

This study was conducted in Cañada de los Osos Ecological Reserve, as well as the agricultural and urban environments adjacent to the Reserve, which included the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill in central California. The purpose of this research was to determine how human development affects carnivore species diversity, abundance and distribution, specifically in proximity to urban, agricultural, and protected woodland areas within the Santa Clara County. This project was conducted by placing remote camera traps in these three distinct habitats. Each habitat type had transects of five camera traps at semi-randomly designated locations. This was a six month study that lasted from April to September of 2016, which is when carnivore species are most active. Camera traps were checked and moved to a new location every three weeks. Results from this study can provide information on which carnivore species are being affected by varying levels of human development and which species have more readily adapted to these different environments. Wildlife biologists and conservationists can use this information to better manage for the coexistence of both carnivore communities and human populations.

–Logan Thompson