Bailey Avenue
Class I Trail Overcrossing Bay Area Ridge Trail Connection Spring 2022
Feedback from Pathways for Wildlife

5/30/2022

A. Wildlife Movement & Wildlife-Vehicle Collison Data in relation to the Bailey Overpass & US-101.

Locations in which the trail goes over roads is a great opportunity for facilitating wildlife movement safely over the roads. Interestingly, the locations in which the trail is going over the roads are also roadkill hot spot locations in which wildlife are being hit at US-101 at Bailey Avenue and Monterey Road (Coyote Valley Linkage Assessment Study, Pathways for Wildlife 2015-2016, Figure 1). Therefore, wildlife might be inclined to also travel along the trail system as the landscape is already facilitating wildlife movement between Coyote Ridge and Coyote Creek County Park at the Bailey Overpass.

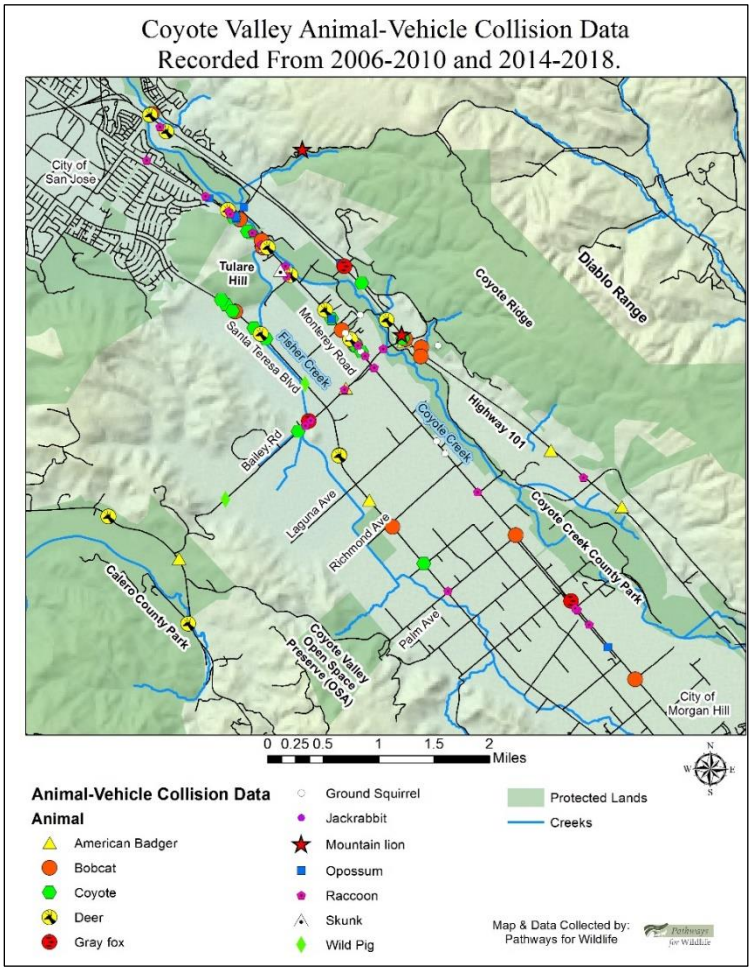

Figure 1. Coyote Valley Wildlife-Vehicle Collision data: 2006-2010 & 2014-2018.

Pathways for Wildlife also recorded a high amount of wildlife movement underneath the Bailey overpass at Coyote Creek Coyote Park. Multiple species such as bobcat, coyote, deer, gray fox, raccoon, and wild pig were recorded traveling under the overpass in 2015 (Coyote Valley Linkage Assessment Study, Pathways for Wildlife 2015-2016, Figures 2-5). Both the roadkill and movement data indicate that the Bailey Overpass is a wildlife movement thoroughfare location within the project area.

Figure 2. Coyote puppies traveling under the Bailey Overpass 6-25-2015.

Figure 3. Deer traveling under the Bailey Overpass 4-17-2015.

Figure 4. Bobcat traveling under the Bailey Overpass 5-1-2015.

Figure 5. Wild pigs traveling under the Bailey Overpass 5-10-2015.

B. Recommendations

We recommend the following practices and strategies for facilitating safe wildlife movement along the trail system.

1. Locations in which the trail goes over any roads should include directional fencing so that wildlife can not access the roads from the trails as they may also use the trail system to cross the roads. Please see Figure 6 for an example of effective directional fencing designs.

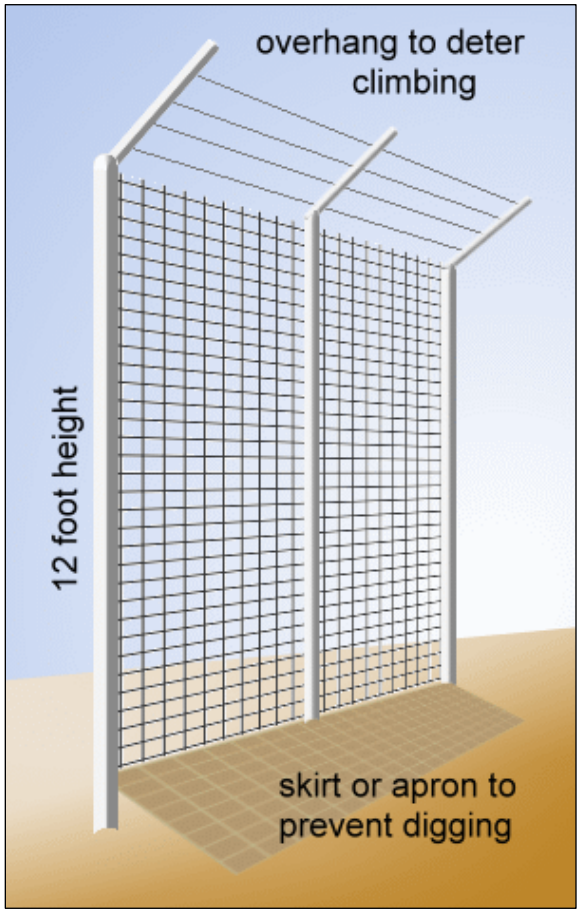

Figure 6. Directional fencing design.

2. Any gates and fencing that needs to be opened to access the trail would also benefit as being wildlife friendly. For example, for gates, spacing between bars should be 1-2ft apart. Barbed wire should be smoothed stranded so that wildlife does not get caught or hurt on the barbed wire (Figure 7). A great guide to wildlife friendly fencing designs includes: A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences 2012.

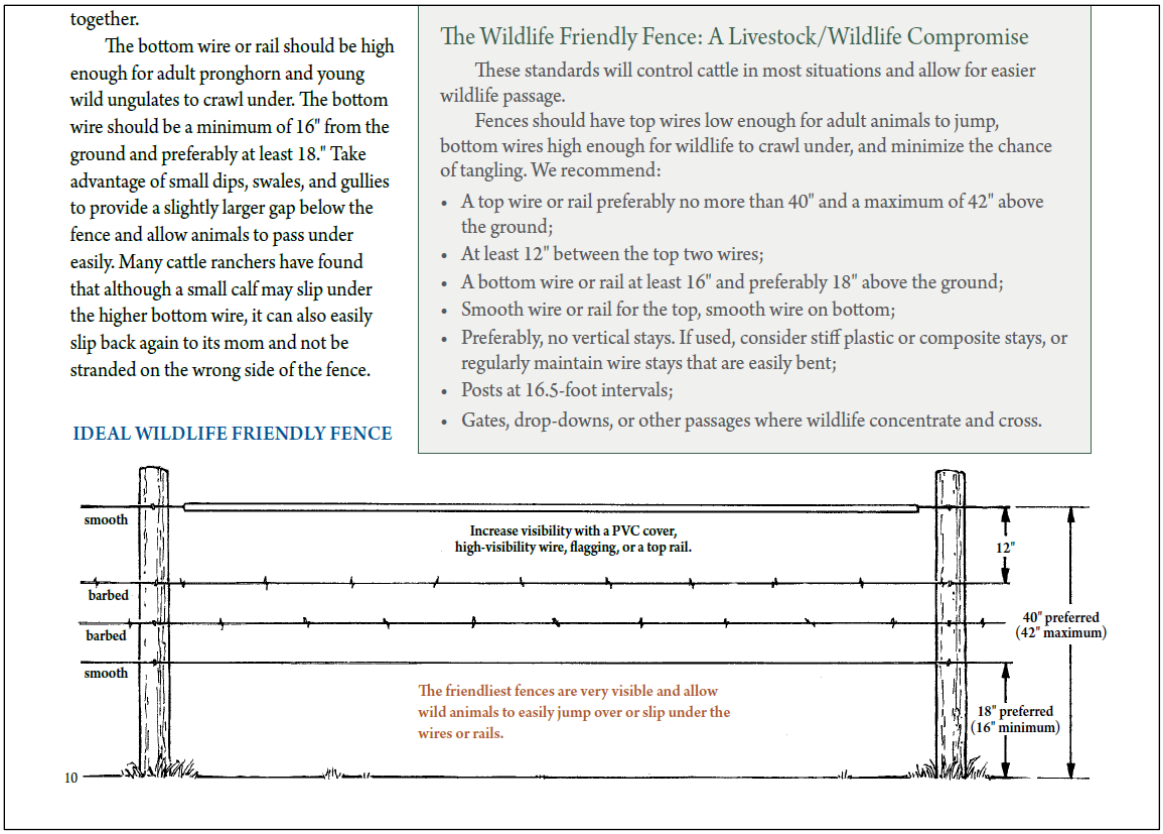

Figure 7. Wildlife Friendly Fences – 2012

3. Include wildlife friendly designs in terms of substrate and vegetation. Where possible, especially where the trail crosses over the road, use a soil substrate to create a natural surface. Many species of wildlife also tend to travel along cover. Where possible, create a visual guide by planting vegetation along the trail system. A great reference for this type of design can be found in the recent publication: Innovative Strategies to Reduce the Costs of Effective Wildlife Overpasses McGuire T 2021 (Figure 8).

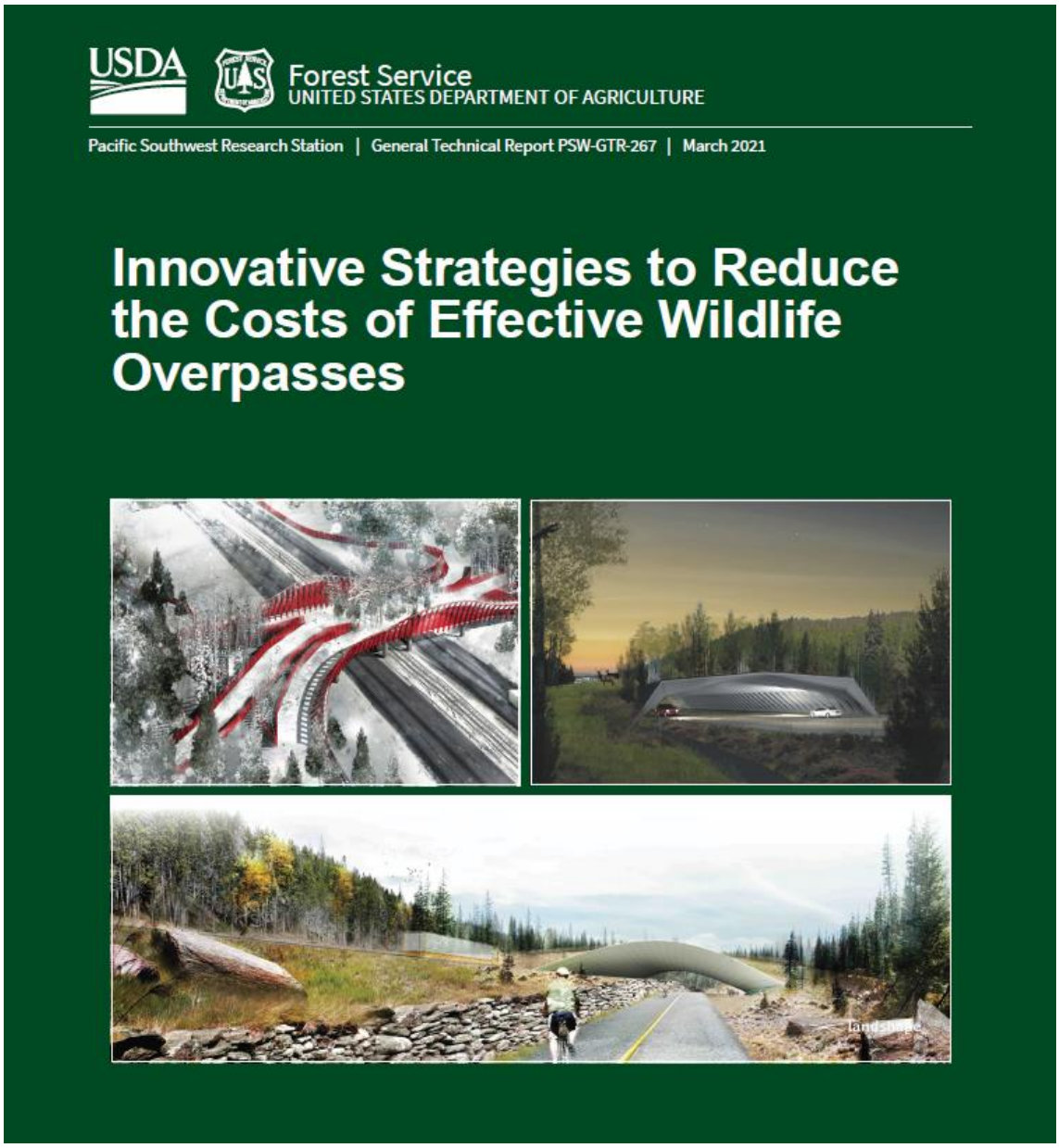

Figure 8. Innovative Strategies to Reduce the Costs of Effective Wildlife Overpasses.

C. Monitoring

We recommend setting up cameras along the Bailey Overpass to determine if wildlife are traveling along the overpass as animals such as American badgers have been recorded hit on it (Figure 9). This data is not reflected in Figure 1, as it was a separate data collection effort done for T. Diamond's master thesis work.

Figure 9. Bailey Ave. Overpass American Badger roadkill on 6-23-08.

We also recommend monitoring the trail post construction to compare it to baseline monitoring data to see if the trail is facilitating an increase of wildlife movement across the overpass.

D. Literature Cited

A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences. 2012. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Coyote Valley Linkage Assessment Study. 2015-2016. Pathways for Wildlife.

Innovative Strategies to Reduce the Costs of Effective Wildlife Overpasses. McGuire T 2021.