

Wildlife and Carrying Capacity

There are many different kinds of animals at Lake Wilderness Arboretum



Age: All

Time: 60 minutes

Many different animals are attracted to the gardens, meadow, and forests in the Arboretum. See how many animals you can identify that live in or visit the Arboretum.

Here's How:

1. As you walk through the trails and paths, **check the boxes of animals you observe or find evidence of.**
2. **Make note of animals that aren't on this chart.**

	<p>Lives in a large mound; eats insects that harm plants</p>			<p>Lives in conifer trees; eats seeds</p>	
<p>Western Thatch Ant</p>			<p>Douglas Squirrel</p>		
	<p>Eats insects, berries, and seeds</p>			<p>Active at night; perches high in trees during day</p>	
<p>Flicker Woodpecker</p>			<p>Great Horned Owl</p>		
	<p>Most active May – Sept; look for bat houses high on tree trunks</p>			<p>In the Forest Reserve; eats berries</p>	
<p>Bat</p>			<p>Black Bear</p>		
	<p>In the Forest Reserve; eats meat and plants</p>			<p>Most often seen in winter; prefers to eat fish</p>	
<p>Coyote</p>			<p>Bald Eagle</p>		



Cougar

In the Forest Reserve; active at night; seldom seen



Roosevelt Elk

In the Forest Reserve; active at dawn and dusk



Black-Tailed Deer

Prefers edges of forests; feeds on Douglas fir, lichens on trees, grass, salal



Cottontail Rabbit

Eats plants year-round; lives in tall grass



Rufous Hummingbird

Eats insects and nectar in the Perennial Garden



Western Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly

Lives in trees; eats nectar; in the Perennial Garden during summer



Earthworm

Creates underground tunnels for water and air; creates humus full of nutrients for plants



Townsend Mole

Mixes soil nutrients, improves soil; eats pests



Cascades Frog

Lives in forests and meadows; skin secretions can be toxic to humans—do not touch



American Robin

Active at day; eats earthworms and berries

The Back Story:

Lake Wilderness Arboretum is 42 acres in size, about as big as 32 football fields. It is hard to know how many squirrels or deer or bats live in the gardens and the Forest Reserve. One Western Thatch Ant mound can house 40,000 ants. There are several mounds in the Arboretum, so that means there may be hundreds of thousands of ants here!

Animals need food, water, space, and other resources. When food and water are plentiful then more animals can live in the environment than if there is not enough food or water. When there is not enough food or water for the animals, which sometimes happens when there is no rain, then animals begin to die.

Carrying capacity is the number of animals that can survive in an area given the food, space, water, and other resources available. It is like saying that the environment can carry or sustain a certain number of animals. The carrying capacity of an environment varies for different species. For example, the Arboretum's environment can carry or sustain hundreds of more squirrels than black bears. Why do you think that is true?