

Windmills, Water, and Wildlife

Water is scarce in these arid grasslands. Early settlers depended on wind power to pump water from deep wells. These "watering holes," important to people and livestock, also attract wildlife.

*"What the plains lack in water...
they make up for in wind."*

The steel bladed windmill was invented in 1870. It pumped precious water to home and stock tank. A cow needs 13 gallons of water per day and will seldom graze more than a mile from water.

In the 1930s, electricity came to rural areas, and electric pumps began replacing wind power. Today, windmills remind us of the struggle for water on the plains.

Before the introduction of windmills, farmers struggled to collect water.

"When the water flows were dry during the summer months we had to scrape for water with a scraper, called a dipper, but was an uphill business until the use of windmills and stock tanks became popular."

By the same paintings, Hill the State of Utah, Farm and Wildlife Museum.

Watch for animals attracted to this "watering hole."



Chinle Box Turtle



Northern Bobwhite



Kingfisher

Without a watering hole, small animals obtain moisture from seeds, fruits, and leaves of plants.

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