

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2013 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

MacGregor Douglass

Project Number

J1106

Project Title

Got Water?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The goal of this project was to measure the impact of a man made water source on the local wildlife. Further, the potential benefits of multiple water sources, spread throughout the conservation area, were assessed.

Methods/Materials

- 1. Dig trench with the gas powered trenching machine and by hand, to specifications.
- 2. Connect pvc pipe to drinker with over flow device.
- 3. Lightly compact soil with rake and shovel.
- 4. Set up two (2) game cameras to collect data. Photos triggered by motion.
- 5. Observe how many animals come to the drinker. (Daily, weekly)
- 6. Record results and analyze the data.

Results

When it became apparent that the hypothesis would be proven in a matter of a few days, the scientist expanded the research to include different species and weekly averages. Even within the first week of data collection it became apparent that multiple species would benefit from this new water source. These results suggest that the longer a drinking station is available, the more animals will use it. The game camera picked up mostly larger animals such as, turkey wild hogs and deer.

Conclusions/Discussion

Without these two new water sources, at least three hundred and sixty animals would have had to find water at another location over this four week period. With further research, it is reasonable to believe that the weekly average of ninety animals benefiting from this available water source will continue to grow. With minimal human impact, these drink stations have provided freedom of movement for all forms of wildlife. It seems very reasonable to project that similar projects in any wildlife area, that needs diverse water sources, could benefit our environment just as the committed volunteers of Canada de los Osos has done.

Summary Statement

Review and discussion of a man made water source's impact on the local wildlife, and entire eco system.

Help Received

Interviews with Henry Coletto of Canada de los Osos. Editing and project help from parents and science teacher,