

Charlie W. Painter BioBlitz Ethics

The goal of the annual Charlie W. Painter BioBlitz is to document the biodiversity of southwest New Mexico and southeast Arizona to aid conservation and learn about the area's wildlife. Because of the high volume of participants it's important that each of us be a responsible steward. These ethical guidelines are meant to reduce the impact of the BioBlitz to local residents and wildlife.

- Respect and adhere to all state and federal laws.
- Do not go on to private property without permission from the land owner. Please respect local landowners, their approval is important to the future and success of this event.
- When passing through gates leave them as you found them. If gates are closed, close them after passing through; if gates are open, leave them open. It's important to leave gates as found to prevent cattle from accessing sensitive habitats or dangerous areas, or to cut them off from water.
- When flipping rocks or debris, NEVER use a prybar or tool, and always put moved objects back in place. If you find, snakes, lizards, and inverts under the objects move them to the side to avoid crushing them when placing the objects back. **Do not** rip apart logs or strip bark from trees. All of these microhabitats are vital refugia and take a long time to recover.
- When searching talus slopes, or other fragile habitats, limit the number of people in an area to minimize trampling or otherwise disturbing habitats. ***Note:** Because of ongoing, sensitive research at this site, the **talus slopes at Barfoot are off limits** for the Bioblitz.
- If you capture an animal to photograph, promptly return it to its original location. Do not hold on to animals to photograph at a later time.
- Do not use destructive techniques such as rubber bands, airsoft guns, etc. to catch animals.
- Unless permitted by the appropriate agency do not collect or salvage amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals for personal collections or as pets. There are no restrictions on collecting invertebrates, but in the spirit of the BioBlitz please refrain from collecting them.
- If you find a Threatened or Endangered species do not share specific locality information on social media platforms.
- Do not endanger yourself or others by handling venomous reptiles. Use tongs or a snake hook to move rattlesnakes off the road.
- Do not handle animals too long, this can cause them to overheat or become stressed.
- Respect fellow BioBlitzer's and do not shout or talk loudly while in the field. This can scare wildlife and interfere with bird watchers and photographers.
- Limit the use of playing call backs to attract birds, especially in heavily used areas. Do not use call back for protected Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Southwest Willow Flycatcher. ***Call backs are prohibited by the Forest Service in the South Fork area of Cave Creek.**
- Be respectful of ongoing research projects. Do not remove pin flags, flagging tape, data loggers, or other marked or data collection devices. This could disrupt and set back research projects.
- Drive safely between sites and be courteous. Pull completely on to the shoulder to allow traffic to safely pass. At night turn off high beams for approaching vehicles while road cruising.
- If you use insect repellants, or any sunscreen that contains oxybenzone and octinoxate do not handle invertebrates, amphibians, or reptiles. The compounds in these products can harm or kill herps and invertebrates.
- Do not enter or wade in tanks or wetlands.
- If you bring it in, carry it out. Collect all of your trash.
- Follow smart fire prevention practices. Obey Forest Service fire restrictions. Dispose of cigarettes properly. Do not park in high grass, hot tail pipes may ignite grass. Tie down chains that may cause sparks.
- If you see someone behaving unethically report the incident to the organizers.