

The Endless Forms

News-letter

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Wildlife Wonders Well Underway

The Asombro Institute’s “Wildlife Wonders” event series is in full swing, and as they’ve celebrated mammals, birds, and reptiles, we’ve released brand new *Endless Forms* species cards to match. Visitors to these free events at Asombro’s *Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park* in Las Cruces can collect these cards at each event, as well as learn the game rules and purchase ready-to-play starter decks. All proceeds from the sale of first edition starter decks benefit the Asombro Institute for Science Education, a local non-profit which has dedicated itself to improving natural science literacy in Las Cruces for more than 30 years.



Bat Night - July 27th

7 to 9 p.m. - Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

The next Wildlife Wonders is not to be missed! A special evening event, visitors will be able to see a live bat up close thanks to wildlife rehabber Justin Stevensen of RD Wildlife. Join NMSU researcher Dr. Theresa Lavery for a guided walk with a bat detector at 8:00, and visit with Rachel Burke of Bat Conservation

International to learn about their efforts to restore agave populations for nectar-feeding bats. One such bat, the Lesser Long-nosed, appears on one of *five* nocturnal species cards you’ll be able to collect at this event. Find us at the glowing UV fluorescence table to see a live scorpion, collect a card, and play a round of *Endless Forms*!



Butterfly Flutterby - August 24th

9 a.m. to Noon - Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Next month, Asombro is celebrating pollinators with live caterpillars, pupae, and adult butterflies on display, a guided butterfly walk, information on gardening for pollinators, and many other family-friendly activities. Four pollinator species cards will be available to collect, including our state butterfly, the New Mexico Hairstreak. This card features a photo taken by New Mexico’s resident butterfly expert, Steve Cary.

More to come

9 a.m. to Noon
Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

Sept 28 - Bird Bonanza
All about birds

Oct 19 - Dive into the Playa
Crustaceans, amphibians, and more



On Population Growth & Decline Rates

When deploying a species card to a habitat, population growth rate will be. This will be growing, holding steady, or shrinking this determines if that animal is earning you points, is remaining in play but not adding to your point total, or is on its way to being discarded.



it is essential to consider what its **net** determine whether that animal's population after each round of turns. Correspondingly,

For example, a typical species card has a population growth rate of 2, and a decline rate of 1 (we call this a *two-one* species, which is indicated on the card as **2↑ 1↓**). On a given Day or Night, you and your opponent both get one turn. So each round, your species is exerting *once* during your turn to gain 2 population counters, but must decline *twice* - once at the end of your turn, and once at the end of your opponent's (see *Phases of a Turn* below). This means that if this example species has no bonuses or abilities that are actively changing its growth or decline rates, its *net* growth rate is 0, since it gains 2 counters and loses 2 counters each round. This species' population is at equilibrium, meaning its population is neither growing nor shrinking, so it remains in play but is not contributing directly to your point total. This is a-okay in many cases. For example, the presence of this card may help another one of your species. Regardless, you should always keep the net growth rate of your species cards in mind.

If our *two-one* example species is at a habitat with flowers and has the ability **+1↑ at 🌸 habitat**, it effectively becomes a *three-one* species. Now, each round this species gains 3 counters and loses 2 for a net growth rate of **+1**. This species' population is growing. Alternatively, if something prevents this species from exerting, it gains 0 counters and loses 2 counters each round, giving it a net growth rate of **-2**. This species' population is shrinking fast and is at risk of reaching zero and being discarded.

Calculating a species card's net growth rate can help you determine what your strongest play for the turn will be!

PHASES OF A TURN

Initialize

Deploy

Exert

exert your species to gain X↑ counters

Move

Termination

all species lose Y↓ counters

Player's Tip

Predators can be an effective way to slow down the growth of your opponent's species. However, without a suitable prey species at the same habitat, a predator will quickly find itself in the discard pile. Consider using your own *Western Hognose Snake* as a source of prey for your struggling predator. Thanks to its **feign death** ability, *Western Hognose Snake* stays in play even if its population reaches zero, so it will always be there for you.

Get even more value by pairing the hognose with your *Greater Roadrunner*, which benefits from preying upon reptile species and can move along with your hognose for free.



Booster Packs Coming Soon!

Itching for new cards and interactions? We are working on a set of **brand new cards** that will be available for sale in small, random "booster" packs soon. This includes new habitats, effects, and events, as well as fresh species cards with diverse abilities. Stay tuned!

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