

Amphibians of the PG&E Wetland

Frogs



Sierran Treefrog
Pseudacris sierra

These small frogs can be identified by the dark stripe through their eye. They vary in color. The males have a territory of 50cm diameter that they protect during breeding season (Jan-July).

Photo by Jessica Williamson



Red Legged Frog
Rana draytonii

This larger frog has a varied diet of insects to smaller mammals. It is a largely aquatic amphibian and will be found near streams, marshes, and wetlands. It is endangered. Photo from Mason Cole



American Bullfrog
Rana catesbiana

This is an invasive frog. It will eat anything it can as it is an opportunistic eater. They can be territorial. It is the largest frog in CA, and it may outcompete native frogs. They have not been spotted at the wetland, but it is in its habitat range.

Salamanders



CA Tiger Salamander
Ambystoma californiense

This endangered species relies on vernal pools for reproduction and lives in grassland areas in burrows.



Gabilan Mountains Slender Salamander
Batrachoseps gavilanensis

This salamander can be found in grasslands or redwood habitat. It largely eats insects and worms. It will be easier to find during rainy season.



Ensatina
Ensatina eschscholtzii xanthopica

This medium sized salamander eats mostly insects. It will hide during hot and dry seasons and likely hunts at night and prefers when it is raining.

Reptiles of the Castroville Slough Wetland

Snakes



California Kingsnake
Lampropeltis californae

This nonvenomous snake grows to be up to 3.5 feet long. It will mimic rattlesnakes by shaking its tail and hissing. This snake is immune to rattlesnake poison.



Coast Garter snake
Thamnophis elegans terrestris

These are not dangerous snakes. It can be identified by its stripes that stretch along its length. These are active in the daytime. To defend itself it will create a musk.



Pacific Gopher snake
Pituophis catenifer catenifer

These are commonly mistaken for rattlesnakes, but they are not venomous. These do not have the triangular head of a rattlesnake and have glossier bodies. If threatened it will mimic a rattlesnake. It mostly eats small rodents.

Lizards



Blainville's Horned Lizard
Phrynosoma blainvillii

This species lives in many habitats. It mostly eats ants but will eat other insects. It relies on its camouflage and burrowing, but as a last defense it will shoot blood out of its eyes.



Western Fence Lizard
Sceloporus occidentalis

Very commonly seen lizards with blue markings on sides and bellies. They do a push up display to defend territory. They will drop their tail to evade predators. When ticks attach themselves to this lizard any Lyme disease will go away.



Northern Alligator Lizard
Elgaria coerulea

These lizards have very strong jaws so should not be picked up. It can have a tail up to twice its body length. They move like snakes and can swim. The southern variety have dark eyes.