

Within the City of Prescott, Arizona, the only intact riparian gallery forest is the 125 acre Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, located just north of Prescott at approximately 5100 ft. (1554 m) elevation. The Preserve is dominated by approximately 100 acres of mixed riparian woodland associated with the perennial/intermittent surface flows and perennial subsurface flows of Granite Creek. Included in this woodland are approximately four acres of streamside habitat associated with standing perennial water. The presence of flood debris here provides locally concentrated cover that is important for small animals, including reptiles & amphibians (herpetofauna).

Given the short-term nature of the study resulting in this checklist, it is very likely that some of the rarer reptile & amphibian species at the Preserve were not found. Over time, the Preserve should recover from the ecologically unsound management it saw from the 1860's - 1990's, and it is possible that these rarer species will return. We strongly encourage everyone using this guide to expect the unexpected. You might see species that we haven't! Please report any unusual finds to the Preserve Manager. Happy herping!



Please remember that you are in someone else's home. All the reptiles and amphibians living in or found within Watson Woods Riparian Preserve are protected and are wild animals. Please do not disturb any animals that you might encounter while enjoying your visit to Watson Woods Riparian Preserve.

HABITAT CODES

- A: Aquatic habitats, including Granite Creek, permanent and temporary ponds, and their edges.
- W: Woodland habitats, including all cottonwood and willow associations.
- D: Disturbed habitats, including weedy areas along the floodplain of Granite Creek.
- G: Grassland habitats, including all patches of native grasslands, especially in the upland areas of the Preserve.

Boldface type indicates the habitat where the species is most common.

ABUNDANCE CODES

- A: Abundant, very numerous throughout the Preserve in the appropriate habitats.
- C: Common, easily found throughout appropriate habitats.
- U: Uncommon, hard to find, but still present in low numbers.
- R: Rare, extremely hard to find, and appears to be present only in very low numbers.
- E: Not found. Apparently extirpated (locally extinct) in the Preserve.
- P: Possible and/or likely occurs in the Preserve, but has not yet been documented.

The Checklist



		Habitat	Abundance	Did You See It?
Amphibians				
Salamanders				
	Tiger Salamanders <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	A, W	U	
Frogs & Toads				
	New Mexican Spadefoot Toad <i>Spea multiplicata</i>	A, D, G	E	
	Woodhouse's Toad <i>Bufo woodhousei</i>	A, G	C	
	Southwestern Toad <i>Bufo microscaphus</i>	A, G	R	
	Great Plains Toad <i>Bufo cognatus</i>	A, G	P	
	Red-Spotted Toad <i>Bufo punctatus</i>	A	P	
	Canyon Tree Frog <i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	A, W	P	
	Bullfrog <i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	A, W, D, G	A	
	Lowland Leopard Frog <i>Rana yavapaiensis</i>	A	E	
Reptiles				
Turtles				
	Sonoran Mud Turtle <i>Kinostemon sonoriense</i>	A	P	
	Slider <i>Pseudemys scripta</i>	A	P	
Lizards				
	Common Collared Lizard <i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	A, G	E	
	Short-horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma douglassii</i>	D, G	E	
	Clark's Spiny Lizard <i>Sceloporus clarkii</i>	A, W	P	
	Eastern Fence Lizard <i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	A, W, D, G	A	
	Plateau Spotted Lizard <i>Cnemidophorus innotatus</i>	A, W, D, G	C	
	Desert Grassland Whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus uniparens</i>	A, W, D, G	C	
	Gila Spotted Whiptail <i>Cnemidophorus flagellicaudus</i>	W, D	U	
	Tree Lizard <i>Urosaurus ornatus</i>	A, W, D, G	C	
	Alligator Lizard <i>Elgaria kingii</i>	W	U	
	Gilbert Skink <i>Eumeces gilberti</i>	W	P	
	Great Plains Skink <i>Eumeces obsoletus</i>	W	P	
Snakes				
	Western Terrestrial Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	A, W, D	A	
	Common Kingsnake <i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	W, G	C	
	Gopher Snake <i>Pituophis cantifer</i>	A, G	U	
	Ground Snake <i>Sonora semiannulata</i>	D, G	P	
	Ringneck Snake <i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	W	P	
	Coachwhip (Red Racer) <i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	D, G	P	
	Striped Whipsnake <i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	D	R	
	Blacktail Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus molossus</i>	A, W	R	
	Arizona Black "Timber" Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus cerberus</i>	A, W	R	
	Mojave Rattlesnake <i>Crotalus scutulatus</i>	A, D, G	P	