



Hypothetical Relationships Between the San Joaquin Kit Fox, California Grizzly Bear, and Gray Wolf On the Pre-European California Landscape

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Abstract

Predator dynamics and other community-level interactions more than 200 years ago within California's Central Valley would likely have been emphatically different with grizzly bears and wolves as an important part of the landscape. With the advent of European settlement of California, the ecosystem was drastically altered. The removal of wolves and grizzly bears from the Central Valley may have had a negative effect on the San Joaquin kit fox. Cascading effects with negative results like the ones described here are likely commonplace when top-down ecosystems are altered by human activities.

About the Author

Howard Clark is an accomplished wildlife ecologist and biologist with eleven years of professional wildlife and research experience. He earned his MS degree in Biology from CSU Fresno in 2001. His work as a researcher has focused on the fauna and ecosystems of Northern, Central, and Southern California, and the Mojave Desert provinces and includes extensive baseline mammalian inventories, conduct surveys focused on rare animals, habitat assessment, land retirement and restoration, radio telemetry, and long-term ecological studies on several endangered species. He has conducted studies for a variety of private and public agency projects, including surveys for endangered species along canals, range-wide presence/absence surveys, and scent dog detection work for endangered foxes. He is currently employed by H. T. Harvey & Associates as a mammalogist in Fresno, California.