

# Bay Area Bobcat Project

Protecting bobcats from habitat loss and fragmentation

## About BABP

BABP was created to address the lack of knowledge about bobcats in the Bay Area and how they are affected by ongoing urban encroachment. Using non-invasive research tools (camera traps, fecal surveys), BABP collects data about bobcat activity at the urban-wilderness interface. BABP also aims to identify critical habitat patches and key linkages between habitat patches.

## Project Goals

- Assess bobcat population health in the Bay Area and Orange County
- Identify critical habitat linkages critical for bobcat movement and dispersal
- Collect data on bobcat mortality & identify causes (roadkill, rodenticides, disease)
- Public outreach to promote human-wildlife coexistence

Bobcat home ranges may span 0.5 to 100 square miles, so they occasionally travel through developed areas, which can lead to encounters with people. By preserving critical habitats, we facilitate human-wildlife coexistence, preventing negative encounters with people and also, roadkill mortality.

## Why are bobcats important?

Bobcats mainly eat small prey, such as rodents and rabbits. By preying on these species, they serve as pest control and help to control disease. E.g., rodents may have ticks that can carry Lyme disease. By eating those rodents, they help control the tick population and stop the spread of this disease. Also, where large apex predators like mountain lions are absent or have declined, bobcats may fill the apex predator role.



# Impacts of development on bobcat populations

Habitat fragmentation isolates wildlife populations and can create barriers to animal movement. In some cases, bobcats on either sides of major highways may be genetically differentiated<sup>1</sup>. Anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) can also affect bobcat health. ARs bioaccumulate in the food chain and weaken animal immune systems. Bobcats that eat poisoned rodents can become extremely sick and more susceptible to diseases like mange. Together, low genetic diversity and weakened immune systems make a population less likely to fight off disease outbreaks.

<sup>1</sup>Riley, SP, Pollinger, JP, Sauvajot, RM., York, EC., Bromley, C., Fuller, TK., & Wayne, RK. (2006). A southern California freeway is a physical and social barrier to gene flow in carnivores. *Molecular ecology* 15: 1733.

## Community science

Our public sightings map allows community scientists to contribute to our research. This helps us monitor bobcat activity beyond our camera trap network, supplementing our data collection. If you see a bobcat (or puma), submit your sighting to our online map and contribute to wildlife research in the Bay Area! This information is crucial to helping us better understand how bobcats respond to human activity and urban development.

Scan the QR Code for our Puma & Bobcat Sightings Map



## You can help

By supporting the Bay Area Bobcat Project, you help protect pumas, bobcats, and the ecosystems we all rely on. Your gift fuels groundbreaking research that safeguards wildlife, biodiversity, and public health. 100% of your donation goes directly to this critical work—every dollar makes a difference.

Scan the QR Code or visit [felidaefund.org](http://felidaefund.org) to donate!



## Get involved

As a non-profit organization, our volunteer base is invaluable. We need all sorts of skills- from tech-savvy folks to outdoor enthusiasts, we welcome all those interested in making a difference! Become a volunteer today:

Scan the QR Code or visit [felidaefund.org](http://felidaefund.org) to volunteer!



## Our partners

California Department of Fish and Wildlife • University of South Dakota • Oregon State University  
University of Texas at Austin • Fresno Chaffee Zoo • Conservation Society of California

Photo by Justin Barry