



Wetland Habitat & Animals

One of the most productive ecosystems teeming with life



The great blue heron relies on the wetlands primarily for food. This huge bird feeds on fish, rodents and many different kinds of amphibians that thrive in the wetland area.

Wetlands, especially of this size and location, are unique and important habitats in the arid west. Historically, the entire Prineville valley was covered with a dynamic complex of meandering channels, wetland areas, oxbow lakes, abandoned stream terraces and large connected floodplains that interacted with the Crooked River. This is a good site to visit frequently and at different times during the year — you'll see a wide range of animals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects that changes all the time.



Our state animal, the beaver is one of the furry creatures that call this area home. Wetlands like the City of Prineville Wetlands Park are important food factories and shelter areas for many species of wildlife. In fact, more than one third of endangered species rely on wetlands for their survival.



Frogs and snakes also thrive in the wetlands. You may see tadpoles on one visit and adult Columbia spotted frogs the next.



Otter



Beaver



White-tailed deer

You may hear an animal before you see it, or not notice the animal unless you are still. You can also look for animal sign. Animal sign is anything an animal leaves behind, such as foot prints (tracks), fur or feathers, gnaw marks (tooth marks), and animal homes, such as dens, burrows or nests.



Tree swallow

The best viewing periods for waterfowl and migrating birds are during the winter, while birds of prey, mammals and most other birds are more active and abundant in the summer.



River otters benefit from the added food sources (fish, mollusks, amphibians and crayfish) that the wetlands provide along with the influx of clean cool water. Wetland habitats are diminishing and projects like this one that increase the overall wetland acres have long-term public benefits of improved water quality, habitat diversity, and gathering of animal species that use these areas.



Thanks to:

Crook County High School Natural Resource Program, Crooked River Watershed Council and partners.

Find out more

You can become an advocate for wetland conservation — join a volunteer group that works to support wetlands, or learn more about how wetlands function to provide unique habitat and the diversity of animals they support.

