



SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SCAVENGER HUNT

SPRING & SUMMER



Swallowtail Butterfy

- As a caterpillar it eats wild cherry leaves.
- Adult butterflies use their long tube-like tongue, called a proboscis to drink nectar from flowers.
- Adult butterfly can grow to 5 inches wide



Balsamroot

- Can grow from 1 to 2 feet tall.
- Many small animals eat balsamroot as their source of food.
- Its leaves are covered with small white hairs.



Red-Winged Blackbird

- Live in the Yakima area year round by wet landscapes like Cowiche Creek.
- Bodies are black and wings are black with red or yellow on top.
- Sing their songs during early spring.



Great Horned Owl

The “tiger of the air,” it preys on mice, voles, birds, frogs, snakes, rabbits, and skunks.

Nests in large trees or in rocky cliffs.

- Nocturnal – meaning it's most active at night, when it swoops silently onto prey.



Western Bluebird

- Eats insects and berries close to the ground.
- Because it can't dig holes with its beak, it nests in dead trees and cavities made by woodpeckers.
- Brilliant blue and rust colored.



Western Fence Lizard

- Predators are birds, snakes, and some mammals.
- Preys on spiders and ticks, and insects such as beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and grasshoppers.
- Ectotherm – meaning it uses its surroundings to regulate its temperature.



Dragonfly

- Starts life in freshwater as a nymph, which can live for several years.
- The adult lives for just a few days or weeks.
- Adult flies fast - up to 60 mph - and preys on flying insects including mosquitoes, butterflies, and moths. It's eaten by fast birds.



Western Gray Squirrel

- Sleeps in nests built on tree branches, in tree cavities, or holes in the ground
- Mothers build nests for their young only in oak trees.
- Bury acorns (oak tree seeds) for food storage, helping plant new oak trees.



SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SCAVENGER HUNT

FALL & WINTER



Signs of Ranching Past

- This land used to be a ranch.
- You'll see signs of old fences, water troughs, canals, and abandoned cattle corrals.
- See anything else?



Red-tailed Hawk

- Soars in circles high in the air
- Eats small mammals
- Has a shrill and loud call



Big Sagebrush

- Blueish-green leaves last all year and don't fall off in autumn.
- Can grow to be over 10 feet tall!
- Provides protection and food for mammals, reptiles, and plants.



Garry Oak

- Provides perching, nesting, food and shelter for birds, mammals, insects, and shade-loving plants.
- To survive, acorns need to be buried in the soil by small mammals, like squirrels.
- Thrives in the zone between desert and forest.



Coyote

- Preys on squirrels, rabbits, snakes, beavers, voles, and mice.
- Hunted by cougar.
- Live in rock crevices and dens dug into hillsides where the entrance is often hidden.



Balanced Rock

- A single rock balanced on other layers.
- Layers have been eroded more than the rock.
- The layers are softer than the rock.
- A structure like this is very rare for the Yakima Valley.



Lichen

- Grows in different colors on trees, rocks, and soil.
- Lichen is formed from 2 types of organisms: fungi and algae.
- When two organisms combine together as lichens do, it is called symbiosis.



Porcupine

- Eats leaves, twigs, bark, buds, green plants, and fruit.
- Hunted by cougars, coyotes, and great-horned owls.
- Moves slowly and uses sharp, barbed quills to protect itself from predators.



SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH SCAVENGER HUNT

FALL & WINTER



Great Basin Wild Rye

- Can grow up to 8 feet high!
- Great habitat for birds, insects, and mammals



American Kestrel

- Smallest falcon in North America.
- Males have slate-blue wings; females' wings are reddish brown. Both sexes have pairs of black vertical slashes on the sides of their pale faces—sometimes called a “mustache” and a “sideburn.”



Antelope Bitterbrush

- .Three separated teeth on the ends of its leaves.
- Flowers have five yellow petals.
- Roots are long and deep!



Cottonwood

- Fast growing
- Common along streams
- Known for its fuzzy cottony fruits, which rain down in spring and summer.



Cottontail Rabbit

- Year-around it eats bark, twigs, leaves, fruit, buds, flowers, and seeds of many plant species (and an occasional insect).
- Predators are the coyote, bobcat, great-horned owl, hawks, weasel, raccoon, raven, and snakes.
- Nests in holes lined with vegetation and fur.



Aspen

- Leaves turn golden yellow in fall before falling off.
- Trees are spread by rhizomes, or root suckers.
- The root systems can live hundreds or thousands of years.



Beaver Signs

- Beaver chew down trees to build dams, which create slower, wider streams.
- Dams also make ponds that provide water for trees and safe places for baby fish.



Western Gray Squirrel

- Sleeps in nests built on tree branches, in tree cavities, or holes in the ground.
- Hunted by owls, hawks, snakes, and cougars.
- Eats acorns, fungi, pinecone seeds, green vegetation, berries, and insects.