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass (*Juniperus occidentalis/Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata/Pseudoroegneria spicata*) plant community.
- Western juniper/big sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Juniperus occidentalis/* Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata/Festuca idahoensis) plant community.
- Western juniper/big sagebrush–antelope bitterbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue (*Juniperus occidentalis/Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata-Purshia tridentata/Pseudoroegneria-Festuca idahoensis*) plant community.
- Arrowleaf thelypody (*Thelypodium eucosmum*) sensitive plant species population.

Access and Accommodations

From the BLM office in Prineville, Oregon, drive east on Highway 26 east toward Mitchell, Oregon, 72.9 km (45.3 mi). Turn left onto Highway 207 North (Service Creek Road) for 15.7 km (9.7 mi) to Girds Creek Road. Turn left onto Girds Creek Road (also known as South Twickenham Road) and continue for 6.8 km (4.2 mi) to a small turnout on the east side of the road. From here, the northeastern boundary of the RNA occurs immediately across the paved road to the west (fig. 1).

Permission to use the area for research purposes must be obtained from the BLM Prineville District office in Prineville, Oregon. Maps and additional information about the area are available at this office. Lodging is available in Prineville, Oregon. Limited lodging is also available in Mitchell, Oregon.

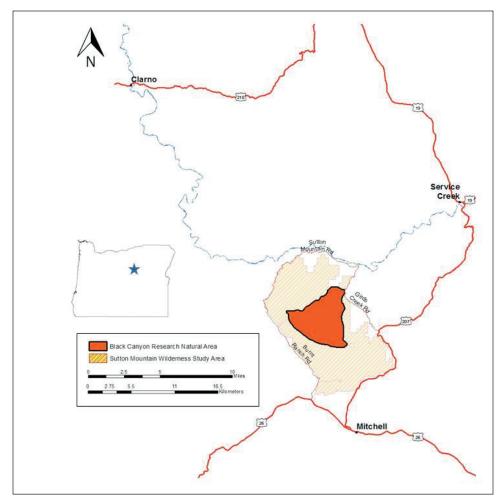


Figure 1-Black Canyon Research Natural Area access and location.

Environment

The RNA occurs within the Blue Mountains of central Oregon in a transitional region between the Blue Mountain ecoregion and the Northern Great Basin ecoregion (Franklin and Dyrness 1988, ONAP 2015, USDI BLM 2015).

Elevations range between 623 m (2,043 ft) at the northern RNA boundary adjacent to Girds Creek in Black Canyon and 1370 m (4,493 ft) at the summit of Sutton Mountain in the southeast portion of the RNA (fig. 2). An intermittent stream flows in a northeasterly direction off of Sutton Mountain to the northeastern boundary of the RNA.

Significant geologic formations in the Sutton Mountain area include the Clarno Formation, John Day Formation, and the Columbia River Basalt Group. The Clarno Formation underlies the John Day Formation and is of late Eocene to early

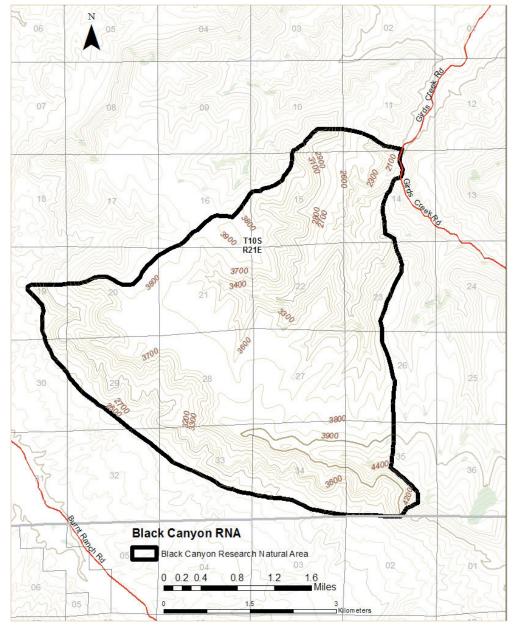


Figure 2—Black Canyon Research Natural Area (RNA) topography and boundary.

Oligocene age. It has an aggregate thickness of several thousand feet and contains a variety of volcanic and related terrestrial rocks, including mafic lava flows, coarse unsorted breccias, mudflows, tuffaceous sediments, and silicic domes (USDI BLM 1995).

The John Day formation is of Oligocene to early Miocene age. It is widely known for its abundant, well-preserved plant and vertebrate animal fossils.

Approximately 914 m (3,000 ft) of varicolored siltstones, claystones, and vitric tuffs make up most of the formation (USDI BLM 1995).

The Columbia River Basalt Group averages 610 to 914 m (2,000 to 3,000 ft) in thickness. It is the youngest of the three major formations and overlies the John Day and Clarno Formations. It forms the walls that overlook Bridge and Girds Creeks, and the John Day River. The group is composed primarily of continental flood basalts of Miocene age. They are generally dense, black, and fine grained with subordinate tuffaceous sediments (USDI BLM 1995).

Twenty percent of the soils have been intensively mapped along the eastern and southern margins of the RNA (USDA NRCS 2017b). The general distribution of soil types is based on limited field reconnaissance within the RNA.¹ The general soil pattern is dominated by Waterbury Series soils occupying 30 percent of the RNA and occurring within the north and northeast portions of the RNA. The Waterbury Series consists of shallow, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered mainly from basalt and tuff. Waterbury soils are on plateaus, benches, and shoulders of hills. The taxonomic class of Waterbury soils is clayey-skeletal, smectitic, mesic Lithic Argixerolls (USDA NRCS 2017b).

A Tub-Simas-Curant soil complex occurs within the southern and western portions of the remaining 70 percent of the RNA. The Tub Series consists of deep and very deep, well-drained soils that formed in old sediments of volcanic origin. Tub soils are on hilly uplands and have slopes of 1 to 70 percent. The taxonomic class of Tub soils is fine, smectitic, mesic Vertic Argixerolls (USDA NRCS 2017b).

Climate

Climate is characterized by long, cool, moist winters and short, warm, and dry summers with features of both maritime and continental climates. Temperatures are modified by proximity to the Pacific Ocean and are generally milder than in the Continental climates of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. Cyclonic storms still affect the area: thunderstorms often occur in the late spring and summer months and can be very intense (Franklin and Dyrness 1988, USDI BLM 1995, WRCC 2016). Temperature and precipitation data collected at the Mitchell 27 SW Ochoco climate station (WRCC 2016) are summarized in table 1. Precipitation occurs mainly during the winter and early spring. Intense, localized thunderstorms occur in late spring and throughout the summer (USDI BLM 1995). The July

¹ Supplement No. 53 to Franklin, J.F.; Hall, F.C.; Dyrness, C.T.; Maser, C. 1972. Federal research natural areas in Oregon and Washington: a guidebook for scientists and educators. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. 498 p.

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Average minimum January temperature	-9.1 °C (15.7 °F)
Average maximum January temperature	1.7 °C (35.0 °F)
Average minimum July temperature	15.3 °C (41.5 °F)
Average maximum July temperature	27.8 °C (81.8 °F)
Average annual precipitation	443 mm (17.44 in)
Average July–September precipitation	54 mm (2.14 in)

Table 1—Temperature and precipitation summary

through September time period receives only 12 percent of the average annual total precipitation of 343 mm (13.5 in) (WRCC 2016). Upper elevations on Sutton Mountain receive greater annual precipitation amounts than lower elevations within the RNA, with a higher proportion of winter precipitation falling as snow than in adjacent lowlands.

Vegetation

Vegetation within the RNA is characterized by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*)-dominated shrub steppe mixed with western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) woodlands. Curl-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) occurs sporadically throughout the RNA as a codominant within western juniper woodlands, and as the sole overstory species in big sagebrush plant associations. Large ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) individuals are scattered throughout the RNA. Wildfires of varying size have recently reduced the woody vegetation (see the "Disturbance History" section below), resulting in grass-dominated stands with antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) and occasional big sagebrush scattered throughout (Schuller and Canham 2016). Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) is widespread and common throughout the RNA. Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) codominates with bluebunch wheatgrass on shallow and droughty soils (USDI BLM 2017).

Figure 3 shows the distribution of the major plant associations present in the area. The *Juniperus occidentalis/Cercocarpus ledifolius–Purshia tridentata/ Pseudoroegneria spicata* plant association (Johnson and Swanson 2005) is the most extensive association within the RNA (fig. 4), occupying 1080 ha (2,667 ac) or 40 percent of the area (USDI BLM 2017). Understory shrub, herb, and grass frequency and cover within this association are summarized in table 2. Bluebunch wheatgrass predominates on warmer drier sites, and codominates with Idaho fescue on slightly more mesic sites, especially on north-facing slope exposures. Perennial herbs such

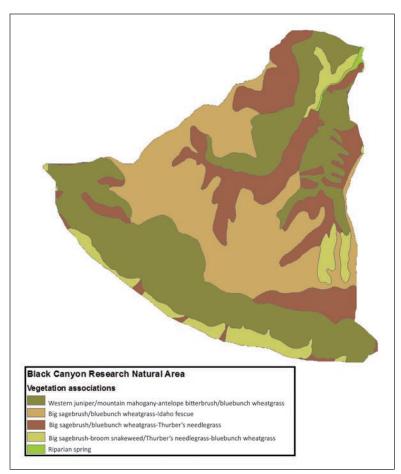


Figure 3—Black Canyon Research Natural Area vegetation associations.



Figure 4—An example of the western juniper/mountain mahogany–antelope bitterbrush/ bluebunch wheatgrass plant association.

Natural Area	lea								
	Plant association ^{a} >	ARI	ARTR/PSSP6	ART	ARTR/FEID	ART	ARTR/PSSP6	ART	ARTR/PSSP6
	Plot # >	478	478	479	479	480	480	481	481
Code^{b}	Species name	Cover ^c	Frequency ^c	Cover	Frequency	Cover	Frequency	Cover	Frequency
	Shrubs:								
CELE3	Cercocarpus ledifolius	0	+						
ARTRT	Artemisia tridentata							18	27
	Forbs:								
PSSP6	Pseudoroegneria spicata	75	23	75	20	79	13	75	13
BRTE	Bromus tectorum	82	8	29	+	64	4	71	6
POSE	Poa secunda	39	1	29	2	25	1	Ζ	+
ACMI2	Achillea millefolium	4	+	٢	+	18	1		
ASFI	Astragalus filipes			4	+				
BRHO2	Bromus hordeaceus			٢	+				
CAXA	Castilleja xanthotricha		I	4	+				
CREPI	Crepis sp.		I	٢	+				
CYFR2	Cystopteris fragilis		I					14	+
DRVE2	Draba verna	68	+	4	+	25	+	4	+
EPILO	Epilobium brachycarpum	11	+	٢	+				
ERFI2	Erigeron filifolius		Ι	11	+		I	4	2
EROV	Eriogonum ovalifolium	11	+			٢	+		
FEID	Festuca idahoensis		I	75	27		I		I
HOUM	Holosteum umbellatum	39	+	46	+	14	+	36	1
LUPIN	Lupinus sp.	L	1	11	1	٢	+		
MIGR	Microsteris gracilis	43	+						

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coverage, a	
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association,	continued)
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Tab	Nat

	Plant association $^a >$	ART	ARTR/PSSP6	ARI	ARTR/FEID	ART	ARTR/PSSP6	ARTI	ARTR/PSSP6
	Plot # >	478	478	479	479	480	480	481	481
Code^{b}	Code ^b Species name	Cover ^c	Cover ^c Frequency ^c	Cover	Cover Frequency	Cover	Cover Frequency	Cover	Frequency
PEDE4	Penstemon deustus var. variabilis							11	+
PLMA4	Plantago macrocarpa	4	+						
SCAN3	Scutellaria angustifolia							29	2
TRDU2	Tragopogon dubius			4	+	٢	+		
NUMI	Vulpia microstachys			4	+				
1		•							

+ = < 0.5 percent cover and is converted to 0.2 percent cover in estimating cover values.

first two letters of the genus name of the dominant or characteristic species within a layer, and combined with the first two letters of the specific epithet of the ^a Plant associations are named based on a combination of the dominant life form plus the characteristic or dominant plant species in the various plant layers (trees, shrubs, and herbs). Plant association acronyms are a shorthand form for communicating the plant association name. Each acronym is made up of the species. Life form layers are separated by a slash (/) Codominants within a layer are separated by a dash (-).

^b ACTH = Achmatherum thurberiana, ARTR = Artemisia tridentata, CELE3 = Cercocarpus ledifolius, FEID = Festuca idahoensis, GUSA = Gutierrezia sarothrae, JUOC = Juniperus occidentalis, PSSP = Pseudoroegneria spicata, PUTR = Purshia tridentata.

^c Frequency is expressed as percentage of relative frequency. Vegetation cover is expressed as percentage of foliar cover. += trace (<0.5 percent foliar cover), — = not recorded. Zero values are not included.

^d See appendix 1 for a listing of scientific and common names.

as lupine (*Lupinus* sp.), threadleaf fleabane (*Erigeron filifolius*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and narrowleaf skullcap (*Scutellaria angustifolia*) are present in minor amounts. Native, annual herbs and grasses include slender phlox (*Microsteris gracilis*), tall annual willowherb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*), and small fescue (*Vulpia microstachys*). Introduced, nonnative herbs and grasses are conspicuous throughout the understory. These include cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), spring draba (*Draba verna*), jagged chickweed (*Holosteum umbellatum*), and smooth brome (*Bromus hordaceous*) (Schuller and Canham 2016).

The second most abundant plant association in Black Canyon RNA is the *Artemisia tridentata/Pseudoroegneria spicata–Festuca idahoensis* (big sagebrush/ bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue) plant association (fig. 5). It occupies 823 ha (2,033 ac) or approximately 30 percent of the RNA. The *Artemisia tridentata/Pseudoroegneria spicata–Achnatherum thurberiana* plant association occupies a variety of shallow, rocky soil types that collectively account for 582 ha (1,438 ac) or 22 percent of the RNA. Two additional vegetation communities occupy relatively small amounts of land within the RNA, but are of ecological significance: (1) the *Artemisia tridentata–Gutierrezia sarothrae/Achnatherum thurberianum–Pseudoroegneria spicata* (big sagebrush-broom snakeweed/Thurber's needlegrass-bluebunch wheatgrass), which is distinguished by the high abundance of Thurber's needlegrass relative to other native bunchgrasses in the area; and (2) a small riparian area, which is both an important area for wildlife, and supports a moderate number of plant species not present elsewhere within the RNA (Schuller and Canham 2016).

Numerous showy herbaceous species occur throughout the RNA, including Clearwater cryptantha (*Cryptantha intermedia*) (fig. 6). The RNA also supports a population of the Oregon state sensitive plant species: arrow-leaf thelypody (*Thelypodium eucosmum*) (USDA FS and USDI BLM 2015).

Fauna

Amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals known or expected to occur within the RNA are listed in appendix 2. These lists have been derived from published literature (Csuti et al. 1997), using species distribution, life history characteristics, and availability of habitat within the RNA as criteria for inclusion on the list.

Research History

Sutton Mountain is the site of some of the earliest paleontological exploration in the state of Oregon. In the mid- to late-1860s, Dr. Thomas Condon recovered specimens that aided in interpreting the evolution of the horse. In 1899, researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, surveyed and collected vertebrate fossils in the



Figure 5–Representative vegetation within the big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass– Thurber's needlegrass plant association within Black Canyon Research Natural Area.



Figure 6–Clearwater cryptantha (*Cryptantha intermedia*) is a conspicuous herbaceous species within Black Canyon Research Natural Area.

area. Current research on Sutton Mountain indicates that fossil localities on the mountain provide important information concerning the Haystack Member of the John Day Formation (USDI BLM 1995).

Long-term vegetation monitoring plots were established in 2016 (Schuller and Canham 2016). Four plots were established to characterize vegetation structure and composition of representative stands of *Artemisia tridentata/Festuca idahoensis* (big sagebrush/Idaho fescue); and *Artemisia tridentata/Pseudoroegneria spicata* (big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass).

Disturbance History

Lightning-ignited wildfires have been a frequent part of the Sutton Mountain landscape in recent years. Table 3 summarizes recent fire history within the RNA and shows the year and size of burned area occurring within the RNA since 1999 (USDI BLM 2017). Six wildfires have been recorded for the 1999 to 2017 period. Four fires have been less than 2 ha (5 ac) in size. Two fires have burned more extensively within the RNA. In 2001, a 243-ha (600-ac) fire burned at upper elevations on Sutton Mountain. In 2001, a 54-ha (133-ac) fire also burned within the RNA.

Historical Land Use

Livestock grazing has been the predominant land use in and around the RNA since 1865. Sutton Mountain, located in the southwest portion of the RNA was named after Al Sutton, an early stockman who first moved to Wheeler County in 1865 (McArthur 1952). From that time until the early 1900s, sheep grazing was the primary grazing enterprise in Wheeler County. By 1900, approximately 12,000 sheep were grazing on lands surrounding the town of Twickenham, located just 3 km (2 mi) northeast of the RNA (Fussner 1975).

The first General Land Office survey completed within the RNA and surrounding township in 1881 described the area as "generally mountainous, broken and

Table 3—Fire history within the Black CanyonResearch Natural Area, 1999–2012

Name of wildfire	Year of burn	Burn size
234	2012	2 ha (5 ac)
235	2012	0.04 ha (0.1 ac)
322	2011	243 ha (600 ac)
Sutton	2003	0.04 ha (0.1 ac)
719	2001	54 ha (134 ac)
Rim	1999	0.9 ha (2 ac)

rocky" with "good agricultural land" in creek valleys. The cadastral survey map from this time also indicates two homesteads within the RNA: "E. Bailey's House" and the "Robinson House" (USDI BLM 1881 to present). Both homes were located in the uplands, suggesting they were used for grazing and not agricultural purposes.

There were many failed and few successful attempts to homestead the RNA and surrounding area from 1900 to 1919, at which point stock raising homestead entries began to dominate land claims in and around the RNA until 1931. Oil and gas leases dominated land claims after that period (USDI BLM 1881 to present).

Maps

Maps applicable to Black Canyon RNA: Topographic—Sutton Mountain, 7.5 minute; 1:24,000 scale, 1987 (provisional edition); BLM Sutton Mountain and Pat's Cabin Wilderness Study Area map, 2011.

Acknowledgments

The following people merit recognition for their contributions: Larry Ashton, USDI BLM Prineville District wildlife biologist, reviewed and improved the list of animals in appendix 2. Ryan Griffin, USDI BLM Prineville District archaeologist, provided input for the "Historical Land Use" section. We also thank the three manuscript reviewers: Todd Wilson, wildlife biologist and research natural area coordinator, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; Teal Purrington, planning and environmental coordinator; and Ron Halvorson, district botanist (retired), Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management. The project is funded through the BLM Oregon State Office, and is administratively supported by the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

U.S. Equivalents

When you know:	Multiply by:	To find:
Millimeters (mm)	0.0394	Inches
Centimeters (cm)	0.394	Inches
Meters (m)	3.28	Feet
Kilometers (km)	0.62	Miles
Hectares (ha)	2.471	Acres
Square meters (m^2)	10.76	Square feet
Degrees Fahrenheit (°F)	(°F – 32)/1.8	Degrees Celsius (°C)

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Appendix 1: Plants ^{a b}

Scientific name	Common name
Trees:	
<i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i> Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray var. <i>ledifolius^c Juniperus occidentalis</i> Hook.	Curl-leaf mountain mahogany Western juniper
Pinus ponderosa Dougl. ex C. Lawson var. ponderosa	Ponderosa pine
Tall shrubs >2 m (6.6 ft) tall:	
Amelanchier alnifolia (Nutt.) Nutt. ex M. Roem.	Saskatoon serviceberry
Betula occidentalis Hook.	Water birch
Celtis reticulata Torr.	Netleaf hackberry
Cornus sericea L.	Redosier dogwood
Holodiscus microphyllus Rydb. var. glabrescens (Greenm.) F.A. Ley	Oceanspray
Philadelphus lewisii Pursh	Lewis' mock orange
Prunus virginiana L. var. melanocarpa (A. Nelson) Sarg.	Black chokecherry
Salix amygdaloides Andersson	Peachleaf willow
Salix sp.	Willow
Medium shrubs 0.5 to 2 m (1.6 to 6.6 ft) tall:	
Artemisia tridentata Nutt.	Big sagebrush
Artemisia tridentata Nutt. ssp. wyomingensis Beetle & Young	Wyoming big sagebrush
Atriplex confertifolia (Torr. & Frém.) S. Watson	Shadscale saltbush
Chrysothamnus humilis Greene	Truckee rabbitbrush
Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus (Hook.) Nutt.	Yellow rabbitbrush
Ericameria nauseosa (Pall. ex Pursh) G.L. Nesom & G.I. Baird	Rubber rabbitbrush
Grayia spinosa (Hook.) Moq.	Spiny hopsage
Gutierrezia sarothrae (Pursh) Britton & Rusby	Broom snakeweed
Linanthus pungens (Torr.) J.M. Porter & L.A. Johnson	Granite prickly phlox
Purshia tridentata (Pursh) DC.	Antelope bitterbrush
Ribes cereum Douglas var. cereum	Wax currant
Ribes lacustre (Pers.) Poir.	Prickly currant
Rosa woodsii Lindl. var. ultramontana (S. Watson) Jeps.	Woods' rose
Sarcobatus vermiculatus (Hook.) Torr.	Greasewood
Salvia dorrii (Kellogg) Abrams var. incana (Benth.) Strachan	Purple sage
Tetradymia canescens DC.	Spineless horsebrush
Low shrubs <0.5 m (1.6 ft) tall:	
Brickellia oblongifolia Nutt. var. oblongifolia	Mojave brickellbush
Ericameria resinosa Nutt.	Columbian goldenbush

Scientific name	Common name
Toxicodendron rydbergii (Small ex Rydb.) Greene	Western poison ivy
Ferns:	
Cystopteris fragilis (L.) Bernh.	Brittle bladderfern
Forbs:	
Achillea millefolium L.	Common yarrow
Agoseris heterophylla (Nutt.) Greene	Annual agoseris
Allium tolmiei Baker	Tolmie's onion
Alyssum alyssoides (L.) L.	Pale madwort
Amsinckia lycopsoides Lehm.	Tarweed fiddleneck
Amsinckia tessellata A. Gray	Bristly fiddleneck
Antennaria sp.	Pussytoes
Antennaria dimorpha (Nutt.) Torr. & A. Gray	Low pussytoes
Antennaria pulvinata Greene	Rosy pussytoes
Aquilegia formosa Fisch. ex DC.	Western columbine
Arabis eschscholtziana Andrz.	Eschscholtz's hairy rockcres
Arceuthobium campylopodum Engelm.	Western dwarf mistletoe
Asclepias speciosa Torr.	Showy milkweed
Astragalus diaphanus Douglas ex Hook. var. diaphanus	Transparent milkvetch
Astragalus filipes Torr. ex A. Gray	Basalt milkvetch
Astragalus lentiginosus Douglas var. chartaceus M.E. Jones	Broadleaf milkvetch
Astragalus purshii Douglas ex Hook.	Woollypod milkvetch
<i>Boechera</i> sp.	Rockcress
Boechera pauciflora (Nutt.) Windham & Al-Shehbaz	Hairystem rockcress
Boechera pendulocarpa (A. Nelson) Windham & Al-Shehbaz	Dropseed rockcress
Calochortus macrocarpus Douglas	Sagebrush mariposa lily
<i>Castilleja tenuis</i> (A. Heller) T.I. Chuang & Heckard	Hairy Indian paintbrush
Castilleja xanthotricha Pennell	Yellowhair Indian paintbrus
Centaurea stoebe L. ssp. Micranthos (Gugler) Hayek	Spotted knapweed
Ceratocephala testiculata (Crantz) Roth	Curveseed butterwort
Chaenactis douglasii (Hook.) Hook. & Arn.	Douglas' dustymaiden
Chaenactis nevii A. Gray	John Day's pincushion
Chenopodium fremontii S. Watson	Fremont's goosefoot
Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.	Canada thistle
Claytonia perfoliata Donn ex Willd.	Miner's lettuce
Clematis ligusticifolia Nutt.	Western white clematis
Collinsia parviflora Douglas ex Lindl.	Maiden blue-eyed Mary
Collomia grandiflora Douglas ex Lindl.	Grand collomia

Scientific name	Common name
Collomia linearis Nutt.	Tiny trumpet
Crepis atribarba A. Heller	Slender hawksbeard
Cryptantha ambigua (A. Gray) Greene	Basin cryptantha
Cryptantha intermedia (A. Gray) Greene	Clearwater cryptantha
Cryptantha torreyana (A. Gray) Greene	Torrey's cryptantha
Dalea ornata (Douglas ex Hook.) Eaton & Wright	Blue Mountain prairie clover
Daucus carota L.	Queen Anne's lace
Delphinium nuttallianum Pritz. ex Walp.	Twolobe larkspur
Descurainia pinnata (Walter) Britton	Western tansymustard
Dieteria canescens (Pursh) Nutt.	Hoary tansyaster
Diplacus cusickii (Greene) G.L. Nesom	Cusick's monkeyflower
Diplacus nanus (Hook. & Arn.) G.L. Nesom	Dwarf purple monkeyflower
Dipsacus fullonum L.	Fuller's teasel
Dodecatheon pulchellum (Raf.) Merr.	Darkthroat shootingstar
Draba verna L.	Spring draba
Epilobium brachycarpum C. Presl	Tall annual willowherb
Equisetum arvense L.	Field horsetail
Equisetum laevigatum A. Braun	Smooth horsetail
Eriastrum wilcoxii (A. Nelson) H. Mason	Wilcox's woollystar
Erigeron chrysopsidis A. Gray	Dwarf yellow fleabane
Erigeron filifolius (Hook.) Nutt.	Threadleaf fleabane
Erigeron linearis (Hook.) Piper	Desert yellow fleabane
<i>Erigeron pumilus</i> Nutt. var. <i>intermedius</i> Cronquist	Shaggy fleabane
Erigeron speciosus (Lindl.) DC.	Aspen fleabane
Eriogonum compositum Douglas ex Benth	Arrowleaf buckwheat
Eriogonum microtheca Nutt. var. laxiflorum Hook.	Slender buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum strictum</i> Benth. var. <i>proliferum</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) C.L. Hitchc.	Blue Mountain buckwheat
Eriogonum umbellatum Torr.	Sulphur-flower buckwheat
Eriogonum vimineum Douglas ex. Benth.	Wickerstem buckwheat
Eriophyllum lanatum (Pursh) J. Forbes	Common woolly sunflower
Erodium cicutarium (L.) L'Hér. Ex Aiton	Redstem stork's bill
Erysimum repandum L.	Spreading wallflower
Erythranthe guttata (Fisch. ex DC.) G.L. Nesom	Seep monkeyflower
Fritillaria atropurpurea Nutt.	Spotted fritillary
Galium aparine L.	Stickywilly
Gayophytum ramosissimum Torr. & A. Gray	Pinyon groundsmoke

Scientific name

Common name

Gilia sinuata Douglas ex Benth	Rosy gilia
Heracleum maximum W. Bartram	Common cowparsnip
Hesperolinon micranthum (A. Gray) Small	Smallflower dwarf-flax
Heterotheca villosa (Pursh) Shinners var. villosa	Hairy false goldenaster
Heuchera cylindrica Douglas	Roundleaf alumroot
Holosteum umbellatum L.	Jagged chickweed
Hymenopappus filifolius Hook.	Fineleaf hymenopappus
Layia glandulosa (Hook.) Hook. & Arn.	Whitedaisy tidytips
Lewisia rediviva Pursh	Bitter root
Linaria dalmatica (L.) Mill.	Dalmatian toadflax
Lithophragma parviflorum (Hook.) Nutt. ex Torr. & A. Gray	Smallflower woodland-star
Lithospermum ruderale Douglas ex Lehm.	Western stoneseed
Lomatium papilioniferum J.A. Alexander & W. Whaley	Gray's biscuitroot
Lomatium triternatum (Pursh) J.M. Coult. & Rose	Nineleaf biscuitroot
Lupinus lepidus Douglas ex Lindl. var. aridus (Lindl.) Jeps.	Desert lupine
Malus sp.	Apple
Melilotus officinalis (L.) Pall.	Sweetclover
<i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i> (Douglas ex Hook.) Douglas ex Torr. & A. Gray	Whitestem blazingstar
Mentzelia laevicaulis (Douglas ex Hook.) Torr. & A. Gray var. laevicaulis	Smoothstem blazingstar
Microseris nutans (Hook.) Sch. Bip.	Nodding microseris
Microsteris gracilis (Hook.) Greene	Slender phlox
Montia parviflora (Moç ex DC.) Greene	Streambank springbeauty
Nasturtium officinale W.T. Aiton	Watercress
Nothocalais troximoides (A. Gray) Greene	Sagebrush false dandelion
Opuntia fragilis (Nutt.) Haw.	Brittle pricklypear
Orobanche fasiculata Nutt.	Clustered broomrape
Penstemon deustus Douglas ex Lindl. var. variabilis (Suksd.) Cronquist	Scabland penstemon
Penstemon eriantherus Pursh var. argillosus M.E. Jones	Fuzzytongue penstemon
Phacelia hastata Douglas ex Lehm. var. hastata	Silverleaf phacelia
Phacelia linearis (Pursh) Holz.	Threadleaf phacelia
Phlox longifolia Nutt.	Longleaf phlox
Plagiobothrys tenellus (Nutt.) A. Gray	Pacific popcornflower
Plectritis macrocera Torr. & A. Gray	Longhorn plectritis
Potentilla sp.	Cinquefoil
Potentilla gracilis Douglas ex Hook.	Slender cinquefoil
Pyrrocoma hirta (A. Gray) Greene	Tacky goldenweed

Scientific name	Common name
Rumex crispus L.	Curly dock
Salsola tragus L.	Prickly Russian thistle
Scutellaria angustifolia Pursh	Narrowleaf skullcap
Senecio integerrimus Nutt. var. exaltatus (Nutt.) Cronquist	Columbia ragwort
Sisymbrium altissimum L.	Tall tumblemustard
Solidago missouriensis Nutt.	Missouri goldenrod
Taraxacum officinale Weber ex F.H. Wigg.	Common dandelion
Thelypodium eucosmum B.L. Rob.	Arrow-leaf thelypody
Toxicoscordion paniculatum (Nutt.) Rydb.	Foothill deathcamas
Toxicoscordion venenosum (S. Watson) Rydb.	Meadow deathcamas
Tragopogon dubius Scop.	Yellow salsify
Tribulus terrestris L.	Puncturevine
Typha latifolia L.	Broadleaf cattail
Urtica dioica L. holosericea (Nutt.) Thorne	Stinging nettle
Verbascum thapsus L.	Common mullein
Veronica anagallis-aquatica L.	Water speedwell
Grasses, rushes, and sedges:	
Achnatherum hymenoides (Roem. & Schult.) Barkworth	Indian ricegrass
Achnatherum occidentale (Thurb.) Barkworth	Western needlegrass
Achnatherum thurberianum (Piper) Barkworth	Thurber's needlegrass
Agropyron cristatum (L.) Gaertn.	Crested wheatgrass
Bromus briziformis Fisch. & C.A. Mey.	Rattlesnake brome
Bromus hordeaceus L.	Soft brome
Bromus tectorum L.	Cheatgrass
Carex amplifolia Boott	Bigleaf sedge
Carex aurea Nutt.	Golden sedge
Carex hystericina Muhl. ex Willd.	Bottlebrush sedge
Carex microptera Mack.	Smallwing sedge
Carex nebrascensis Dewey	Nebraska sedge
Carex nudata W. Boott	Naked sedge
Elymus elymoides (Raf.) Swezey	Bottlebrush squirreltai
Festuca idahoensis Elmer	Idaho fescue
Hesperostipa comata (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth ssp. comate	Needle and thread
Juncus dudleyi Wiegand	Dudley's rush
Juncus nevadensis S. Watson var. nevadensis	Sierra rush
Koeleria macrantha (Ledeb.) Schult.	Prairie junegrass
Leymus cinereus (Scribn. & Merr.) Á. Löve	Basin wildrye
Pascopyrum smithii (Rydb.) Barkworth & D. R. Dewey	Western wheatgrass

Scientific name

Common name

Poa bulbosa L.	Bulbous bluegrass
Poa cusickii Vasey ssp. cusickii	Cusick's bluegrass
Poa pratensis L.	Kentucky bluegrass
Poa secunda J. Presl ssp. juncifolia (Scribn.) Soreng	Big bluegrass
Poa secunda J. Presl ssp. secunda	Sandberg bluegrass
Pseudoroegneria spicata (Pursh) Á. Löve	Bluebunch wheatgrass
Schoenoplectus americanus (Pers.) Volkart ex Schinz & R. Keller	Chairmaker's bulrush
Sporobolus cryptandrus (Torr.) A. Gray	Sand dropseed
Taeniatherum caput-medusae (L.) Nevski	Medusahead
<i>Thinopyrum intermedium</i> (Host) Barkworth & D. R. Dewey	Intermediate wheatgrass
Vulpia microstachys (Nutt.) Munro ex Benth.	Small fescue

^{*a*} Nomenclature for vascular plants, ferns, and fern-allies follows Oregon vascular plant checklist: http://www.oregonflora.org/ checklist.php. Version 1.6 (Jaster et al. (2017). Common names are taken from the USDA PLANTS Database. http://www.plants. gov (USDA NRCS 2017a).

^b Compiled from field surveys (Schuller et al. 2016, USDI BLM 2008).

^c Cercocarpus ledifolius occurs in both tree form and shrub form within the research natural area.

Family	Scientific name	Common name
Amphibians:		
Bufonidae	Bufo boreas	Western toad
Hylidae	Pseudacris regilla	Pacific chorus frog
Pleobatidae	Scaphiopus intermontanus	Great Basin spadefoot
Reptiles:		
Anguidae	Elgaria multicarinata	Southern alligator lizard
Boidae	Charina bottae	Rubber boa
Colubridae	Coluber constrictor	Racer
	Hypsiglena torquata	Night snake
	Masticophis taeniatus	Striped whipsnake
	Pituophis melanoleucus	Gopher snake
	Thamnophis elegans	Western terrestrial garter snake
	Thamnophis sirtalis	Common garter snake
Iguanidae	Phrynosoma douglasii	Short-horned lizard
	Sceloporus graciosus	Sagebrush lizard
	Sceloporus occidentalis	Western fence lizard
	Uta stansburiana	Side-blotched lizard
Scincidae	Eumeces skiltonianus	Western skink
Teiidae	Cnemidophorus velox	Plateau striped whiptail
Viperidae	Crotalus viridis	Western rattlesnake
Birds:		
Accipitridae	Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk
	Accipiter gentilis	Northern goshawk
	Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned hawk
	Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle
	Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
	Circus cyaneus	Northern harrier
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle
	Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
Cathartidae	Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture
Falconidae	Falco mexicanus	Prairie falcon
	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine falcon
	Falco sparverius	American kestrel

Appendix 2: Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds, and Mammals^{a b}

Family	Scientific name	Common name
Phasianidae	Alectoris chukar	Chukar
	Callipepla californica	California quail
	Oreortyx pictus	Mountain quail
	Perdix perdix	Gray partridge
Charadriidae	Charadrius vociferous	Killdeer
Columbidae	Columbia livia	Rock dove
	Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Tytonidae	Tyto alba	Barn owl
Strigidae	Asio otus	Long-eared owl
	Athene cunicularia	Burrowing owl
	Bubo virginianus	Great-horned owl
	Glaucidium gnoma	Northern pygmy owl
	Otus kennicottii	Western screech-owl
Caprimulgidae	Chordeiles minor	Common nighthawk
Apodidae	Aeronautes saxatalis	White-throated swift
	Chaetura vauxi	Vaux's swift
Trochilidae	Archilochus alexandri	Black-chinned hummingbird
	Stellula calliope	Calliope hummingbird
	Selasphorus rufus	Rufous hummingbird
Picidae	Colaptes auratus	Northern flicker
	Picoides pubescens	Downy woodpecker
	Picoides villosus	Hairy woodpecker
	Sphyrapicus nuchalis	Red-naped sapsucker
Tyrannidae	Contopus sordidulus	Western wood peewee
	Empidonax oberholseri	Dusky flycatcher
	Empidonax wrightii	Gray flycatcher
	Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe
	Myiarchus cinerascens	Ash-throated flycatcher
	Tyrannus verticalis	Western kingbird
Alaudidae	Eremophila alpestris	Horned lark
Hirundinidae	Hirundo pyrrhonota	Cliff swallow
	Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow
	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	Northern rough-winged swallow
	Tachycineta bicolor	Tree swallow
	Tachycineta thalassina	Violet-green swallow
Corvidae	Aphelocoma californica	Western scrub-jay

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow
	Corvus corax	Common raven
	Cyanocitta stelleri	Steller's jay
	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus	Pinyon jay
	Nucifraga columbiana	Clark's nutcracker
	Pica pica	Black-billed magpie
Paridae	Parus atricapillus	Black-capped chickadee
	Parus gambeli	Mountain chickadee
Aegithalidae	Psaltriparus minimus	Bushtit
Sittidae	Sitta canadensis	Red-breasted nuthatch
Troglodytidae	Catherpes mexicanus	Canyon wren
	Salpinctes obsoletus	Rock wren
	Troglodytes aedon	House wren
Muscicapidae	Myadestes townsendi	Townsend's solitaire
	Sialia mexicana	Western bluebird
	Sialia currucoides	Mountain bluebird
	Turdus migratorius	American robin
Mimidae	Oreoscoptes montanus	Sage thrasher
Bombycillidae	Bombycilla cedrorum	Cedar waxwing
Laniidae	Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike
Sturnidae	Sturnus vulgaris	European starling
Vireonidae	Vireo solitarius	Blue-headed vireo
Emberizidae	Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged blackbird
	Chondestes grammacus	Lark sparrow
	Dendroica coronata	Yellow-rumped warbler
	Dendroica nigrescens	Black-throated gray warbler
	Euphagus cyanocephalus	Brewer's blackbird
	Icterus bullockii	Bullock's oriole
	Junco hyemalis	Dark-eyed junco
	Molothrus ater	Brown-headed cowbird
	Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah sparrow
	Passerella iliaca	Fox sparrow
	Pipilo chlorurus	Green-tailed towhee
	Pipilo maculatus	Spotted towhee
	Pooecetes gramineus	Vesper sparrow
	Spizella breweri	Brewer's sparrow

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Spizella passerina	Chipping sparrow
	Sturnella neglecta	Western meadowlark
	Zonotrichia leucophrys	White-crowned sparrow
Fringillidae	Carduelis pinus	Pine siskin
	Carduelis psaltria	Lesser goldfinch
	Carduelis tristis	American goldfinch
	Carpodacus cassinii	Cassin's finch
	Carpodacus mexicanus	House finch
Mammals:		
Soricidae	Sorex merriami	Merriam's shrew
	Sorex preblei	Preble's shrew
	Sorex vagrans	Vagrant shrew
Talpidae	Scapanus orarius	Coast mole
Verspertilionidae	Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat
	Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat
	Eptesicus fuscus	Big brown bat
	Lasionycteris noctivagans	Silver-haired bat
	Myotis californicus	California myotis
	Myotis ciliolabrum	Western small-footed myotis
	Myotis evotis	Long-eared myotis
	Myotis lucifugus	Little brown myotis
	Myotis thysanodes	Fringed myotis
	Myotis volans	Long-legged myotis
	Myotis yumanensis	Yuma myotis
Leporidae	Lepus californicus	Black-tailed jackrabbit
	Sylvilagus nuttallii	Mountain cottontail
Sciuridae	Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrel
	Spermophilus beldingi	Belding's ground squirrel
	Spermophilus townsendii	Townsend's ground squirrel
	Tamias townsendii	Townsend's chipmunk
Geomyidae	Thomomys talpoides	Northern pocket gopher
Heteromyidae	Dipodomys ordii	Ord's kangaroo rat
	Perognathus parvus	Great Basin pocket mouse
Muridae	Lemmiscus curtatus	Sagebrush vole
	Marmota flaviventris	Yellow-bellied marmot
	Microtus longicaudus	Long-tailed vole
	Neotoma cinerea	Bushy-tailed woodrat
	Onychomys leucogaster	Northern grasshopper mouse

Family	Scientific name	Common name
	Peromyscus crinitus	Canyon mouse
	Peromyscus maniculatus	Deer mouse
	Peromyscus truei	Pinyon mouse
Erethizontidae	Erethizon dorsatum	Common porcupine
Canidae	Canis latrans	Coyote
	Vulpes vulpes	Red fox
Procyonidae	Procyon lotor	Common raccoon
Mustelidae	Mephitis mephitis	Striped skunk
	Mustela frenata	Long-tailed weasel
	Spilogale gracilis	Western spotted skunk
	Taxidea taxus	American badger
Felidae	Felis concolor	Mountain lion
	Lynx rufus	Bobcat
Cervidae	Odocoileus hemionus	Mule deer
	Cervus canadensis nelsoni	Rocky Mountain elk

^{*a*}Nomenclature taken from Csuti et al. 1997.

^b Compiled from habitat descriptions and distribution maps in Csuti et al. (1997).

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