



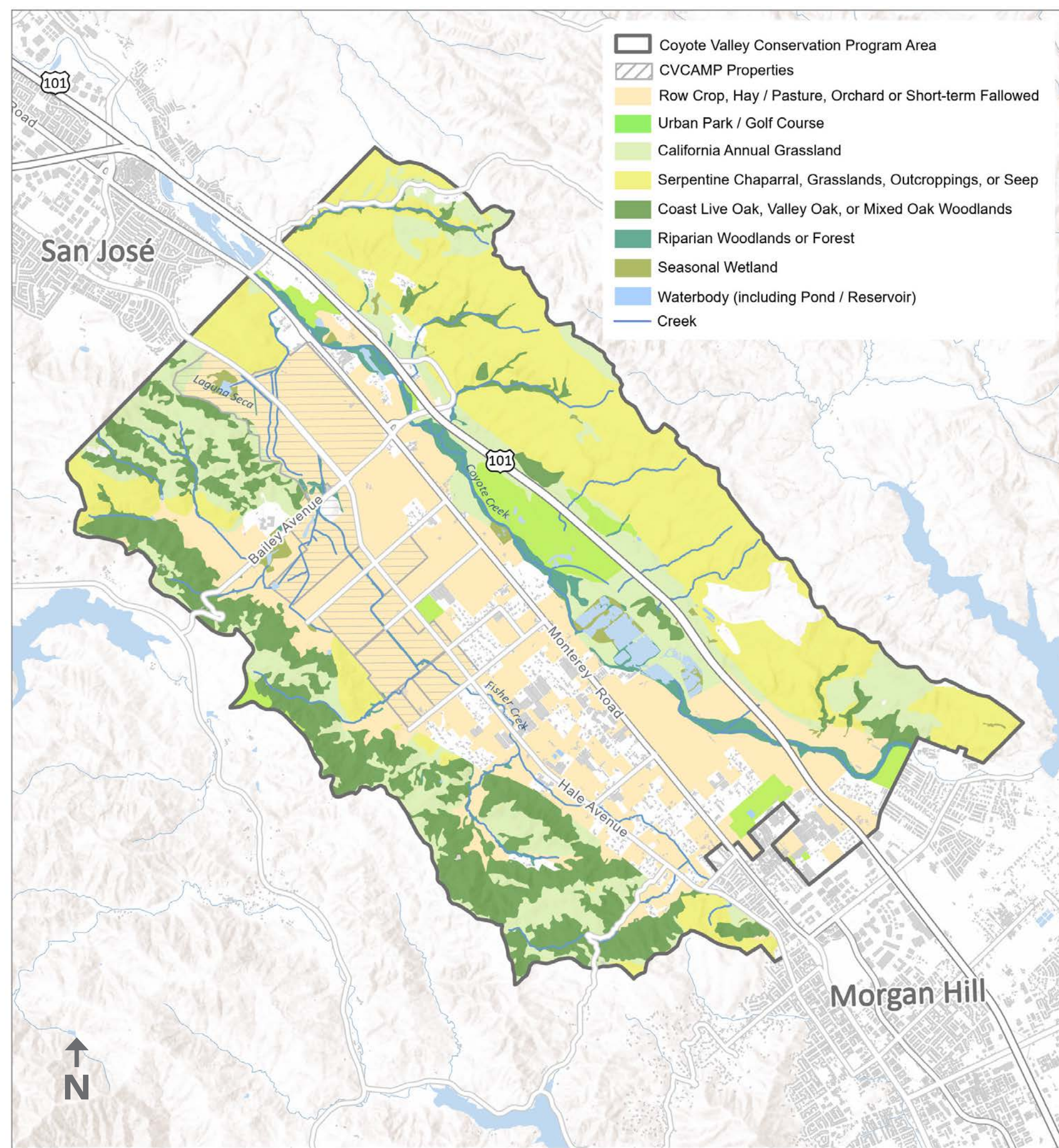
Wildlife & Habitat

Coyote Valley is a biodiversity hot spot, home to many unique species of wildlife and rare habitat. There is great potential to expand and restore natural habitats in Coyote Valley to create a healthier environment for wildlife to live in and move through as they travel between the surrounding mountain ranges.

Photo: Bobcat

Land Cover & Vegetation

Coyote Valley is made up of many kinds of natural habitat that can be restored and expanded. Each habitat type has unique characteristics and value to wildlife and humans.



Pond

Coyote Valley is home to natural ponds, like Laguna Seca, as well as manmade ponds. Many native plants and animals are adapted to seasonal ponds that dry up during California's dry summers.



Seasonal Wetland

Seasonal wetlands are areas where water covers the soil for part of the year, providing unique habitat. Coyote Valley's wetlands were drained for agriculture in the 1910s, but remnant seasonal wetlands still exist in low-lying areas and along the edges of manmade water features.



Riparian

Riparian habitats are woodlands and brush found adjacent to waterways. Coyote Creek and Fisher Creek are lined by riparian habitat. Although Fisher Creek is a manmade drainage canal, it now provides important riparian habitat.



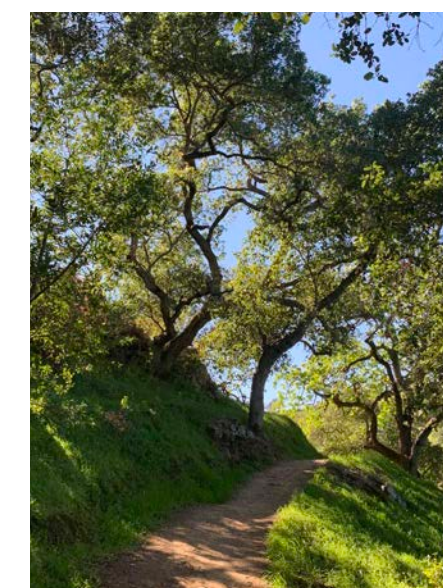
Californian Annual Grassland

Grasslands, mostly now dominated by European grasses, cover much of Coyote Valley and the surrounding hillsides.



Serpentine Grasslands

The hills surrounding Coyote Valley are home to some of the largest areas of serpentine soils and grassland in the region. This rare habitat type is home to a high number of unique native species.



Mixed Oak Woodland & Forest

Much of Coyote Valley was once covered by oak savanna and more dense oak woodlands. Remnants of these woodlands still exist with great potential for restoration across the landscape.



Row Crop, Hay and Pasture or Fallow

Though not a native plant landscape, hayfields and pastures still provide important places for wildlife to live and find food. Row crops are farmland crops planted in rows that are tilled or otherwise cultivated by agricultural machinery. The habitat value of row crops can be enhanced by adding hedgerows and farmscaping that provide habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators and wildlife.

Focal Species

Focal species are species within the region that will be prioritized for conservation and restoration planning. These focal species were selected by local science experts to reflect the diverse habitat requirements and unique needs of wildlife in Coyote Valley.



*Waterfowl and shorebirds were selected as a general focal species category. While each species uses these watery habitats differently, they co-habitat together to take advantage of wetlands.

KEY FINDINGS



Large-scale habitat restoration is needed. Coyote Valley has been heavily altered by human use. Habitat restoration would increase biodiversity, promote healthy wildlife movement and protect both common and rare native species.



There is great potential to restore vital aquatic habitat. Restoration will benefit rare wildlife like California tiger salamander. Invasive aquatic species like bullfrogs and crayfish are present nearby and must be carefully controlled.

Photo credits: David Mauk, Derek Neumann, Cassie Kifer, Nick Perry, Stephen Joseph, Annamarie Pilon, Cait Hutnik, Beth Hamel, Michael Van Hatten



Wildlife & Habitat The Landscape Linkage

Coyote Valley is where the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range come together, making it one of California's most important landscape linkages — a place where undeveloped land allows wildlife to move between 1.13 million acres of core habitat in the mountain ranges and maintain healthy populations.

Photo: Coyote Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains

DIABLO RANGE

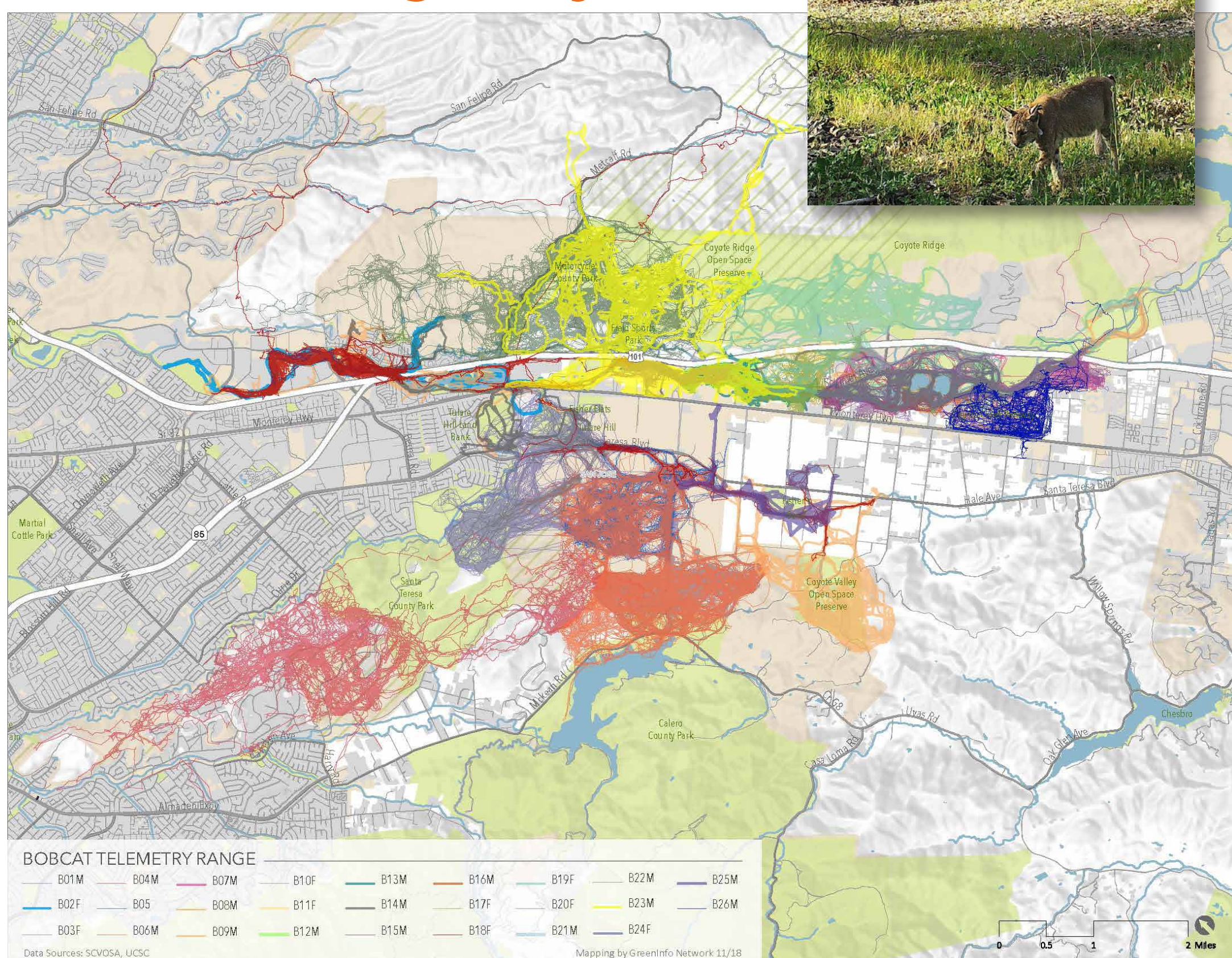
The **DIABLO RANGE** defines the eastern edge of Coyote Valley. It is a largely undeveloped mountain range that runs north-south through the middle of California. It is home to a remarkable variety of plants and animals and contains large uninterrupted areas of habitat that are key to healthy populations of wildlife.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

The **SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS** define the western edge of Coyote Valley and contain most of the wildland on the San Francisco Peninsula. They are at risk of becoming ecologically isolated from the rest of California due to development. Open space in Coyote Valley is a vital connection between the mountain ranges, allowing wildlife to migrate, find mates and adapt to climate change.

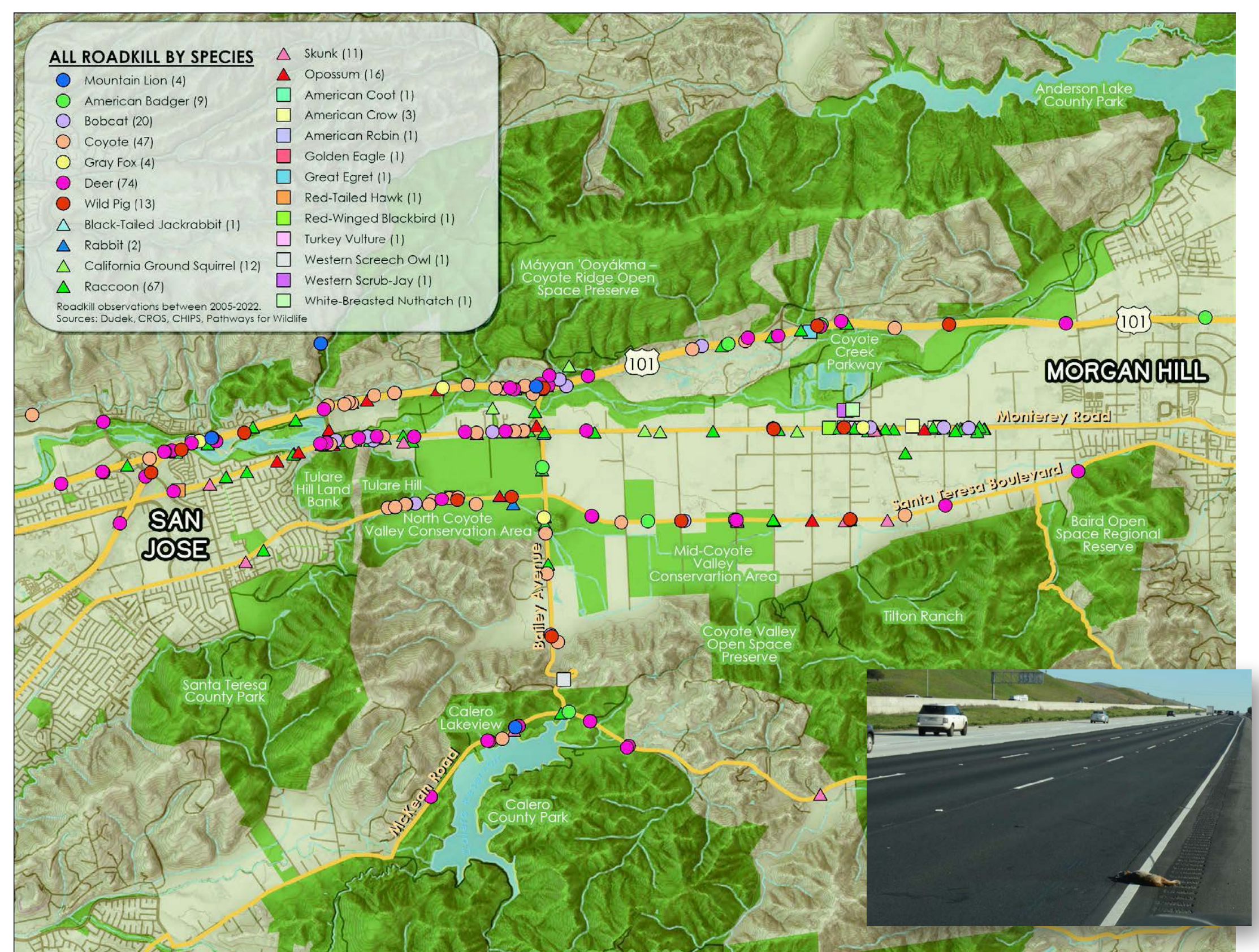


Bobcat Collaring Study



Low land with vegetation cover, such as Fisher Creek and Coyote Creek, are ideal for safe movement of wildlife through Coyote Valley. Developed areas, like roads and houses, interrupt natural corridors and create dangerous conditions for bobcats. By tracking bobcat movement throughout Coyote Valley we have learned that protecting open space and restoring creeks is some of the most important work we can do to keep these cats safe and facilitate their movement through the landscape.

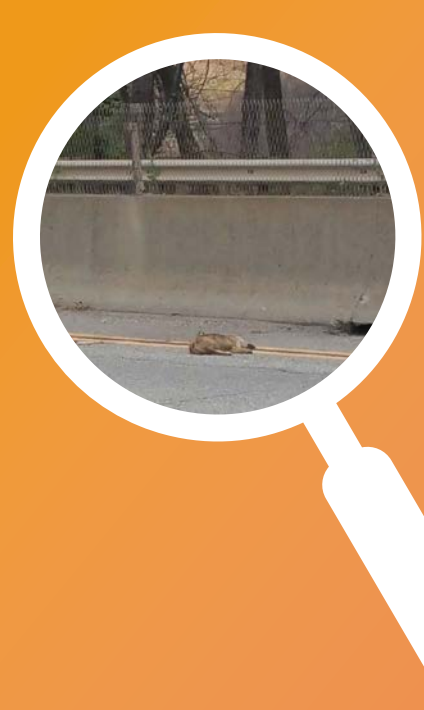
Roadkill Data



Wildlife-vehicle collisions occur frequently in Coyote Valley, creating unsafe conditions for people and often deadly results for wildlife. Recent studies are helping pinpoint roadkill hotspots, and planning work is underway to identify and design wildlife crossings along Coyote Valley's busy roads and highways to help maintain connectivity through the landscape and between the surrounding mountain ranges.

KEY FINDINGS

Roadways are fragmenting habitat and killing wildlife. Changes to roadway design, fencing and infrastructure like wildlife under-crossings will allow wildlife to more safely cross Coyote Valley.



New uses must be planned with wildlife in mind. Coyote Valley's role as a successful landscape linkage for wildlife depends on reducing the effects of human use and activity. Noise, lighting, traffic and other factors must be carefully considered when new uses are planned.



Local mountain lions are struggling and need a safe wildlife corridor in Coyote Valley.