Conservation in changing ecosystems, from fragmentation to invasive species

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The importance of scale in amphibian conservation: species responses to fragmentation

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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The influence of species life history and distribution characteristics on species responses to habitat fragmentation in an urban landscape

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Fahrig 2003; McKinney 2006, 2008





30-50% of all plant and vertebrate species in these 25 areas

Myers et al. 2000 Nature 403; Spicer 2017 Plant Diversity 39



Ecological Consequences of Fragmentation

1. Extinction debt



Ecological Consequences of Fragmentation

1. Extinction debt



2. Density compensation



Data Collection





i = site *j* = patch



45 native species

7 mammals7 amphibians31 reptiles



Mammalia Reptilia -Legless Lizard -Orange-Throated Whiptail CA Kingsnake W. Fence Lizard -Alligator Lizard -CA Vole -Racer-Gopher Snake -Rosy Boa -Gilbert's Skink -Granite Night Lizard -Glossy Snake -CA Mountain Kingsnake -Black-Headed Snake -Mice -Side-blotched Lizard -Banded Gecko -Granite Spiny Lizard -Two-lined Gartersnake -S. Pacific Rattlesnake -W. Patch-Nosed Snake -Ring-necked Snake -Bottae's Pocket Gopher-Slender Salamander -Western Skink -

Amphibia -

Speckled Rattlesnake -Lyresnake -Long-Noséd Snake -Night Snake -Coachwhip -Red Diamond Rattlesnake -Broad-footed Mole -W. Harvest Mouse -Threadsnake -CA Whipsnake Blainsville's Horned Lizard Pocket Mice -Arboreal Salamander -Ensatina -Tiger Whiptail -Arroyo Toad Shrew -Spadefoot -Treefrog -Western Toad -

Occupancy Model Framework

State process Occupancy

TRUTH (I can never observe this perfectly)

Observation process Detections

My imperfect (but wonderful) observations

i = sitej = patcht = time

Occupancy Model Framework

State process Occupancy

$$z_i \sim Bernoulli(\psi_i)$$

Observation process **Detections**

$$y_{it} \sim Bernoulli(z_i * p_t)$$

 $logit(\psi_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Covariate_i$

$$logit(p_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 * Covariate_t$$

i = sitej = patcht = time

The Model



Visit (*t*)



Observations (Y)

i = sitej = patch

t = time

s = species

The Model



Patch Level Occupancy (
$$\Omega_{_{sj}})$$

$$W_{sj} \sim Bernoulli(X_{sj} * \Omega_{sj})$$
$$\log it(\Omega_{sj}) = \delta_{0s} + \delta_{1s} + PatchSize_{sj}$$



s = species

Data Collection





i = site *j* = patch *t* = time

The Model



Site Occupancy
$$(Z_{sji})$$

 $Z_{sji} \sim Bernoulli(W_{sji} * \psi_{sj})$
 $\log it(\psi_{sj}) = \beta_{0s} + \beta_{1s} + PatchSize_{j}$

i = site *j* = patch *t* = time

s = species

Data Collection





i = site *j* = patch *t* = time

The Model



Detection Probability (
$$p_{sj}$$
)
 $Y_{sjit} \sim Bernoulli(p_{sj} * Z_{sji})$
 $\log it(p_{sj}) = \alpha_{0s} + \alpha_{1s} + PatchSize_{j}$

i = site *j* = patch *t* = time

s = species

The Model



Species Richness - Patch



Available Pool • Patch Age •<10 •10-30 •>30

Species Richness - Site



Available Pool • Patch Age •<10 •10-30 •>30



What causes variation in sensitivity to fragmentation?



















30 year Winter Precipitation (mm)







Sensitivity to Patch Size Type ○ Patch△Site

A Adult Body Size(cm) в Fecundity(young/year) Sensitivity to Patch Size Sensitivity to Patch Size 0.5 Effect Size 0.0 -0.5 -С D Age at Sexual Maturity(years) Sensitivity to Patch Size 1.0 -0.5 Effect Size 0.0 -0.5 --1.0







Type 🔿 Patch 🛆 Site 🛛 Taxa 🌒 Amphibia 🥚 Mammalia 🌒 Reptilia

^(a) Areas with increased max summer temp (°C)



Above the line = MORE sensitive in smaller patch sizes to hotter conditions



Summary

Species richness increased with patch size

Sensitivity to this fragmentation differed by taxa and species within taxa

Insight can be gained by incorporating life history and climate-range position information





Max Summer Temperature (Hot vs. Core)

Change in the number of people from 1990 to 2000



Focal area:

24 million people

56,505 mile²

424.7 people/mile²

U.S. Census Sureau

					% missing
		Mean patch	Mean Site	Frequency	Species in
Bin	Mean Null	richness	Richness	of Patches	Patch
<=30 ha	32.7	14.9	11.1	9	54.30%
>30 ha, <=300 ha	31.5	19.0	14.0	26	39.25%
>300 ha, <=1000 ha	35.2	23.3	15.8	13	33.75%
>1000 ha, <=5000 ha	35.0	25.4	16.6	22	27.14%
>5000 ha, <=11000 ha	39.4	31.2	19.0	12	20.97%
>11000 ha, <=82000 ha	38.5	31.8	18.6	15	17.37%

Patches >5000 ha have about 80% of species they could have

The smallest patches lack about 50% of species they could have

Emily Perkins***



Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)

- -Coordinated regional response
- -Resolve biodiversity and development conflicts
- -Overarching goals and subarea goals
- -Deliver habitat and species protections

						Percent of
	Number of		Percent of	Number of	Ha of	Conserved
	Open Space	Ha of open	Open Space	Conserved	Conserved	Land in patch
Bin	patches	space	in patch size	Land patches	land	size
<=30 ha	5325	39960.96	3.81	1533	14322.4	2.73
>30 ha, <=300 ha	894	74637.92	7.11	542	48958.53	9.33
>300 ha, <=1000 ha	125	67231.43	6.40	88	49198.94	9.37
>1000 ha, <=5000 ha	90	208412.66	19.85	63	151669.42	28.89
>5000 ha, <=11000 ha	17	127335.75	12.13	5	34415.82	6.56
>11000 ha, <=82000 ha	18	532206.56	50.70	11	226405.62	43.13
	6469	1049785.28		2242	524970.73	

These smallest patches are numerous but only 2-4% of the open space or conserved land

Percentage of area in conservation is dominated by larger patches (49.69%), which contain greater species diversity



Future:

Add to patches vs. adding disconnected patches?

Use species life history and climate-range position information in planning There are different dynamics at patch vs. site level



modified from Converse, Moore, Armstrong. 2013. Demographics of reintroduced populations: estimation, modeling, and decision analysis. Journal of Wildlife Management 77:1081-1093.







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Landowners and Fieldwork Funders: Bureau of Land Management California State Parks Canon Inc. California Department of Fish and Wildlife the City and County of San Diego Los Angeles Audubon Society Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Metropolitan Water District National Park Service and Foundation Nature Reserve of Orange County San Diego Zoo San Diego Association of Governments San Diego State University Seaver Institute The Nature Conservancy University of California, Irvine and San Diego U.S. Forest Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority



