

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

William Flaxington

May 10, 2023



The following list contains the herpetofauna believed to occupy the Mount Baldy Preserve. Although the California Newt (*Taricha torosa*), Western Banded Gecko (*Coleonyx variegatus*) and other amphibians and reptiles are known from sections of the San Gabriel Mountains, they are not believed to occupy the Mount Baldy Preserve's property, and therefore are omitted from the list. Primary sources for this list derive from the following:

FLAXINGTON, W.C., 2021. Amphibians and reptiles of California: Field observations, natural history, and distribution. <http://fieldnotespress.com/> Anaheim, California

HERP 2008–2012. Herpetological education and research project, <http://naherp.com/>; May 2023.

iNATURALIST 2009–2023. <http://inaturalist.org/>; May. 2023.

SCHOENHERR, A.A., 1976. The herpetofauna of the San Gabriel Mountains. Southwestern Herpetologists Society Special Publication 1. Van Nuys, California

VERTNET 1950–1998. Where discoveries begin: National Science Foundation, Arlington, Virginia, <http://vertnet.org/>; May 2023.

Toads and frogs

Anaxyrus boreas

Western Toad

Status: Present (iNaturalist 2020)

Comments: Still or slow flowing water is the preferred breeding condition.

Pseudacris cadaverina

California Chorus Frog

Status: Present (HERP 2010)

Comments: This frog is adapted to flowing, rocky streams and is likely the most prevalent frog on the preserve.

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Pseudacris hypochondriaca
Southern Pacific Chorus Frog

Status: Present (Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; HERP 2012; iNaturalist 2019)

Comments: Still or slow flowing water is the preferred breeding condition.

Rana catesbeiana
American Bullfrog

Status: Unknown; stream surveys needed.

Exotic species.

Comments: The presence of *R. catesbeiana* negatively affects native wildlife. If discovered on the property, this frog should be removed as soon as possible to prevent spreading. Since this frog spreads easily, the entire San Antonio Canyon drainage requires review and monitoring to prevent *R. catesbeiana* from entering the preserve via the surrounding waters. The still water of San Antonio Dam are prime breeding conditions for this invasive species.

Rana draytonii
California Red-legged Frog

Status: Historically present, today presumed not present (VertNet, date unknown)

Special concern species

Comments: Now extremely rare in Southern California, and although habitat exists on the preserve, today it is assumed extirpated due to human disturbance, diseases, and/or pollution.

Rana muscosa
Southern Mountain Yellow-legged Frog

Status: Historically present, today presumed not present (Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; VertNet, 1950)

Endangered species

Comments: Now extremely rare in Southern California, although habitat exists on the preserve, today it is assumed extirpated due to human disturbance, diseases, and/or pollution. Barrett Canyon drains into the San Antonio River. This canyon needs assessing for water and if lasting summer pools are found in Barrett Canyon the location could be used to restore. Today, science has found a cure for many frog diseases, and laboratory-raised frogs are being deposited into waters that historically housed *R. muscosa*. San Antonio Canyon once had *R. muscosa* and should be considered a location for restoration.

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Salamanders

Aneides lugubris

Arboreal Salamander

Status: Present (VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2018)

Comments: The preserve possesses prime salamander habitat.

Batrachoseps gabrieli

San Gabriel Mountains
Slender Salamander

Special concern species

Status: Present (HERP 2011; VertNet, 1998; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: Regularly found on the preserve property with the last confirmed sighting March 2023 (Flaxington, W.C., personal observation).

Ensatina eschscholtzii *eschscholtzii*

Monterey Ensatina

Status: Present (Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; HERP 2011; VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2019; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: Found on the preserve property, occupies similar conditions as *Aneides lugubris* and *Batrachoseps gabrieli*.

Lizards

Anniella stebbinsi

Southern California Legless
Lizard

Special concern species

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains

Comments: Coast Sage Scrub and sandy conditions are favored by this lizard, and these conditions are present on the preserve. Surveying for this species requires placement of artificial boards, which creates desirable hiding spots for the lizard. Boards are later checked for lizards hiding in the sand below the plyboards.

Aspidoscelis

tigris stejnegeri

Coast Tiger Whiptail

Special concern subspecies

Status: Present (HERP 2010; VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2022; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: Common.

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Crotaphytus bicinctores,
Great Basin Collared Lizard

Status: Present (HERP 2010; Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: This desert species has crossed over the crest of the San Gabriel Mountains to reach San Antonio Canyon and is known to exist south of Mount Baldy Village. Coast Sage Scrub and rocky conditions are favored by this lizard, and these conditions are present on the preserve.

Elgaria multicarinata webbii
San Diego Alligator Lizard

Status: Present (HERP 2010; VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2023)

Phrynosoma blainvillii,
Blainville's Horned Lizard

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.
Comments: Coast Sage Scrub and open, sandy conditions are favored by this lizard and these conditions are present on the preserve. Native ants are an important diet component and healthy ant populations are essential for horned lizards. Introduced fire ants negatively affect native-ant populations, jeopardizing horned lizards. Solution, biologists must monitor and eradicate introduced ants, especially fire ants, which are rapidly spreading throughout Southern California.

Special concern species

Plestiodon skiltonianus skiltonianus,
Western Skink

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Sceloporus graciosus vandenburgianus
Southern Sagebrush Lizard

Status: Present (HERP 2010)

Comments: This lizard occupies elevated terrain, and this condition exists beside Glendora Ridge Road on the upper, left portion of the preserve.

Sceloporus occidentalis longipes
Great Basin Fence Lizard

Status: Present (HERP 2011; VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2023; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: Common.

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Uta stansburiana elegans,
Western Side-blotched
Lizard

Status: Present (HERP 2011; iNaturalist 2023;
Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

Comments: Common.

Xantusia vigilis
Desert Night Lizard

Status: Presumed present

Comments: Like *Crotaphytus bicinctores*, this desert species as crossed over the crest of the San Gabriel Mountains to reach the maritime slope. Diligent searching might expose this species on the preserve.

Snakes

Arizona elegans
occidentalis
California Glossy Snake

Status: Unknown

Special concern subspecies

Comments: Sandy, Coast Sage Scrub is favored by this snake, and this condition is present on the preserve. However, it is unclear whether this snake ever inhabited San Antonio Canyon and surveys are needed to confirm its presence/absence. This snake is best sought by walking terrain and driving roads at night.

Coluber constrictor
mormon
Western Yellow-bellied
Racer

Status: Unknown

Comments: Rare in coastal Southern California and even more rare in the San Gabriel Mountains. Habitat is present on the preserve, and surveys are needed to confirm its presence/absence. Closest known position to the preserve is Big Dalton Canyon.

Crotalus oreganus helleri,
Southern Pacific Rattlesnake

Status: Present (HERP 2011; VertNet, 1958; iNaturalist 2021; Flaxington, W.C., 2021)

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Diadophis punctatus

modestus

San Bernardino Ring-necked Snake

Status: Present (HERP 2008; iNaturalist 2020)

Special concern subspecies

Comments: It is unknown why this snake is on California's list of 'Special Concern Species,' since it is widespread, and populations are stable.

Hypsiglena ochrorhyncha

klauberi

San Diego Night Snake

Status: Present (HERP 2009; iNaturalist 2009)

Lampropeltis californiae,

California Kingsnake

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Lampropeltis multifasciata,

Coast Mountain Kingsnake

Status: Present (Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; HERP 2011; iNaturalist 2022)

Lichanura orcutti, California

Rosy Boa

Status: Present (HERP 2008; VertNet, 1974; iNaturalist 2021)

Masticophis

flagellum piceus

Red Coachwhip

Status: Unknown

Comments: Rare in coastal Southern California and even more rare in the San Gabriel Mountains. Habitat is present within the preserve, but whether this species is present is unknown.

Masticophis lateralis

lateralis

Chaparral Striped Whipsnake

Status: Present (Schoenherr, A.A., 1976; HERP 2010; iNaturalist 2023)

Pituophis catenifer

annectens

San Diego Gopher Snake

Status: Present (iNaturalist 2023)

Rena humilis humilis,

Southwestern Thread Snake

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS PRESERVE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Rhinocheilus lecontei

Long-nosed Snake

Status: Unknown

Comments: Rare in coastal Southern California and even more rare in the San Gabriel Mountains. Habitat is present within the preserve, but whether this species is present is unknown.

Salvadora hexalepis

virgulata

Coast Patch-nosed Snake

Special concern subspecies

Status: Present (iNaturalist 2022)

***Tantilla planiceps*, Western
Black-headed Snake**

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

***Thamnophis hammondi*,**

Two-striped Garter Snake

Species of special concern

Status: Presumed present due to the occupation of similar habitat elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains.

***Trimorphodon lyrophanes*,**
California Lyre Snake

Status: Present (iNaturalist 2019)

Turtles

***Actinemys pallida*,**

Southwestern Pond Turtle

Status: Unknown

Special concern species

Comments: *Actinemys* is known to occupy flowing, rocky waters elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains and this habitat exists on the preserve. Surveying streams are needed to confirm presence/absence.