

# Border Wildlife Study: 2020-2023

SKY ISLAND ALLIANCE



BORDER WILDLIFE STUDY



# With **Gratitude**

## **Lead Supporters**

Wilburforce Foundation

New York Community Trust

Carroll Petrie Foundation

The Wilderness Society

*Many individual gifts*

## **Land Managers**

U.S. Forest Service

National Park Service

Arizona State Parks & Trails

## **SIA Volunteers Corps**

Brit Rosso

Alicia Stout

# THREE BIG YEARS

2019



2021

Construction paused in January  
Expanded to Coronado National Memorial  
Epic monsoon came at last

2023

Shipping containers removed  
43,000 wildlife detections  
132 species



2020

A scorching summer  
Construction in the mountains  
First million photos



2022

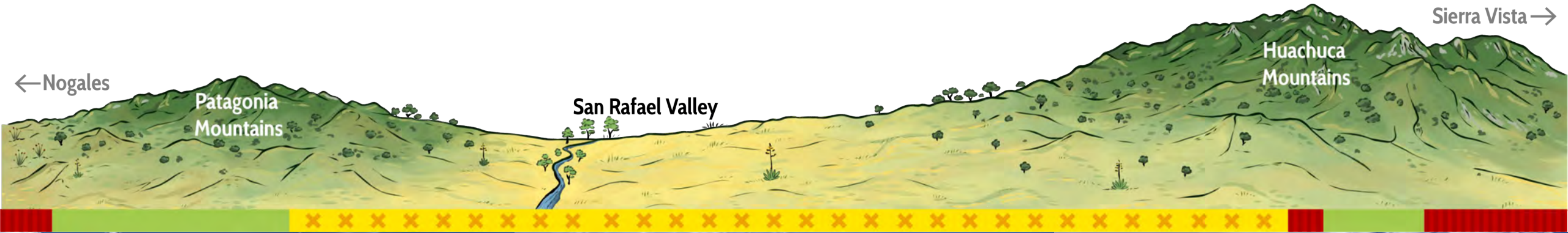
More monsoon rain  
Shipping container wall  
New border cameras





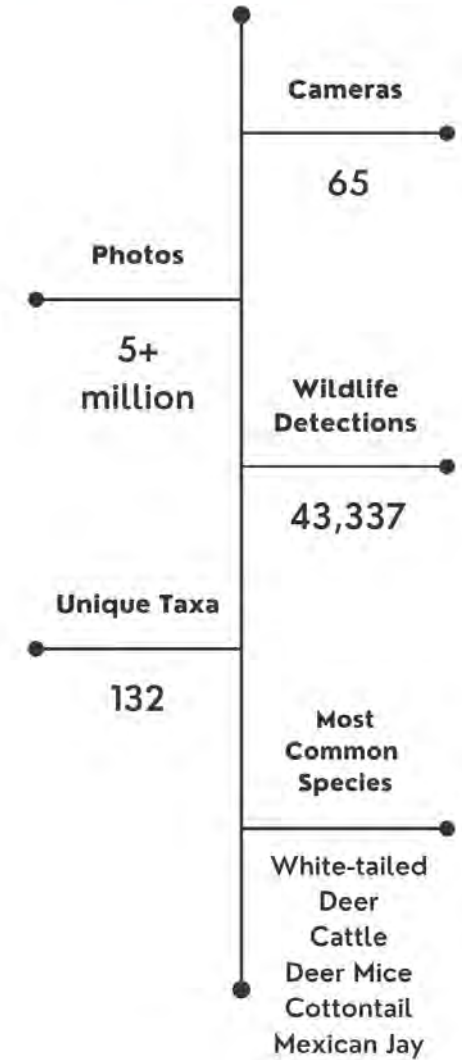
Photo courtesy of Greg Bedinger and LightHawk

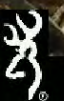
# Study Landscape





## BY THE NUMBERS





44 F

12/18/2022 10:31AM



55 F

01/11/2023 05:43:37PM





69F

10/07/2022 04:18PM



89 F

09/13/2022 10:12:22AM



71F

07/25/2022 09:00AM



41F

11/01/2022 06:35AM



51F

12/31/2022 09:36AM



📍 75 F

▶ 05/07/2022 08:10PM



64 F

08/16/2022 02:26PM

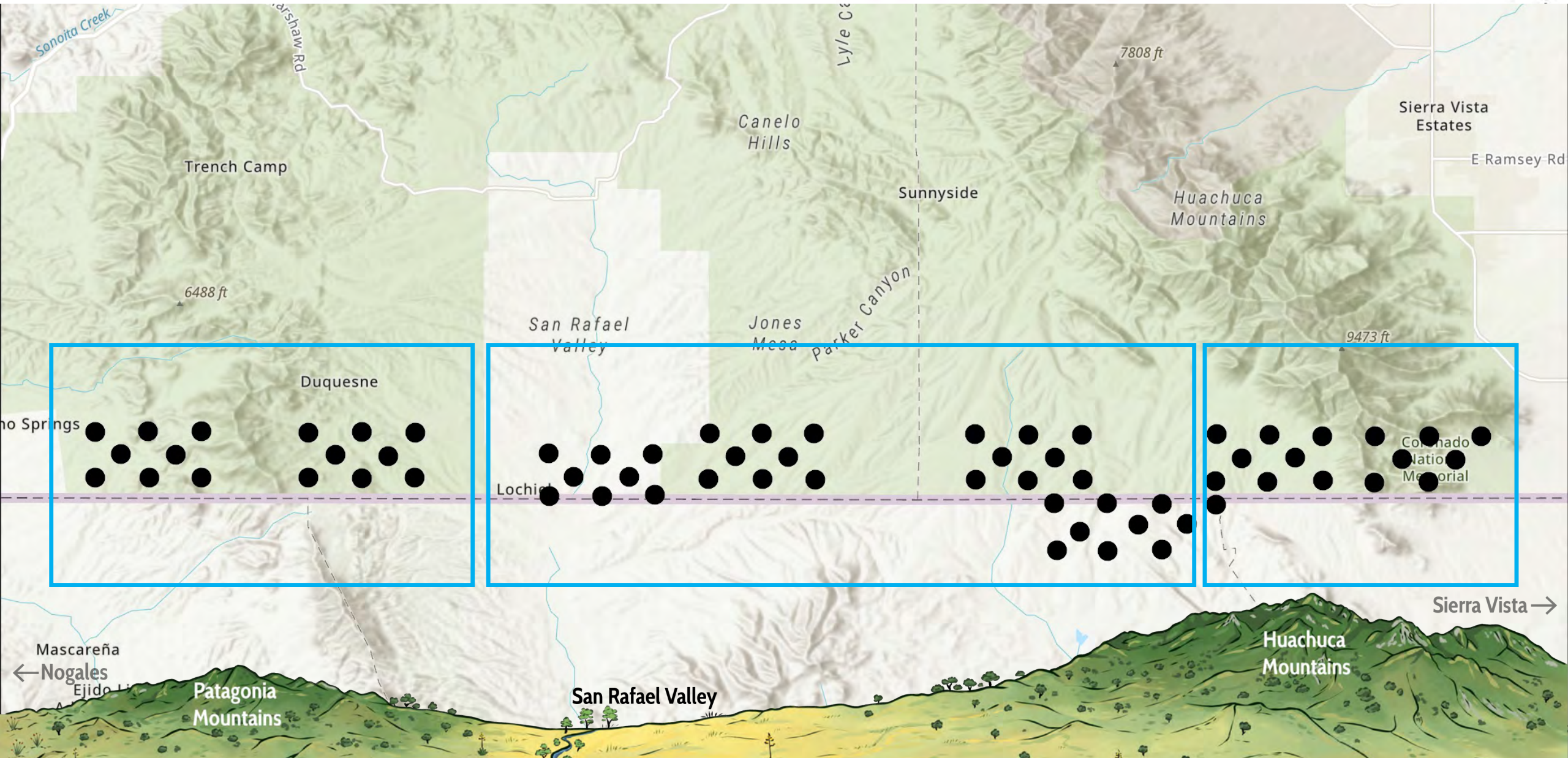


33 F

02/13/2023 05:25PM

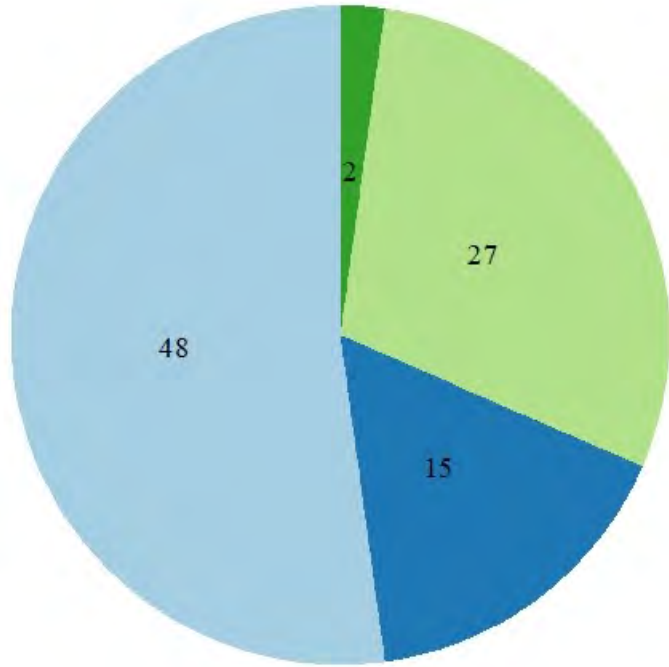


# Understanding the Wildlife Community



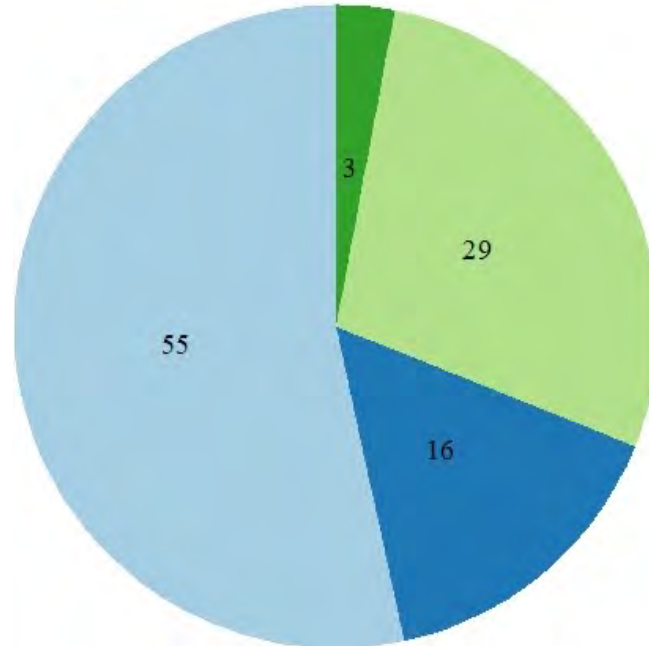
# Understanding the Wildlife Community

Patagonia Mountains



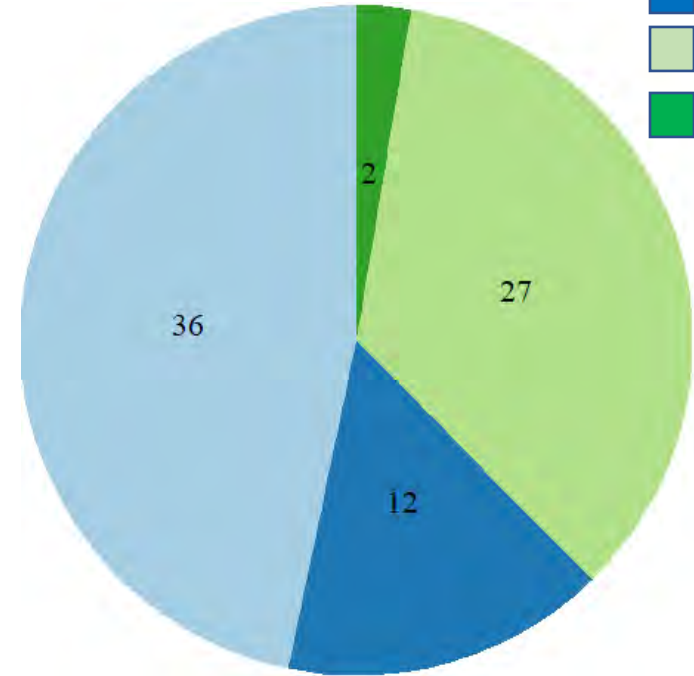
92 Species

San Rafael Valley



103 Species

Huachuca Mountains

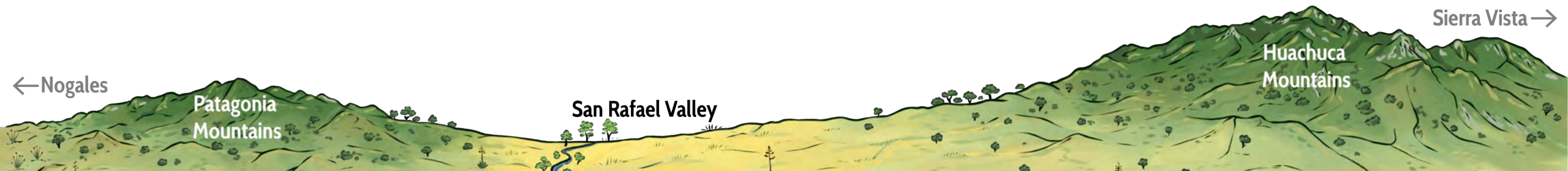
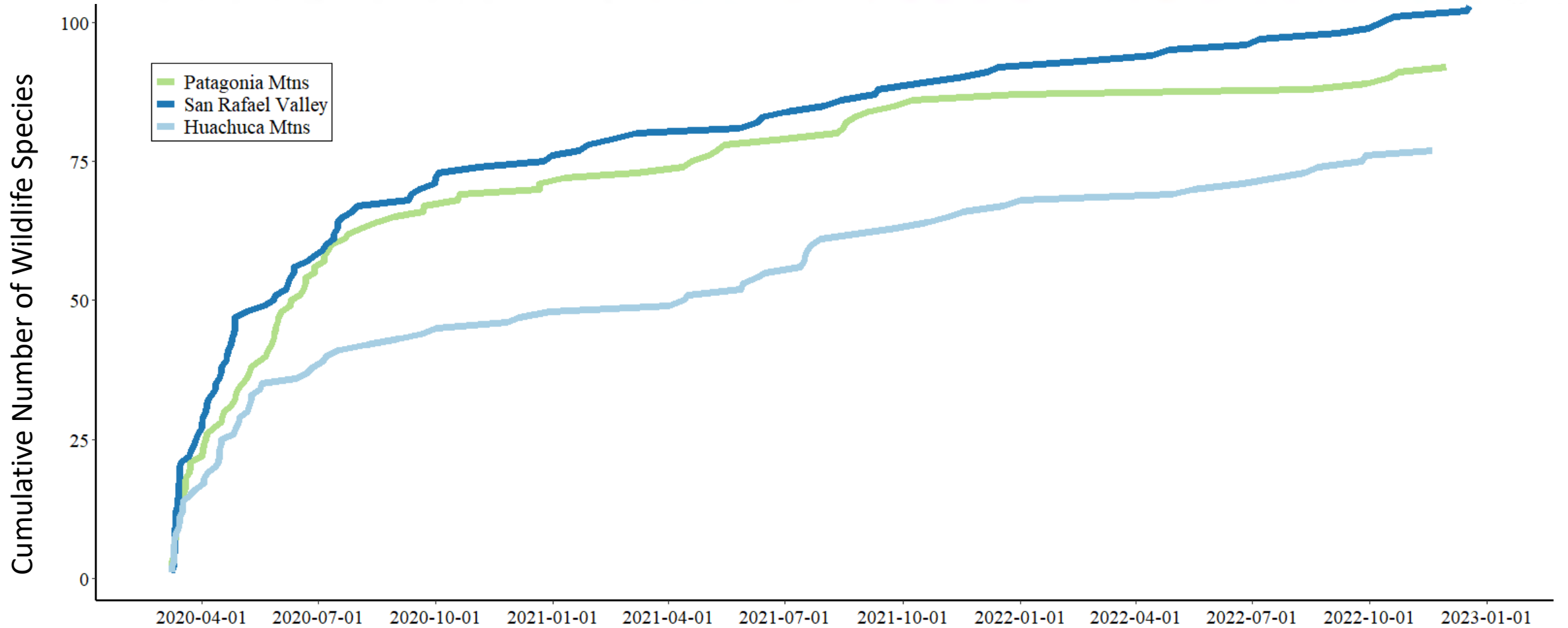


77 Species

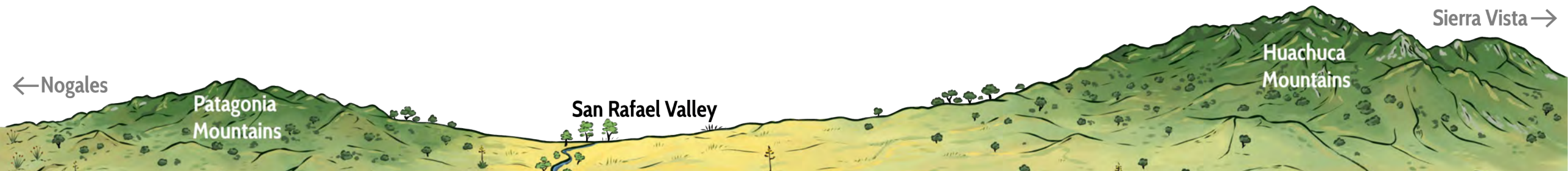
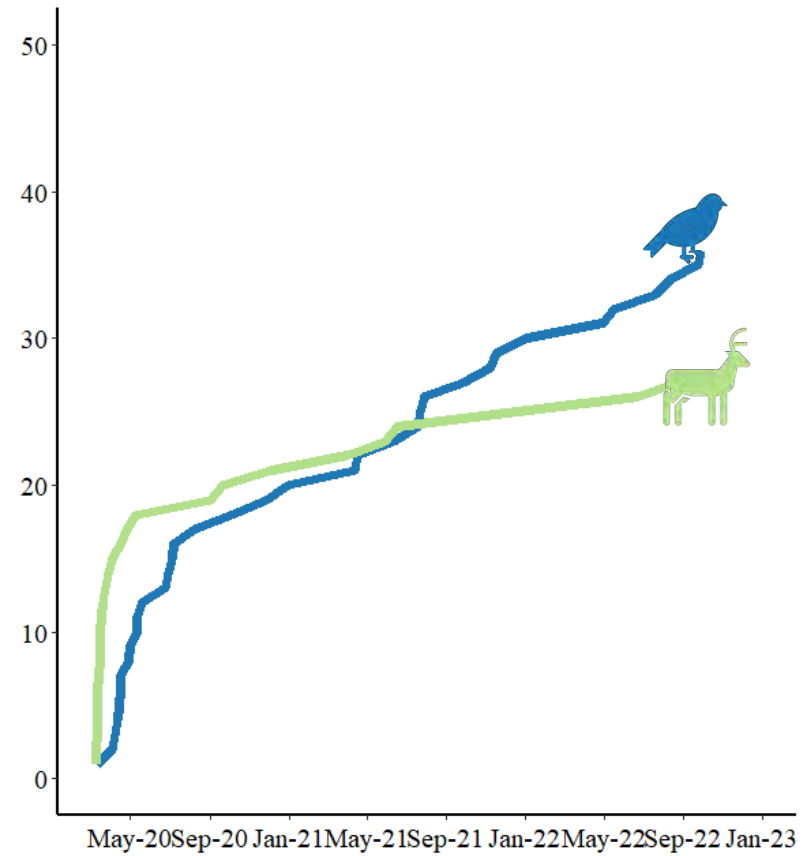
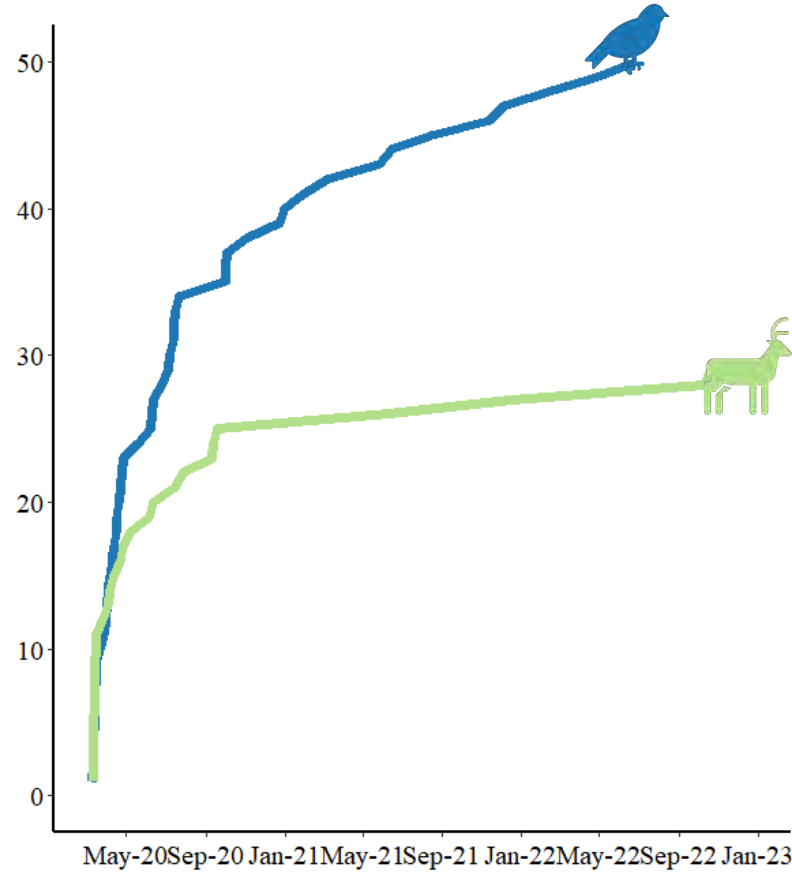
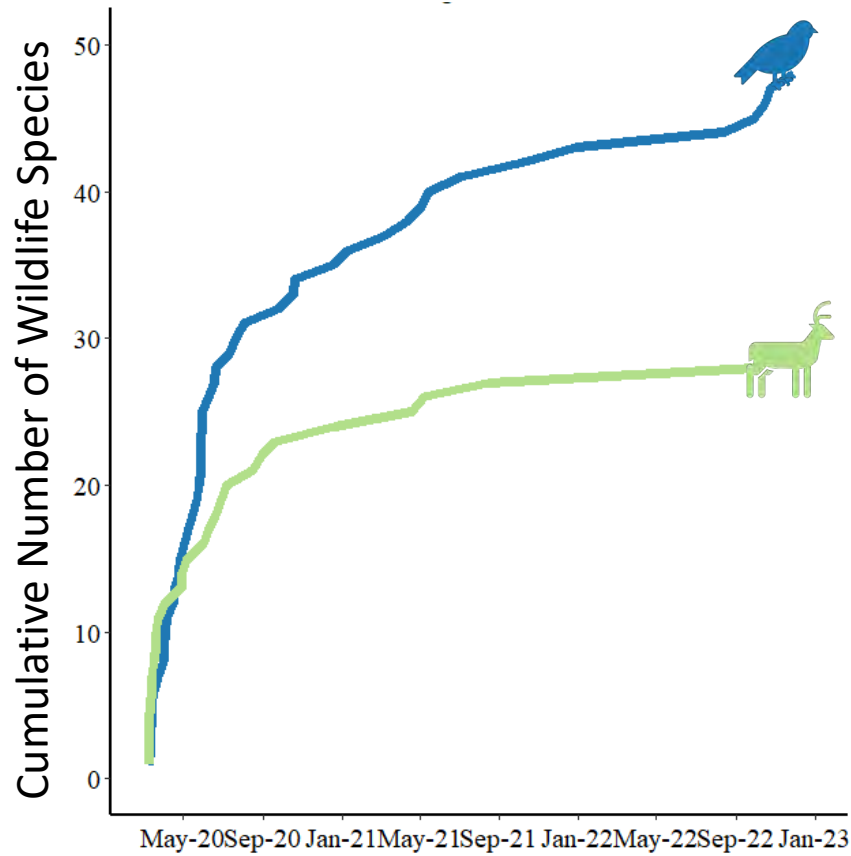
- Birds
- Invertebrates
- Mammals
- Reptiles



# Understanding the Wildlife Community



# Understanding the Wildlife Community



# Most Common Species

*Patagonia Mountains*

Carnivore: **Gray Fox**

Hooved: **White-tailed Deer**

Bird: **Mexican Jay**

*San Rafael Valley*

Carnivore: **Coyote**

Hooved: **White-tailed Deer**

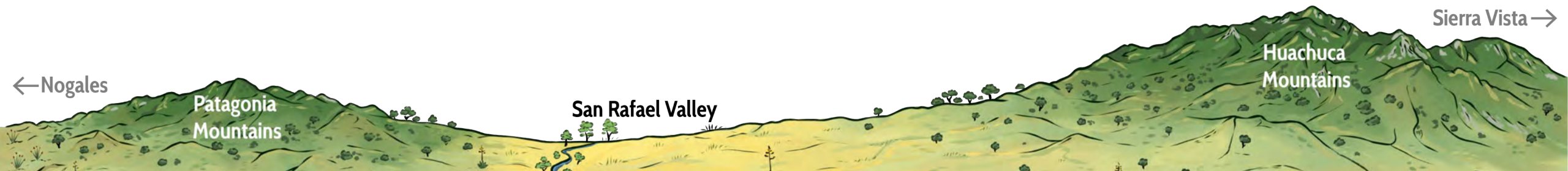
Bird: **American Kestrel**

*Huachuca Mountains*

Carnivore: **Gray Fox**

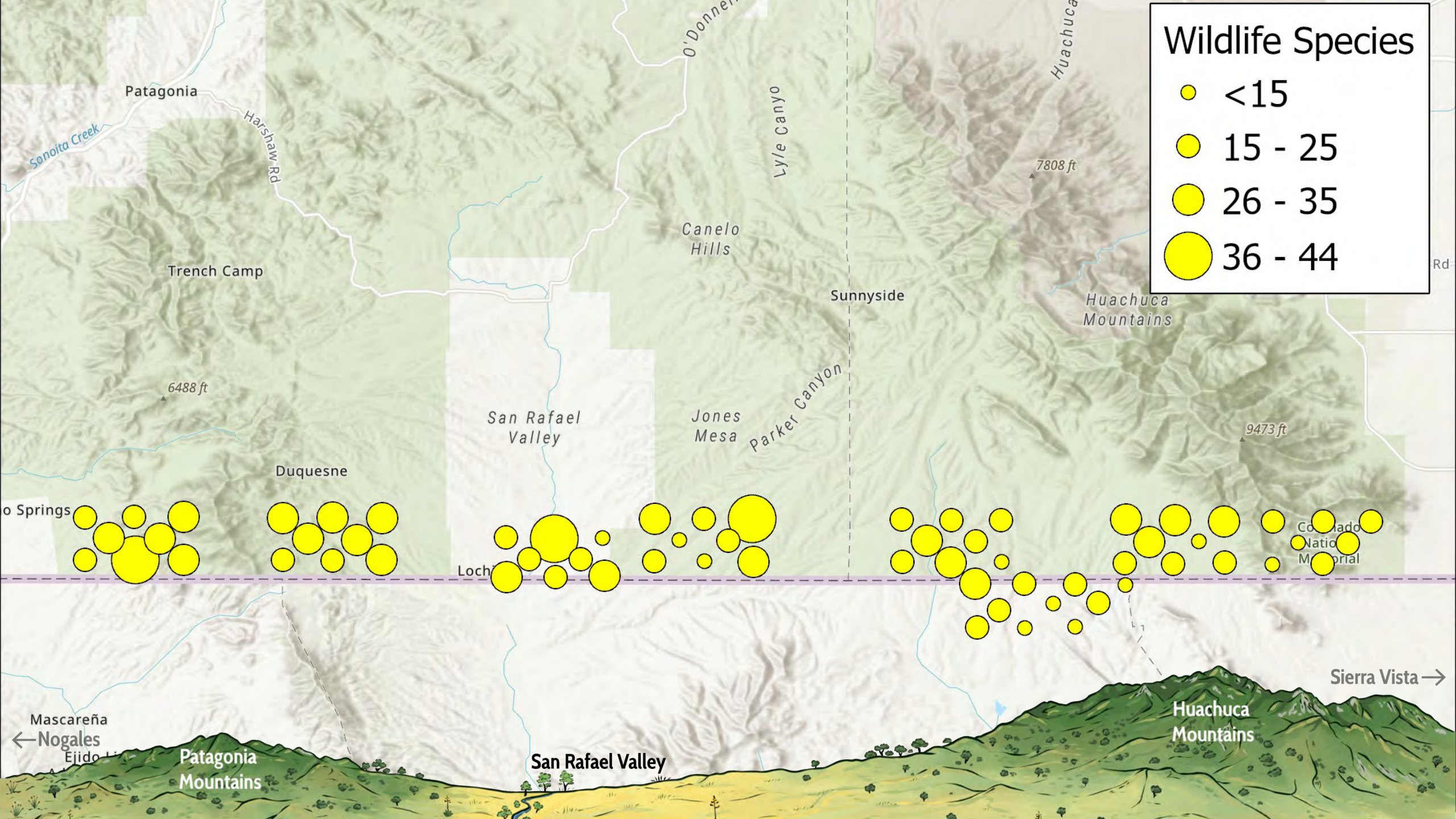
Hooved: **White-tailed Deer**

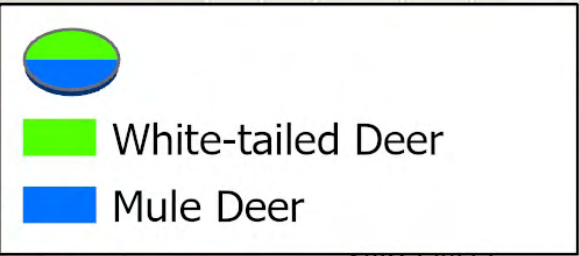
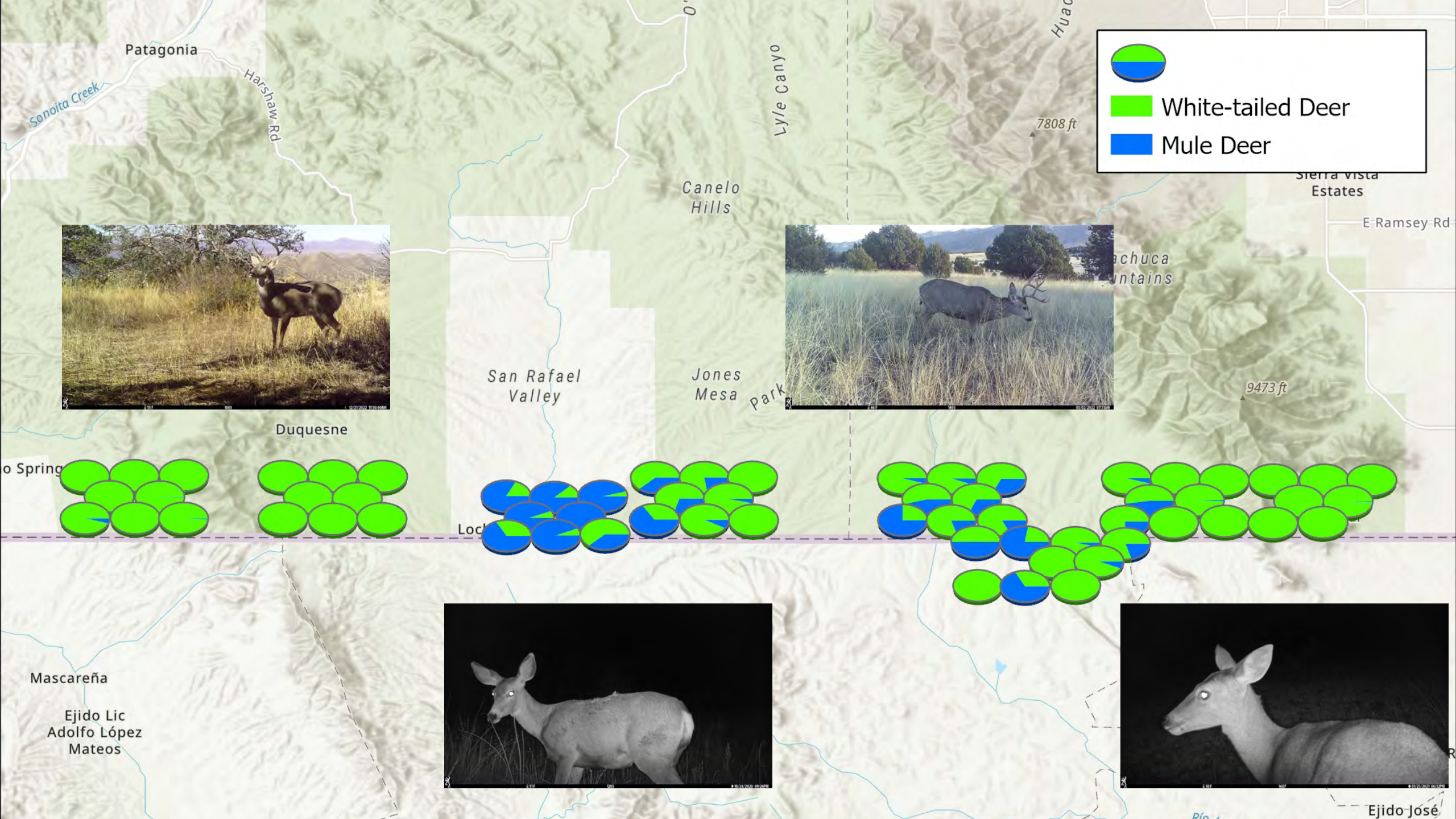
Bird: **Mexican Jay**



# Wildlife Species

- <15
- 15 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 44

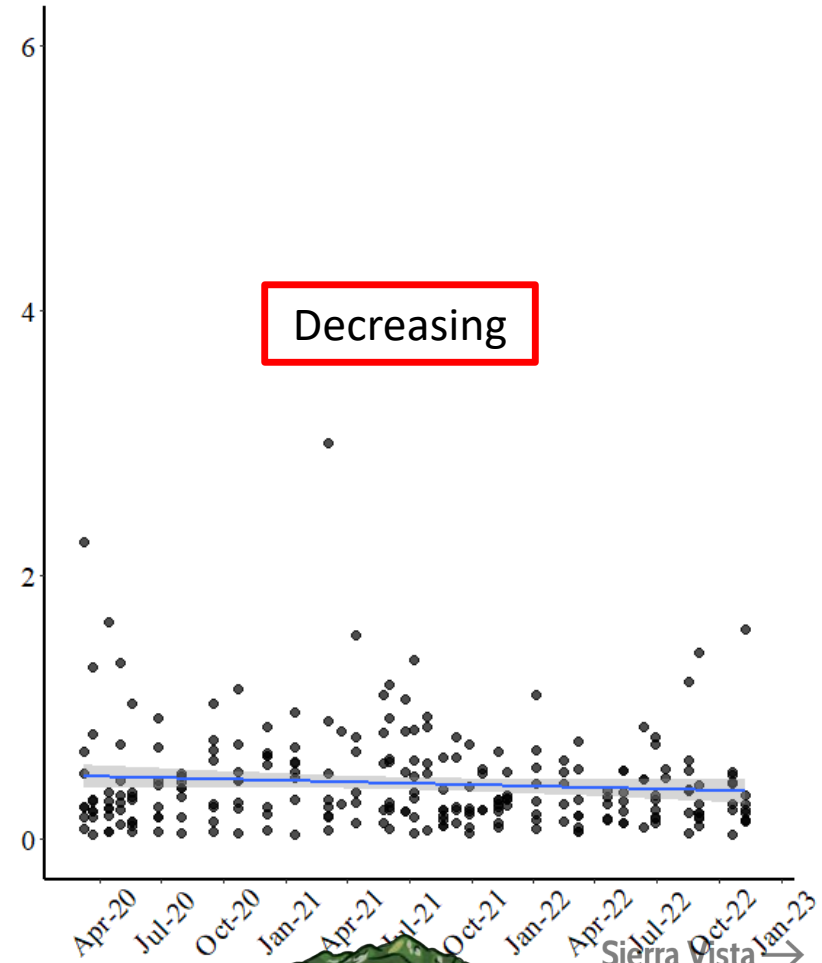
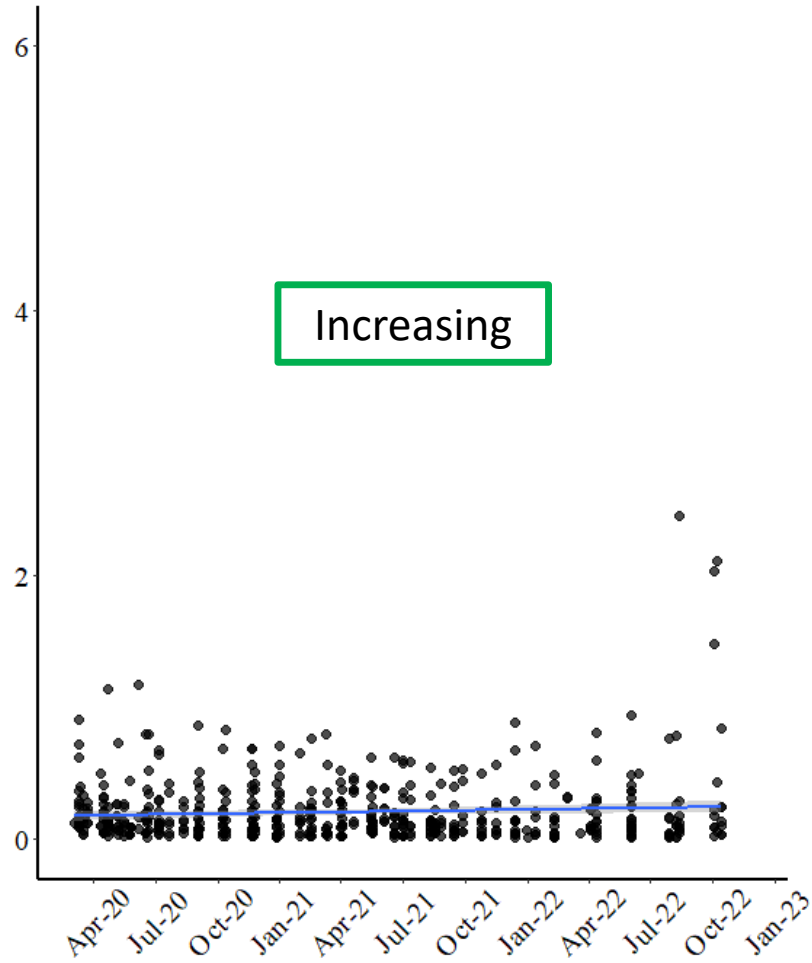
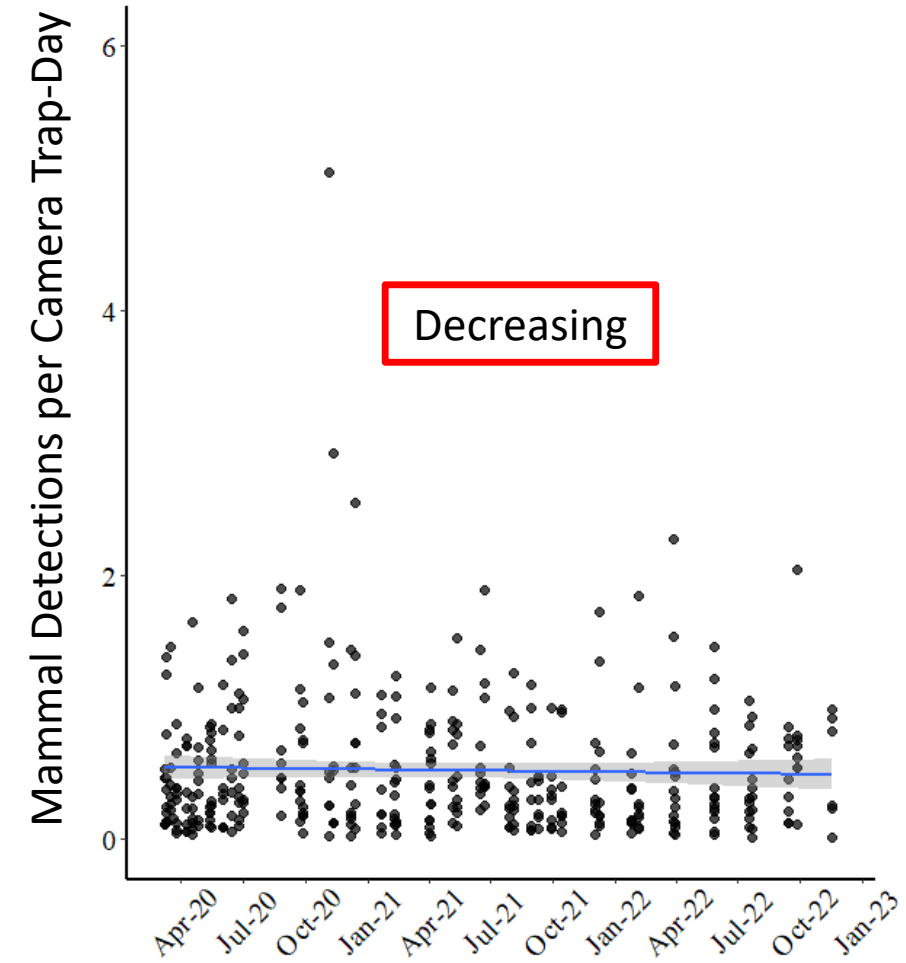




Mascareña  
Ejido Lic Adolfo López Mateos

Ejido José

# Wildlife Trends

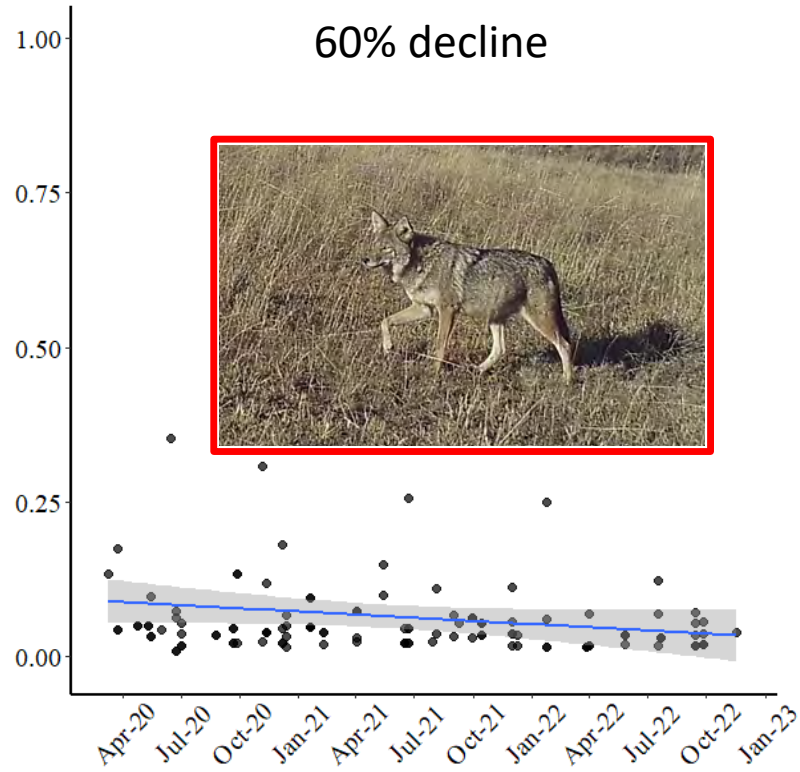




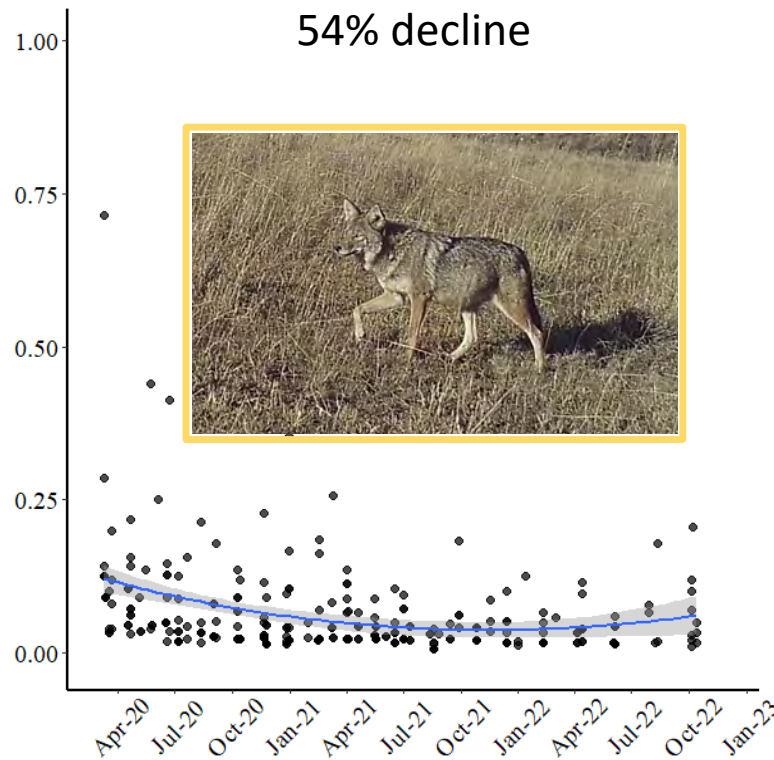
# Wildlife Trends

Coyote Detections per Camera Trap-Day

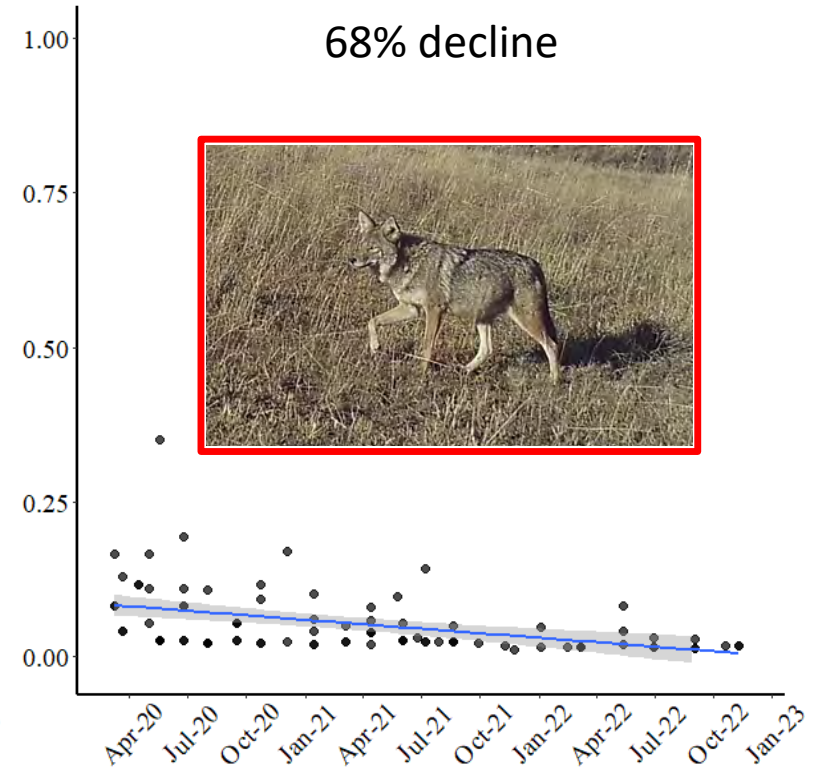
60% decline



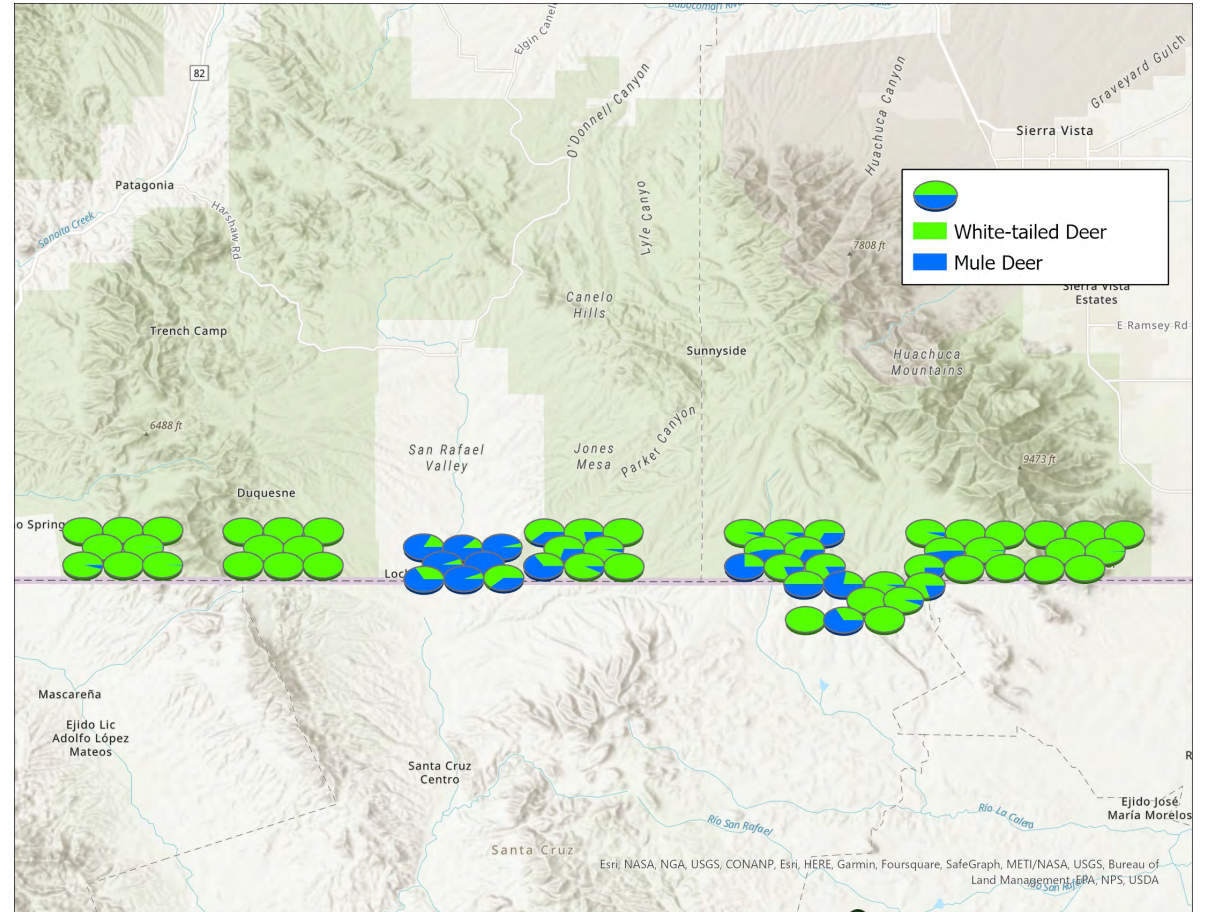
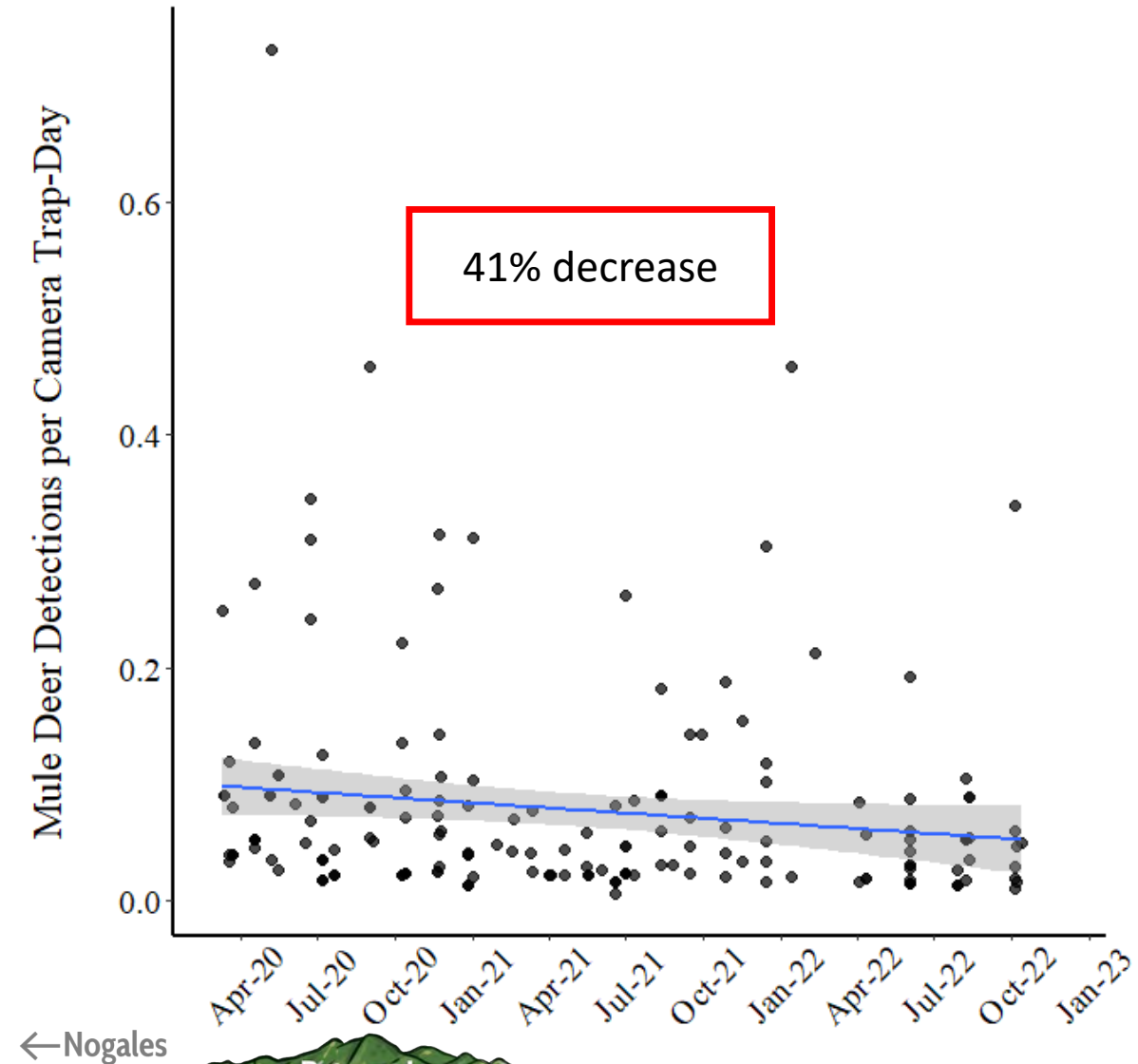
54% decline



68% decline

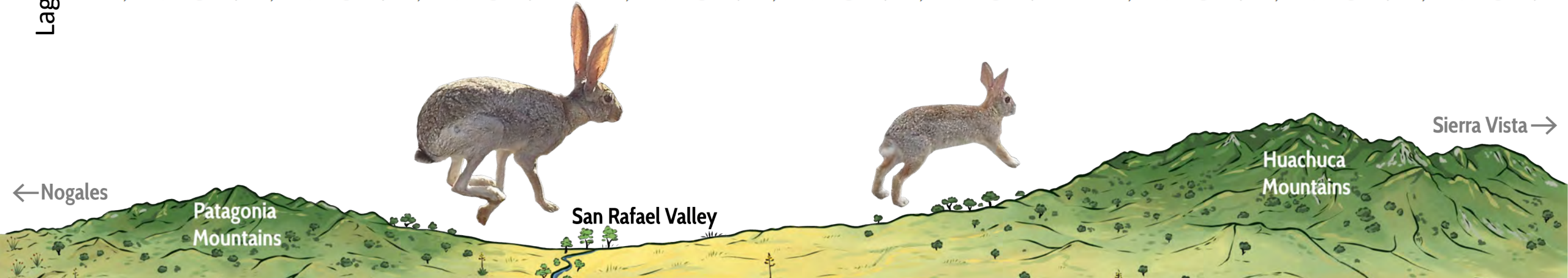
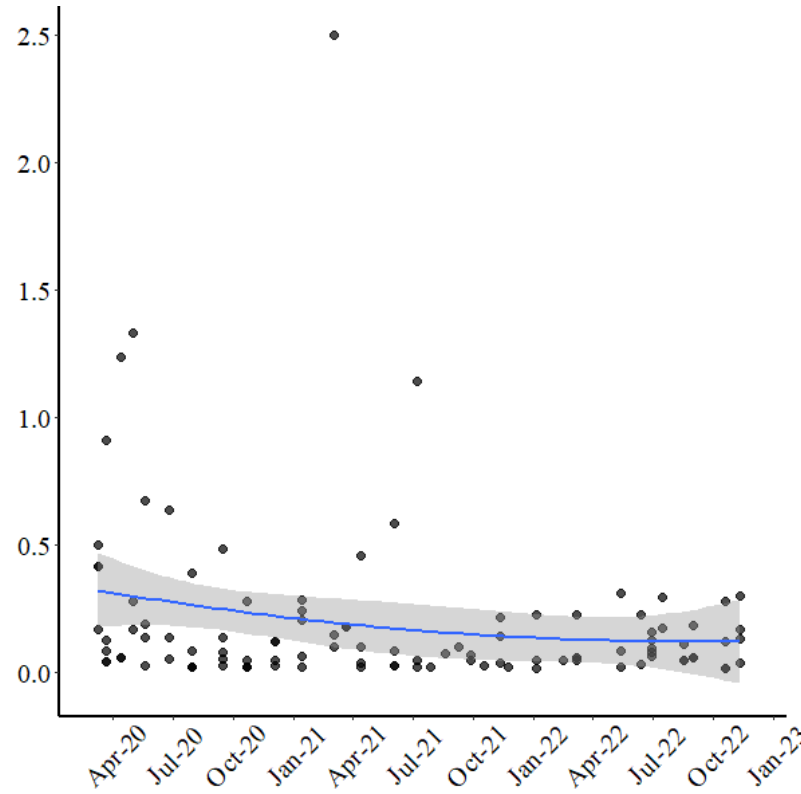
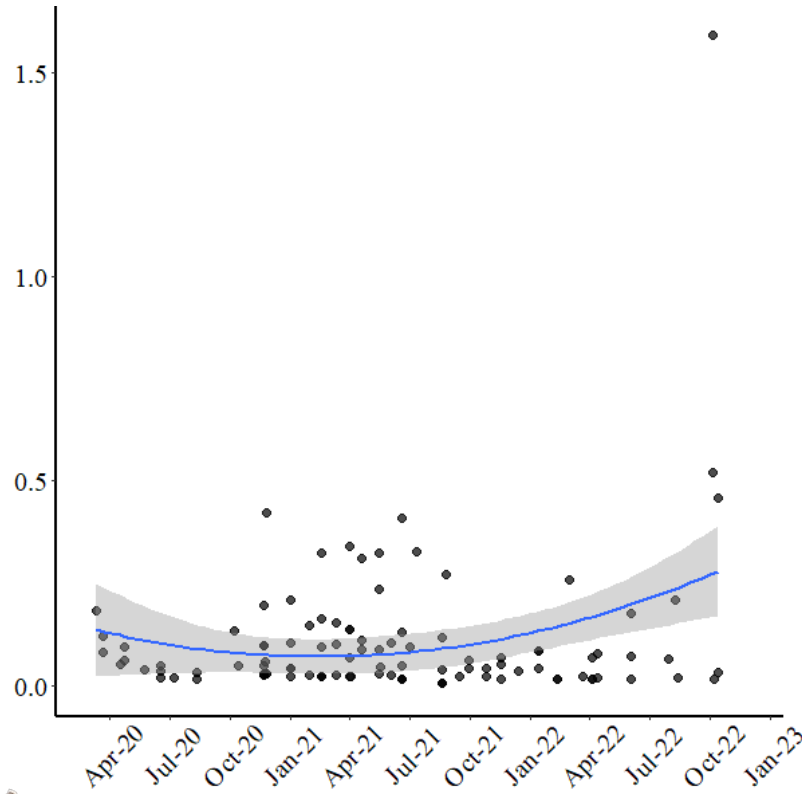
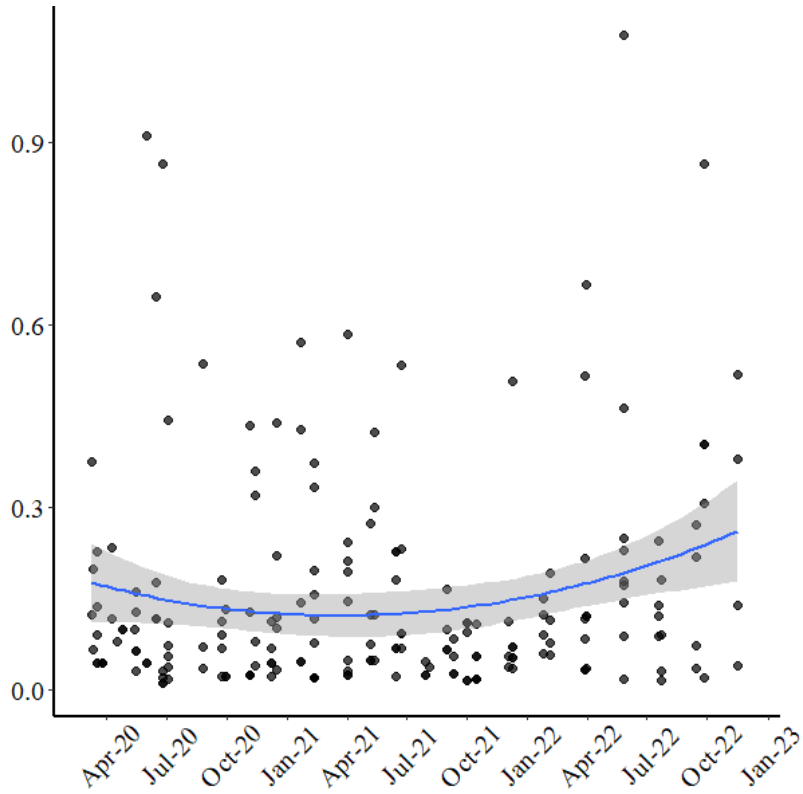


# Wildlife Trends

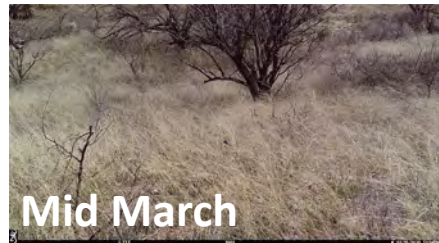
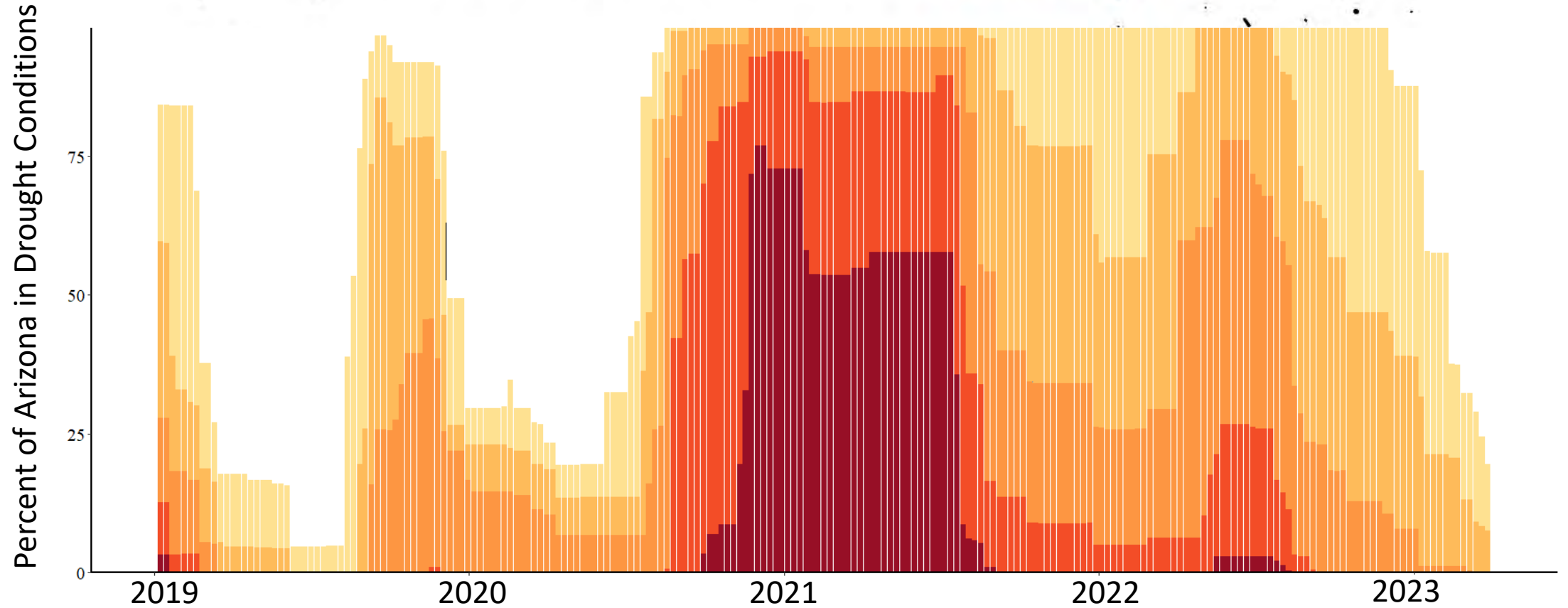


# Wildlife Trends

Lagomorph Detections per Camera Trap-Day



# Environmental Forces





Russ McSpadden, CBD

# Mammalian Detection Rates Per Camera-Trap Day



Before: 1.33



After: 1.37



During: 1.01



# What's Next



- Year 4
- Shipping container impacts
- Border comparisons with San Pedro and San Bernardino
- Border habitat restoration



# Putting the Data to Work

Tucson



## FEEDBACK

Comment Period: Jan. 4 – Feb. 3, 2022

Specific to the Tucson Sector, commenters:

- Expressed concern about the closure of gates at **San Pedro River, Silver Creek, Black Draw, and Hay Hollow**
- Warned about flooding potential in the **San Pedro River** and **Guadalupe Canyon** areas
- Suggested decommissioning or restoring roads and disturbed areas within the **Coronado National Forest, Coronado National Memorial, and Guadalupe Canyon**

## CONTRACTS

Two contracts have been awarded and construction will start in October 2022.

## LENGTH

Approximately 119 miles



Above: Wildflowers in Tucson Sector

Right: Low water crossing

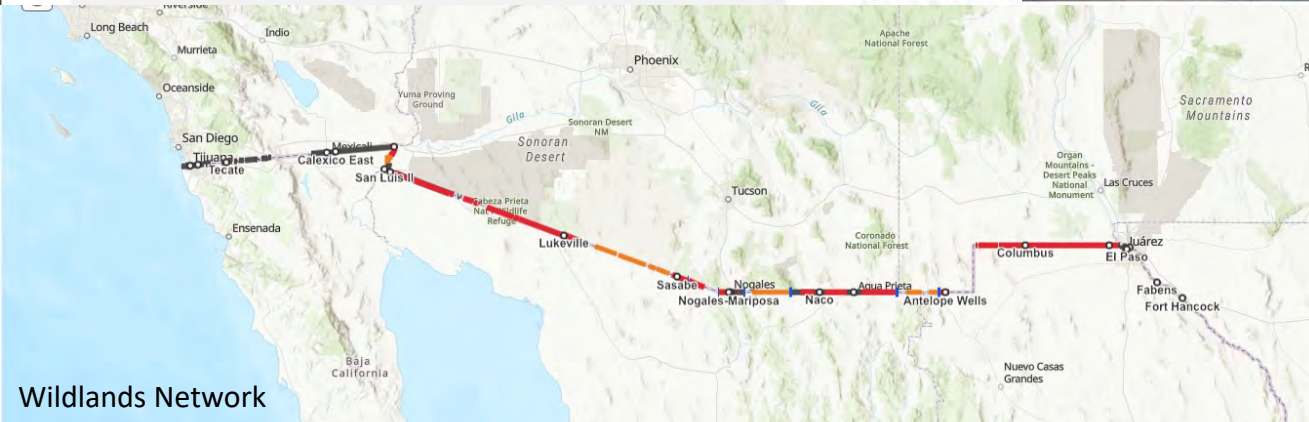


Above: Coronado National Forest (looking east)



## Number of Feedback Comments Collected, by Comment Category

Comment Category	San Diego	El Centro	Yuma	Tucson	El Paso	Del Rio
Access roads	–	8	4	132	4	–
Best Practices	4	1	2	10	6	–
Border wall completion	6	–	–	47	3	–
Cultural Resources	3	5	3	24	2	2
Disturbed Land Areas	3	14	6	416	9	–
Drainages and Low Water Crossings	3	12	2	268	5	–
Erosion	3	7	2	318	7	–
Gates/Gaps	2	1	2	186	7	–
Habitat/Wildlife	2	6	4	535	12	1
Lighting	2	–	1	159	10	–
Project Priority	–	–	–	11	3	–
Public Safety and Accessibility	2	3	–	7	3	–
Virtual Wall	–	–	–	10	–	–
Other	7	3	9	231	3	2



Wildlands Network

# Get Involved



Check cameras, analyze photos, join a workday, speak up for wildlife

