



Other Features: Urban

Description

Urban areas are those areas where more than 25% of the structures are man-made (e.g. parking lots, buildings).

General Condition of Feature

Urban areas generally provide little wildlife habitat and new urban areas often displace more favorable wildlife habitat.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

BIRDS

- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Associated Threats

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development: Highway and road development contributes to fragmentation and direct wildlife mortality.

POLLUTION

- Urban, municipal, and industrial: Noise pollution disrupts native wildlife communities.

BIOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

- Invasive plants and animals: House cats and other feral pets may impact native wildlife communities.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER, & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Develop and implement plans for invasive species control and prevention. [Invasive plants and animals]

LAW & POLICY

- Develop local ordinances to retain larger parcel sizes in urban settings which contain natural land covers. Work with municipalities to promote planning and zoning insuring adequate protection for urban greenspace. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development]
- Develop new and enforce existing regulations to reduce noise pollution. [Industrial, residential, and recreational development; Urban, municipal, and industrial pollution]

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Provide education to pet owners on the impact of free ranging pets to wildlife. [Invasive plants and animals]

Research and Survey Needs

- Develop models which predict urban growth and its impacts on wildlife.
- Evaluate land management and development practices within urban settings to determine methods that minimize impacts on the value to wildlife.
- Assess the impact of contaminants on wildlife. Which contaminants are present and in what concentrations? Does the reaction vary by species?
- Evaluate the impact on wildlife populations of collisions, both with stationary and mobile objects.
- Evaluate the impact on wildlife of light pollution. Do different wavelengths have different effects? Do effects vary by species? Are there other characteristics of artificial light which are important to wildlife behavior and the value of urban systems to wildlife?
- Assess the biological and chemical composition of effluent and run-off that is generated in urban systems. How does this effect the value to wildlife of these systems?
- Examine the status of wildlife corridors in urban systems. How large do they need to be? How far may isolated patches of greenspace be separated before individuals require connecting habitat to travel between them? Are there characteristics of corridors that increase their value to wildlife?

Monitoring

- Track the density and distribution of urban systems across the landscape.
- Track collision mortality (vehicle, tower, etc.) of wildlife species.
- Track the intensity and diversity of pesticide use.