

Patch characteristics and domestic dogs differentially affect carnivore space use in fragmented landscapes in southern Chile

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Abstract

Aim: In an increasingly anthropogenic world, species face multiple interacting threats. Habitat fragmentation and domestic dogs are two perturbations threatening terrestrial mammals globally. Our aim was to determine whether (a) the spatial use of domestic dogs increases with habitat destruction, and (b) domestic dogs and habitat destruction drive the spatial use of native carnivores in a heavily degraded agricultural landscape.

Location: Central valley/Andean foothills transition of Los Lagos, Chile.

Methods: We implemented a camera trap survey in a fragmented landscape comprised of native forest patches amidst a matrix of pastureland. We used single-species occupancy models to assess the impact of domestic dogs and habitat destruction on three mesocarnivores—the foxes, culpeo (*Lycalopex culpaeus*) and chilla (*Lycalopex griseus*) and the wild cat güiña (*Leopardus guigna*). Additionally, we compared temporal activity of all study species including domestic dogs.

Results: Detection rates for both the foxes increased with domestic dog occupancy, while factors driving occupancy differed for each of the native species. We found that a 12% projected increase in domestic dog occupancy negatively impacted the spatial use of the culpeo. Habitat loss and fragmentation were positive drivers for chilla and domestic dog occupancy. The güiña did not respond to fragmentation and other habitat covariates or domestic dog occupancy. All native carnivore species were primarily nocturnal, while the domestic dog was almost entirely diurnal.

Main Conclusions: We highlight that domestic dog occupancy was positively correlated with habitat loss. Native species showed varied tolerance to domestic dog occupancy and no negative response to habitat destruction. Future conditions of increased fragmentation and habitat loss will likely increase the potential contact between domestic dogs and native carnivores.

KEYWORDS

Canis lupus familiaris, fragmentation, invasive species, landscape, *Leopardus*, *Lycalopex*, occupancy

1 | INTRODUCTION

Fragmentation and habitat loss remain a global threat to biodiversity, increasing isolation between habitat patches, with emergent consequences from edge effects (Haddad et al., 2015; Pfeifer et al., 2017). Globally, 70% of forests are within 1 km of an edge and are becoming increasingly fragmented, which has resulted in abundances for over 85% of vertebrates being impacted by edge effects (Haddad et al., 2015; Montibeller et al., 2020; Pfeifer et al., 2017). The negative effects of fragmentation remain highly debated given inconsistent impacts across species and ecological interactions (Fahrig, 2013; Fahrig et al., 2019; Fletcher et al., 2018; Harrison & Banks-Leite, 2020; Rielly-Carroll & Freestone, 2017). While species may be able to inhabit edge habitats, they may be excluded via biotic factors such as competition or predation (Michel et al., 2016). Additionally, fragmentation may interact with other factors such as habitat loss, fire prevalence and hunting, making it challenging to ascertain of individual drivers that alter species or their interactions (Bartlett et al., 2016; Bennett & Saunders, 2010; Cochrane, 2001; Peres, 2001).

Domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*, hereafter referred to as “dogs”) represent another global threat to biodiversity, as the most abundant carnivore worldwide with a global population estimated at 700 million (Gompper, 2013; Hughes & Macdonald, 2013). Therefore, dogs are a widespread invasive species that can commonly exploit fragmented landscapes as they more easily permeate from areas of human residence (Broadbent et al., 2008; Oehler & Litvaitis, 1996; Paschoal et al., 2018). Dogs commonly harass and kill native carnivores, compete for prey species and transmit pathogens to wild populations (Doherty et al., 2017; Laurenson et al., 1998; Vanak & Gompper, 2009). These disturbances can alter activity patterns and reduce relative abundance of native carnivores. For example, carnivores in Madagascar exhibited spatial avoidance when dogs were present and were more likely to be replaced by dogs in degraded forests near human settlement (Farris et al., 2016, 2017). Similarly, chilla fox (*Lycalopex griseus*) visits to scent stations in southern Chile were negatively correlated with dog presence, and telemetry data showed that foxes rested in a habitat type that was not preferred by dogs (Silva-Rodríguez, Ortega-Solís, et al., 2010). In general, how dog-wildlife interactions are facilitated by habitat fragmentation and concurrent loss (hereafter referred to as habitat “destruction”) is largely unstudied. Furthermore, it is also unknown whether habitat destruction and dogs have similar, opposing or synergistic impacts on carnivores. Given the pervasiveness of both dogs and habitat destruction as major disturbances, it is surprising that few studies have measured and compared their simultaneous effects on native species.

Predicting the effects of habitat destruction on native carnivores, especially in conjunction with dogs, is difficult because our expectations for mesocarnivore response to these two threats (destruction and dogs) may not align. Based on intraguild predation theory, we would expect smaller carnivores such as mesocarnivores

to be particularly susceptible to harassment by dogs modulated by body size (Donadio & Buskirk, 2006). In contrast, for fragmentation and edge effects, a component of habitat destruction, large-bodied mammalian carnivores are particularly susceptible due to their relatively small population sizes, slow growth rates, extended habitat requirements and corresponding home ranges (Schipper et al., 2008). In general, the impacts of habitat destruction on carnivores are harder to predict because many aspects of their ecology such as prey availability and habitat quality are also impacted. Mammals vary in their sensitivity to fragmentation and in their adaptive responses to fragmentation (Crooks, 2002; Janecka et al., 2016; Palmeirim et al., 2020; Smith et al., 2019). For example, a disturbance from fragmentation may shuffle species distributions and facilitate the invasion of non-native competitors or other species (Crooks, 2002; Echeverría et al., 2007; Jessen et al., 2018). Overall, the impacts of fragmentation are even less clear for mesocarnivores, many of which are generalists and have smaller home ranges than their larger counterparts, and thus may be more resistant to or even benefit from fragmentation (but see Crooks et al., 2017; Rocha et al., 2020). Similar to fragmentation, our expectations for the effect of habitat loss on carnivores are not straightforward, and the importance of habitat type may be superseded by intraguild dynamics (Randa & Yunker, 2006). For example, Massara et al. (2016) found that the occupancy of generalist mesocarnivores was negatively correlated to reserve size throughout the remnant patches of the Atlantic Forest in Brazil, while in an urban-rural gradient in the United States, Randa and Yunker (2006) found that raccoon occupancy increased with residential/urban habitat rather than forest.

In the Valdivian temperate forest biodiversity hotspot of Chile, both habitat destruction and the presence of dogs are widespread and potentially devastating endemic species (Myers et al., 2000). These forests are being rapidly lost and converted to exotic plantations and pasturelands (Echeverría et al., 2006, 2012). Protected areas are insufficient for meeting goals to maintain the biodiversity value of these forests because protected areas are restricted to the inland Andes rather than to the endemic-rich coastal areas (Smith-Ramírez, 2004). The central valley, which formerly connected the coastal and montane sections as contiguous forest, has been heavily deforested and is now dominated by cow pastures and exotic plantations (Smith-Ramírez et al., 2010). Today, only small patches of native forests remain as available wildlife habitat that are interspersed throughout this landscape and are privately owned and managed (Figure 1). Free-ranging dogs pose a major threat to the persistence of at least two mammal species of conservation concern, the pudu (*Pudu puda*, IUCN status of Vulnerable) and the Darwin's fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*, IUCN status of Endangered) (Silva-Rodríguez et al., 2016; Silva-Rodríguez, Verdugo, et al., 2010).

Here, we model the effects of habitat destruction, the presence of dogs and their interactions on the spatial use of carnivores. Specifically, we surveyed privately owned forest patches that were outside of protected areas or forestry company ownership using

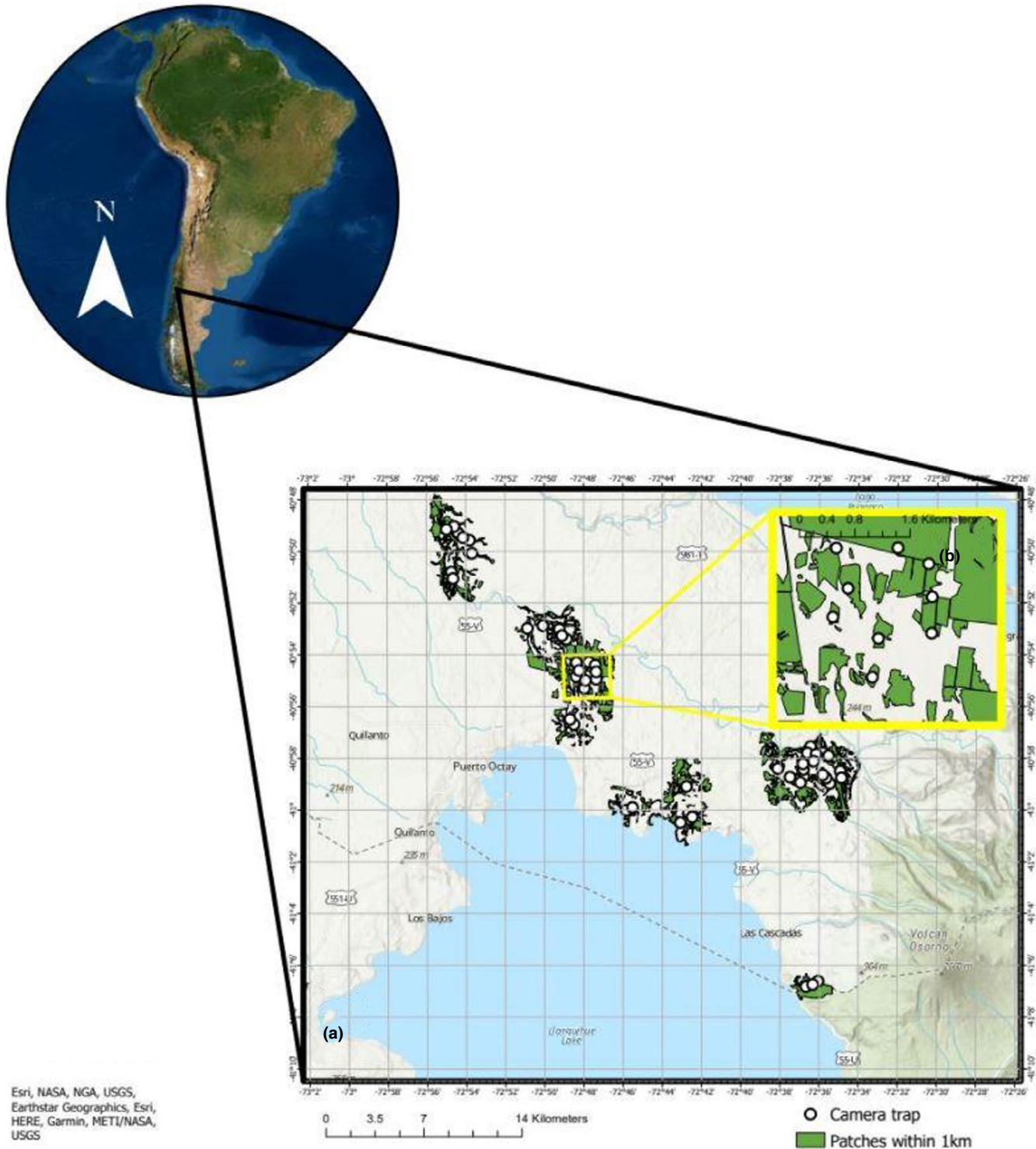
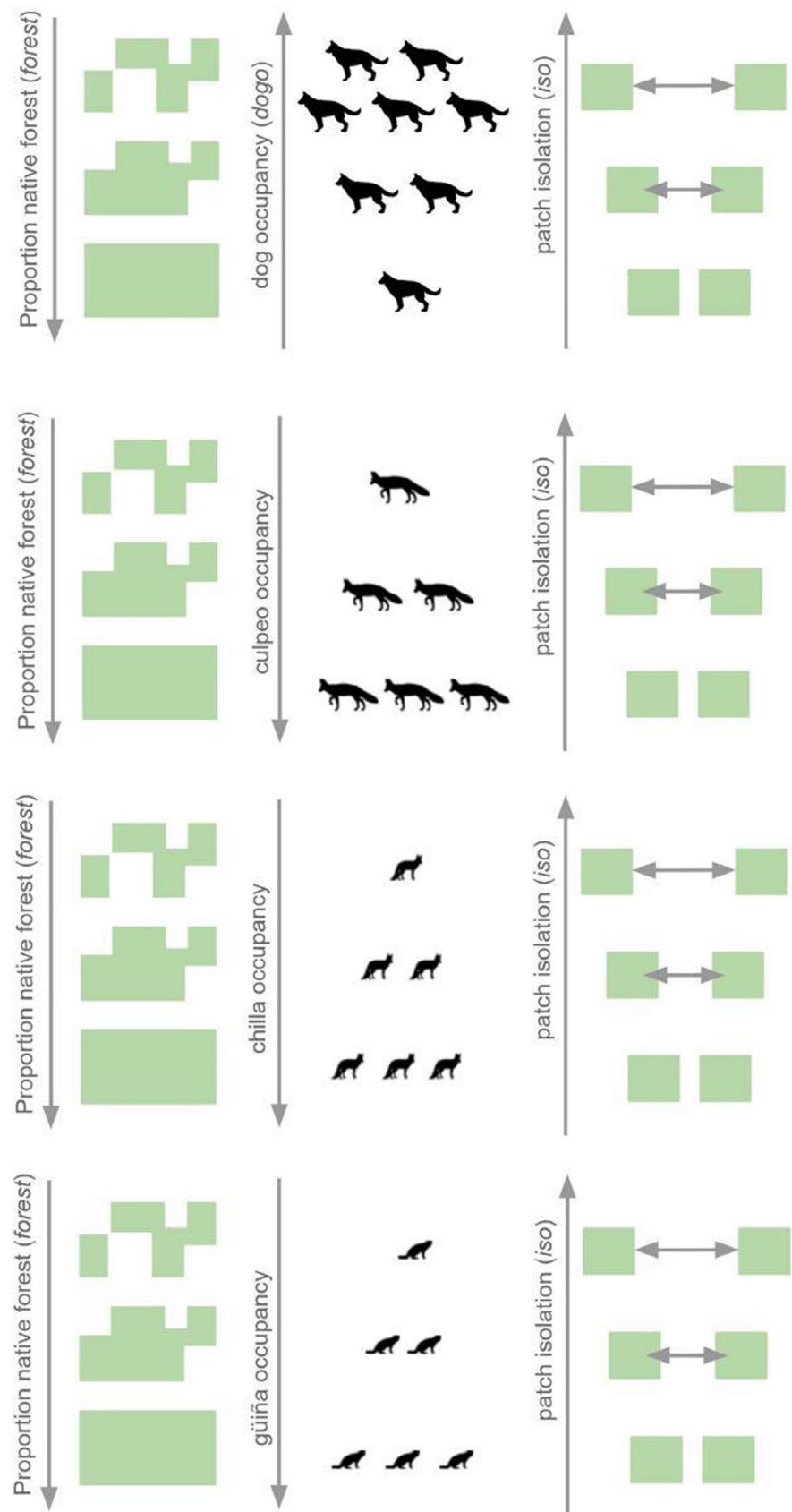


FIGURE 1 (a) Study area located in the Los Lagos Region of southern Chile. (b) Landscape-level distribution of camera deployment throughout patches of native forest straddling the Osorno Volcano. The borders of the box for (b) roughly delineate a ~ 6 sqkm dairy farm, with the cameras placed within the patches of native forest that are interspersed throughout cow pastures

remotely triggered cameras. We expected habitat destruction metrics to be more important than dog space use in explaining the occupancy of forest specialists (e.g. *güiña*, *Leopardus guigna*). In contrast, we also expected that in these largely altered landscapes,

dog occupancy would be the major driver of native canid spatial use, due to the immediate threat they present, and induced fear effects (Palomares & Caro, 1999; Vanak et al., 2009; Vanak & Gompper, 2010). We hypothesized that increasing patch isolation

FIGURE 2 Projected facilitation of dog occupancy by habitat loss and fragmentation with expectation that decreasing proportion of native forest and increasing patch isolation would promote higher dog occupancy. Expectations for native carnivore response to fragmentation were opposite to those of dogs, with native carnivore occupancy expected to decrease with decreasing forest and increasing patch isolation



and reducing the proportion of forest would be important drivers of dog occupancy, providing evidence that their presence is facilitated by fragmentation (Figure 2). Our work will enhance our

understanding of native carnivore occurrence in the later stages of human-altered landscapes and reconcile the relative contributions of interacting threats from fragmentation and dog presence.

2 | METHODS

2.1 | Study area

From mid-May 2019 through the end of August 2019, we surveyed the carnivore community in the Los Lagos region of Chile, near the city of Osorno, between Lago Rupanco and Lago Llanquihue (40°76' to 41°21' S, 72°54' to 72°97' W, Figure 1). This area is characterized by Valdivian temperate rain forest (mean daily temperature ranging from 3 to 23°C for the year) with a cold, rainy winter season between May and September (1,346 mm annual rainfall) and warm temperate summers (en.climate-data.org). The landscape, formerly dominated by native forest, was at the time of the study dominated by pastures that were used primarily for cattle and plantations of pine (*Pinus radiata*) and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) with small remnant stands of native forest. The study area was relatively flat and sandwiched between a large protected area (Parque Nacional Vicente Rosales) on the eastern edge and the Osorno metropolitan area on the western edge. Native forest patches were mostly made up of degraded strips along the edges of pastures comprised of a mix of *Lophozonia obliqua*, *Nothofagus dombeyi*, *Persea lingue* and *Laurelia sempervirens* with a bamboo understorey (*Chusquea quila*).

2.2 | Camera trap survey

We deployed 50 remotely triggered cameras (Reconyx© PC 850, 900) in forest patches throughout the study area during the austral winter, aiming for maximum coverage of areas where we obtained permission. We affixed cameras to trees (minimum diameter 0.25 m) with cable locks and placed them 0.5 m off the ground. We used signs of animal activity such as game trails and scat to determine the specific microsite location of camera placement to maximize species detections. Cameras were placed at least 0.5 km apart from each other and efforts were made to place them within the core of each patch, if minimum spacing allowed. Each camera was baited with canned mackerel placed inside a bottle with a perforated cap, wired down to keep animals from accessing or removing the bait to maximize detections in a region with low expected carnivore occupancy. Cameras were set to high sensitivity, one-second lapse between three pictures in a trigger and rapidfire (no quiet period between triggers).

At the end of the survey period, we retrieved images from the cameras and a single observer classified images to the species level. After image identification, we applied a 30-min quiet period to ensure independence of species detections (Mackenzie et al., 2017). These images and the associated site-level environmental variables (explained below) were used to estimate individual species occupancy. We used Moran's I in ArcPro (vers. 2.3.1) and did not find evidence of spatial autocorrelation. We used the "camtrapR" package to organize camera trap images and extract data for modelling (Niedballa et al., 2016) in Program R vers. 3.6.2 (R Core Team, 2019).

2.3 | Occupancy modelling

Using single-species single-season occupancy models (MacKenzie et al., 2003), we evaluated the impacts of habitat degradation on the occupancy (Ψ) and detectability (p) of dogs, and evaluated the impacts of habitat degradation and dog occupancy (*dogo*) on the occupancy and detectability of three focal native species: the chilla, culpeo (*Lycalopex fulvipes*) and güiña (Figure 3). Covariates for habitat degradation included: proportion of native forest (*forest*), patch isolation (*iso*), and understorey (*10uds*). We also included small mammal trap success (*sm*) as a coarse measure of prey availability. We first separated species detections into 7-day observation periods and then modelled detection probabilities for each species holding occupancy constant. Finally, we used the best detection models to model the occupancy for each species.

2.3.1 | Detection covariates

We modelled detection probabilities with covariates that could increase or decrease the likelihood of an animal being captured on camera if it occupied the vicinity. We measured understorey cover using a point-intercept method, with the understorey height measured every metre for 10 m in the four cardinal directions surrounding each camera (Karl et al., 2017). We then aggregated values for the understorey cover into three categories: 0 m (no understorey), 0.25 m and 0.5 m. Understorey at 10 m (*10uds*) is an average of all understorey measurements taken every metre within a 10-m radius of the camera tree (40 measurements per camera site). Understorey was not included in the detection model for the culpeo, as inclusion prevented convergence of the global model. We first modelled occupancy of dogs using habitat covariates (*10uds*, *forest*, *iso*, *sm*) and then included the resulting site-level estimates as the *dogo* covariate for native species models (Figure 3). Patches were digitized in ArcPro (vers. 2.3.1) using high-resolution satellite imagery from 2018 (Maxar's Vivid, 0.5-m resolution, 5-m accuracy) to obtain *forest*, *iso* and *edge* estimates. The *iso* covariate was measured as the mean border-to-border distance to the nearest patch within a 1-km radius of each camera. The *edge* covariate was measured as the mean ratio of patch perimeter size to patch area for all patches within a 1-km radius of each camera. However, *edge* was excluded from the final global model, as it was highly correlated with both *forest* and *iso* covariates ($R = -0.44, 4.23; p < .01$). We estimated *sm* as a metric of prey availability using the total number of all independent lagomorph, rodent and shrew opossum triggers per camera standardized by the number of trap nights. Camera type (*cam*) was included to distinguish between white-flash cameras and infrared cameras. Lastly, trap nights (*trap*), the number of nights an individual camera was operational to collect species detections were included to determine whether sampling effort affected detection rates. Covariates were compared using Pearson's R with a cut-off threshold of $R > 0.5$ or $p < .05$.



FIGURE 3 Focal carnivores in this study for size comparison of the three native species relative to dogs: the güiña (1.5–3 kg), chilla (2.5–5.5 kg), dog (10–25 kg) and culpeo (5–13.5 kg) from top left clockwise. Note that the upper weight range of the culpeo likely represents more southern parts of the range than the study area; they are relatively bigger than chillas and smaller than dogs. Photo credit: R. Malhotra and N.C. Harris, Applied Wildlife Ecology Lab

2.3.2 | Occupancy covariates

Occupancy for each species was modelled with *dogo* and habitat covariates (*10uds*, *forest*, *iso*, *sm*); *edge* was highly correlated with *forest* and omitted from the model. To test whether the impact of dogs on carnivores was facilitated by lack of understorey, we included an interaction term between *dogo* and *10uds*.

2.3.3 | Model evaluation

The dog global model included mean understorey height within 10 m (*10uds*), camera type and trap night (*cam*, *trap*) covariates for detection, while occupancy covariates included understorey (*10uds*), prey (*sm*), proportion forest (*forest*) and patch isolation (*iso*). Native species global models used the same covariates as the dog model with the addition of dog occupancy (*dogo*) for detection and an interaction term for dog occupancy and understorey (*dogo***10uds*) for occupancy. All detection and occupancy covariates were tested for correlation by site using Pearson's R. Model ranking was carried out

using the Akaike information criterion, corrected for small sample sizes (AICc), or quasi-AICc (QAICc) if the global model was overdispersed ($c\text{-hat} > 1.2$), with the top model being defined as the one with the lowest AICc or QAICc score. Goodness of fit was tested for all top models ($< 2 \Delta\text{AICc}$ units or ΔQAICc units of the highest rank model) using a chi-square statistic. All occupancy modelling was completed in the “unmarked” package (Fiske & Chandler, 2011) in Program R vers. 3.6.2 (R Core Team, 2019).

2.3.4 | Threshold response to dogs

We interpreted the β coefficient of *dogo* and confidence intervals not overlapping zero when occurring in top models to conclude significant effects of dogs on carnivore occupancy. When the top models included *dogo* as a covariate with a non-significant negative coefficient, we determined the threshold level of dog occupancy required for *dogo* to become a significant negative driver on carnivore occupancy. We incrementally increased the value of the *dogo* to the maximum occupancy value (1), a single camera at a time. The order

was determined by ranking cameras from highest to lowest *dogo* value.

2.4 | Temporal use

As sympatric carnivores may be more likely to exhibit temporal instead of spatial partitioning to promote coexistence (Santos et al., 2019), we estimated pairwise temporal overlaps for all species and compared the overlap of native carnivore pairs with the overlap of native carnivores–dog pairs. We plotted the temporal activity distributions of each species and determined the degree of overlap between pairs (Δ) with 95% confidence intervals generated by 10,000 parametric bootstrap iterations. Δ values range from 0 indicating completely distinct and non-overlapping temporal activity to 1 indicating complete overlap between the compared species. Δ_1 was used for comparisons when one of the species had <50 triggers; otherwise, Δ_4 was used to estimate temporal overlap between species pairs (Ridout & Linkie, 2009). We then used the Mardia–Watson–Wheeler test to determine whether the temporal patterns varied significantly between individual species, which compares two sets of circular data and determines whether there is homogeneity in the means or variances. We implemented the temporal analyses using the “overlap” and “circular” packages, also in Program R (Agostinelli & Lund, 2017; Ridout & Linkie, 2009).

3 | RESULTS

We detected all three carnivore species over a total effort of 3,500 trap nights. Naïve occupancy estimates for the *güiña* ($n = 56$ independent triggers), *chilla* ($n = 225$) and *culpeo* ($n = 39$) were 0.51, 0.59 and 0.16, respectively. Dogs were fairly common ($n = 64$) found at 20/49 camera sites (naïve $\psi = 0.41$). Additional native carnivores that were detected, although rare, included the *chingue* (*Conepatus chinga*, $n = 13$) and the *puma* (*Puma concolor*, $n = 4$). We also detected two additional introduced species: the *mink* (*Neovison vison*, $n = 20$) and *domestic cat* (*Felis catus*, $n = 21$). Darwin's fox was not detected during our camera survey.

3.1 | Detection of carnivores

Our study area was comprised of an understory that ranged from completely open to thickets of dense vegetation, resulting in specific camera sites comprising no understory to over two metres in height. As such, we expected detection to vary by understory, depending on species preference on microsite selection for dense vegetation, and the ability of the understory to reduce the visibility range for a camera trap. For the *chilla* ($\beta = -6.16$, $SE = 1.38$) and *dog* ($\beta = -7.44$, $SE = 1.84$), understory was a strong driver of detection probability, decreasing the detectability for both species (Table 2). For both *chilla* ($\beta = 1.77$, $SE = 0.37$) and *culpeo* ($\beta = 3.23$,

$SE = 0.834$), *dog* occupancy increased detectability. The null model best described *güiña* detection; that is, no effect of covariates improved model fit.

3.2 | Occupancy of carnivores

Overall, modelling occupancy with covariates and accounting for imperfect detection improved our understanding of carnivore space use. *Chillas* had the highest overall occupancy ($\psi = 0.67$), while *culpeos* had the overall lowest occupancy, but more than doubled from the naïve estimate ($\psi = 0.36$). *Güiña* was the only species for which the null model was the best model, and the occupancy estimate was thus the same as the naïve estimate ($\psi = 0.51$). In comparison with the native carnivores, *dog* occupancy was higher than that of the *culpeo* and *güiña*, but lower than that of the *chilla* ($\psi = 0.58$).

Factors driving occupancy of carnivores varied by species (Figure 4, Table 1). Despite the importance of understory for species detection, it did not appear in the best model for any species. It was, however, a negative driver of *chilla* occupancy in four of 10 top models, which had comparable weights to the best model (Table 1). Given the reliance of mammalian carnivores on prey, unexpectedly, small mammal trap success was important only for the occupancy of the *culpeo* ($\beta = 1.05$, $SE = 0.53$).

Our work contrasted the ecological consequences of habitat destruction (loss and fragmentation) and *dog* occurrence on the space use of carnivores (Tables 1 and 2). Habitat metrics were important drivers of *chilla* and *dog* occupancy, but did not appear in the model sets for *culpeo* or *güiña*. For example, patch isolation was in the top two models for the *chilla* ($\beta = 0.09$, $SE = 0.04$) and was positively correlated with occupancy. Proportion of forest did not appear to be important for occupancy of any native species. It was, however, important for *dogs* ($\beta = -26.06$, $SE = 12.1$), with increasing proportion of forest decreasing *dog* occupancy. *Dog* occupancy appeared in four of five top models for *culpeo* (including the best model) and was important for model fit for the *culpeo* but was not a significant driver of *culpeo* occupancy ($\beta = -4.19$, $SE = 2.74$).

Similarly, results varied in quantifying responses of native carnivore occupancy to *dog* presence. For *chilla*, *dog* occupancy was not in the best *chilla* model but appeared as a positive driver in six of 10 top models, which had comparable weights to the best model (Table 1). The *dog* occupancy covariate was not influential, positive or negative, on occupancy for *güiña*. *Culpeo* was the only species with *dog* occupancy in the top model with a negative (non-significant) β coefficient. The *dog* landscape-level occupancy from the top model was 0.58. Increasing *dog* occupancy to 0.65 (an increase of 12.1%) resulted in *dog* occupancy becoming a significant negative driver of *culpeo* occupancy (Figure S1.1).

We found no evidence for the interaction of *dog* occupancy and understory affecting occupancy for native mesocarnivore species occupancy. Overall, we conclude that landscape characteristics via metrics of increasing fragmentation have similar positive effects for both generalist native carnivores and *dogs* (Figure 4).

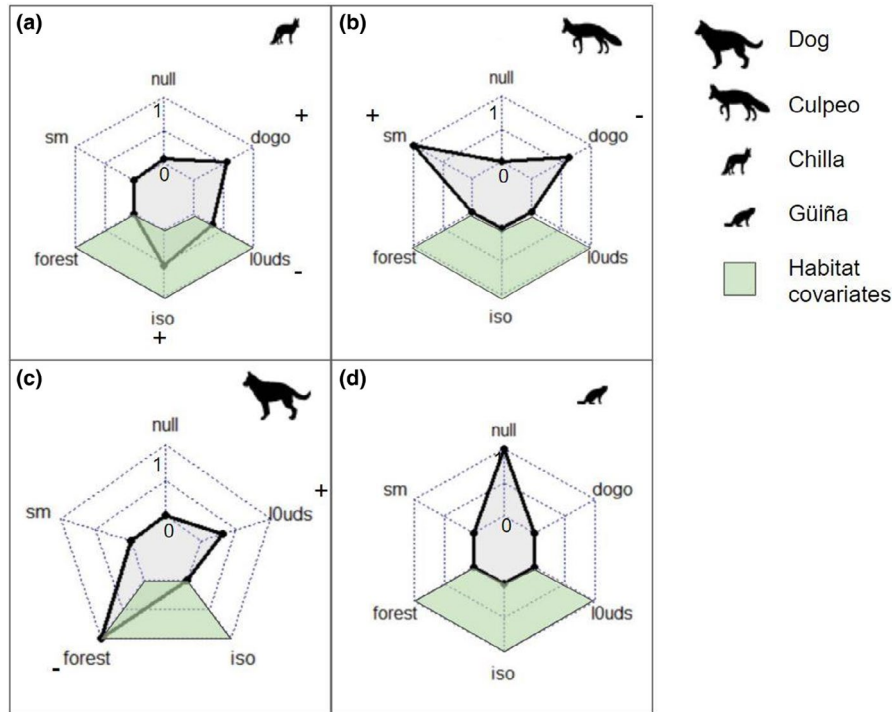


FIGURE 4 Relative importance of each covariate on species occupancy based on summed model weights for top model sets ($<2 \Delta AICc/QAICc$). *dogo*: dog occupancy; *cam*: camera type; *10uds*: average understorey height within 10 m; *iso*: average distance between patches; *forest*: proportion native forest; *sm*: small mammal trap success. Beta coefficients for each covariate were averaged across the top model set. (a) Dog occupancy and patch isolation were positively correlated with chilla occupancy, while understorey was negatively correlated; (b) small mammal trap success was positively correlated with culpeo occupancy, while dog occupancy was negatively correlated; (c) proportion of native forest was negatively correlated with dog occupancy, while understorey was positively correlated; (d) güiña occupancy was best described by the null model

3.3 | Temporal activity

We evaluated temporal activity patterns of all our study species to determine whether there was evidence for temporal avoidance with dogs (Fig. S1.2). Activity patterns for the three native carnivores were largely restricted to the nocturnal and crepuscular hours. Overlap among the native carnivores was high (Δ ranging from 0.78 to 0.89) and did not vary significantly among pairs (Table 3: p values: .08–.79). In contrast, dog activity was almost entirely diurnal, resulting in significantly different activity patterns from native species (Δ ranging from 0.35 to 0.43, $p < .001$). Furthermore, 95% confidence intervals for Δ dog–native species pairs and for Δ native–native species pairs did not overlap in a single case, indicating that native species overlapped significantly more with other native species than they did with dogs.

4 | DISCUSSION

The threats that mammals face from habitat loss and fragmentation are especially relevant in the context of the temperate rain forests of central Chile, which have included rapid deforestation and fragmentation in the past 50 years (Echeverría et al., 2006, 2008; Nahuelhual et al., 2012; Uribe et al., 2020). An additional human-related threat

is the presence of dogs, which antagonize native species and preferentially use the matrix that separates the remaining patches (Silva-Rodríguez, Ortega-Solís, et al., 2010). Using single-species models, we investigated the impacts of these two phenomena (habitat destruction and dogs) on the occupancy of three native carnivores (foxes:chilla and culpeo; cat:güiña), in remnant forest patches within an agricultural matrix. Our results varied by species, indicating that components of habitat destruction have opposing effects for the two foxes, as do dogs. For dogs, we found evidence that occupancy increases with habitat loss. Time use of all native species was concentrated during the nocturnal period, in stark contrast to the diurnal time use of the dog. Our results provide the necessary baseline to understand dogs and habitat destruction metrics as drivers of native species occupancy and could be further expanded to multispecies models to examine species interactions.

For the species included in this study, at first glance our results suggest that landscape degradation does not pose an immediate concern. For the chilla, the positive correlation between patch isolation and occupancy is likely a reflection of the ecology of the fox, which primarily forages in the open fields that comprise the matrix between patches (Silva-Rodríguez, Ortega-Solís, et al., 2010). However, this species also uses interior habitat of these patches as a refuge and thus, would likely have negative consequences if patches fell below a threshold size (Silva-Rodríguez, Ortega-Solís, et al., 2010).

Species	Top models	AICc	Δ AICc ^a	w
Chilla	$\Psi(\text{iso}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	429.809	0	0.175
	$\Psi(\text{iso}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}, \text{cam})$	430.289	0.480	0.138
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	430.613	0.804	0.117
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	430.782	0.974	0.108
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}, \text{cam})$	430.948	1.139	0.099
	$\Psi(\text{iso}, \text{dogo}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	431.139	1.331	0.090
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}, \text{cam})$	431.511	1.702	0.075
	$\Psi(\text{iso}, 10\text{uds}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	431.736	1.927	0.067
	$\Psi(-1) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	431.738	1.929	0.067
	$\Psi(\text{iso}, \text{dogo}, 10\text{uds}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	431.792	1.982	0.065
Culpeo	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, \text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, \text{cam}, 10\text{uds})$	124.932	0	0.273
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, \text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	126.238	1.306	0.142
	$\Psi(\text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, \text{cam}, 10\text{uds})$	126.280	1.348	0.139
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, \text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, \text{cam})$	126.598	1.666	0.119
	$\Psi(\text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, \text{trap}, 10\text{uds})$	126.734	1.802	0.111
	$\Psi(\text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, 10\text{uds})$	126.753	1.821	0.110
	$\Psi(\text{dogo}, \text{sm}) p(\text{dogo}, \text{cam}, \text{trap})$	126.802	1.870	0.107
Dog	$\Psi(\text{forest}) p(10\text{uds}, \text{trap})$	272.000	0	0.370
	$\Psi(\text{forest}) p(10\text{uds}, \text{trap}, \text{cam})$	272.306	0.306	0.318
	$\Psi(\text{forest}, 10\text{uds}) p(10\text{uds}, \text{trap})$	273.704	1.704	0.158
	$\Psi(\text{forest}, 10\text{uds}) p(10\text{uds}, \text{trap}, \text{cam})$	273.757	1.757	0.154
Güiña	$\Psi(-1) p(-1)$	6.830	0	0.101

TABLE 1 Top occupancy (Ψ) and detection (p) models for native carnivore and dogs ranked by AICc with model weights (w)

Abbreviations: *10uds*, average understorey height within 10 m; *cam*, camera type; *dogo*, dog occupancy; *forest*, proportion native forest; *iso*, average distance between patches; *sm*, small mammal trap success.

^aQAICc was used instead of AICc in model ranking for güiña occupancy to account for overdispersion of the global model.

Our results for culpeos and güiñas, which did not show any response to either habitat loss or patch isolation, could indicate that: (a) these species are plastic in their habitat requirements; (b) fragmentation and habitat loss have not reached a sufficient threshold to elicit a response; (c) there is a time-lagged “extinction debt”; or (d) these species are tracking spatial patterns of prey, predator or competitor species instead (Halley et al., 2016; Hanski & Ovaskainen, 2002; Ryall & Fahrig, 2006; Swift & Hannon, 2010). The model results for the culpeo suggested this latter mechanism, as they were positively driven by prey availability, and dog occupancy was consistent in the top models having a negative coefficient (though note that neither covariate was significant using a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$). While landscape characteristics did not appear as a negative driver in any native species models, the inverse relationship between dog occupancy and proportion of forest indicates as habitat loss increases in this region native species will have less refuge habitat to avoid exposure to domestic dogs (Paschoal et al., 2018; Torres & Prado, 2010).

We expected dogs to influence native carnivore occupancy because of their documented impact on small carnivores through

interference and exploitation competition, and the increased mortality risk they pose as disease reservoirs (Laurenson et al., 1998; Rhodes et al., 1998; Sillero-Zubiri et al., 2004; Vanak & Gompper, 2009, 2010). Dogs have been linked to the decline of the pudu, a potential prey item for the two fox species in this study (Silva-Rodríguez & Sieving, 2012). Despite the threat that a dog encounter presents, dog occupancy did not clearly present a negative driver of native species occupancy and only featured as a non-significant negative covariate for culpeo top models. While this partially fit our expectation that native canids would more likely have antagonistic interactions with dogs and exhibit avoidance, we expected the smaller chilla fox to have greater sensitivity to dog presence (Donadio & Buskirk, 2006; Vanak & Gompper, 2009). Previous studies corroborate this expectation as dogs enforce interference competition to alter space use and have been observed harassing and killing chilla (Silva-Rodríguez, Ortega-Solís, et al., 2010). A lack of a negative response from chillas to dogs using our occupancy framework could indicate that foxes were avoiding dogs at finer spatial or temporal scales or that dog density was not sufficiently high to elicit a spatial

TABLE 2 Untransformed β coefficients with 95% confidence intervals for the top model for each species

Species	ψ covariates					p covariates				
	Forest	Patch isolation	Understorey	Small mammal	Dog occupancy	Trap nights	Camera type	Understorey	Dog occupancy	
Chilla	—	0.09 (0.00 to 0.17)	—	—	—	—	—	-6.16 (-8.85 to -3.46)	1.77 (1.05–2.49)	
Culpeo	—	—	—	1.00 (-0.11 to 2.11)	-4.32 (-9.65 to 1.01)	—	1.60 (0.48 to 2.73)	—	3.18 (1.50 – 4.85)	
Dog	-23.06 (-46.83 to 0.71)	—	—	—	—	-0.12 (-0.23 to -0.01)	—	-7.45 (-11.05 to -3.84)	—	
Güiña	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

avoidance (Qi et al., 2020; Zapata-Ríos & Branch, 2018). Indeed, our analysis of activity patterns suggests temporal partitioning as a mechanism for avoidance of dogs (Kronfeld-Schor & Dayan, 2003; Schuette et al., 2013). In contrast to chillas, culpeos did indicate a potential response to dogs at a landscape level and showed no response to habitat loss and fragmentation. Our result for culpeo occupancy was consistent with that of Zapata-Ríos and Branch (2018), despite differences in the landscape histories between our formerly contiguously forested site and their historically patchy Andes site. Congruent with the dog occupancy estimates ($\Psi = 0.66$, range: 0.53–0.73) from Zapata-Ríos and Branch (2018), it took a projected 12% increase in dog occupancy in our study site (from $\Psi = 0.58$) for it to have a significant negative effect on culpeo occupancy.

While dogs had opposite effects on the occupancies of the fox species, they increased detection for both the culpeo and the chilla. Movement data for canids highlight quicker speeds through riskier areas, which would likely impact detection rates (Broadley et al., 2019; Péron et al., 2017). Thus, increased detection for the fox species may reflect a finer scale response to the risk posed by dogs, rather than a broader change in spatial use (Broekhuis et al., 2013). This interpretation, along with mismatched time use, would reconcile the open habitat preferences of the chilla fox with its increased susceptibility to dog antagonism based on size (Donadio & Buskirk, 2006).

Fragmentation can facilitate the spread of invasive species through numerous pathways such as roads increasing the occurrence of dogs (Loss et al., 2013; Moreira-Arce et al., 2015). Yet, few occupancy studies explore the impacts of both dogs and habitat loss and fragmentation on native carnivores. Dogs are typically considered human-associated, though they may travel considerable distances and thus can impact the larger landscape (Gompper, 2013; Young et al., 2011). Furthermore, their space use, while tied to human impacts on the landscape, is more nuanced than simply being a result of nearby human habitation. In a North American system for example, dog occupancy has been found to increase with proportion forest (Morin et al., 2018), in contrast with our results that dog occupancy decreased marginally with proportion of forest. However, Morin et al. (2018) also found that pastures and grasslands were an even stronger positive predictor of dog occupancy; the land type that was the inverse of our measured metric for proportion forest. Whether the interaction between dogs and proportion forest impacts native carnivores can be intuitively answered when we see that dog occupancy can be a negative driver of culpeo occupancy if it surpasses a threshold. In “working” landscapes, this is particularly relevant as habitat loss and dog occupancy will likely continue to increase over time. Our occupancy results suggest that the spatial use of both fox species (indirectly in the case of the culpeo, through dog occupancy) is tied to fragmentation and habitat loss. Furthermore, habitat destruction in the landscape increases the exposure of both foxes to the threat of a dog encounter (Farris et al., 2017, 2020). In the currently remaining forest stands that we surveyed, the largely nocturnal temporal use of native species provides a likely avoidance mechanism (Gerber et al., 2012; Shores et al., 2019).

TABLE 3 Overlap coefficients (Δ) and Mardia–Watson–Wheeler test for homogeneity of means for every pairwise combination of the study species. Δ_4 was used for every comparison except for those pairs containing the culpeo, where Δ_1 was used to account for lower number of triggers

Comparison	Δ Overlap (95% CI)	W statistic	p-value
Chilla–dog	0.40 (0.25–0.44)	83.62	<.001
Culpeo–dog	0.35 (0.22–0.48)	42.96	<.001
Güiña–dog	0.43 (0.30–0.56)	47.84	.001
Chilla–culpeo	0.78 (0.66–0.89)	5.02	.08
Chilla–güiña	0.89 (0.80–0.97)	0.47	.79
Güiña–culpeo	0.78 (0.75–1.03)	4.79	.09

Our study gives us insight into the drivers of native carnivore space use in “working” landscapes rather than the protected areas that historically represent ideal and untouched habitats. By situating our study on privately owned smallholder lands, we also have the unique opportunity to inform the conservation of species in these increasingly anthropogenic landscapes through local education efforts (Gramza et al., 2016). The remnant patches in these private lands may be particularly important for the persistence of native carnivores in the landscape, and in general, agricultural landscapes may hold considerable biodiversity and conservation value (Kremen & Merenlender, 2018; Lindenmayer, 2019; Wintle et al., 2019). Many landowners do not have access to camera traps and thus, are unlikely to encounter elusive carnivores that are present even in small patches of forest along the edges of their pasturelands. While voluntary strategies for conservation have greater social acceptance than prescribed management action, they are not possible without landowners first having the knowledge of what species are on their land (Kamal et al., 2015). By partnering with landowners, scientists and managers can facilitate species conservation in these important landscapes, which are not typically considered conservation targets (Naugle et al., 2020). This partnership may yield dividends in collaboratively designing management solutions for dogs (Ford-Thompson et al., 2012). The management of domestic animals can be a source of intense debate, especially in regard to animals typically considered as pets (Wald et al., 2013). The impacts of dogs on wildlife is underestimated; conservation practitioners can learn from the intense controversy generated by the management of feral cats by involving local stakeholders, and by bringing a strong understanding of what factors drive the impacts of dogs on native carnivore species (Doherty et al., 2017; Loyd & Miller, 2010).

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to declare.

PEER REVIEW

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DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in Dryad at <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.3xsj3txfv>.

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BIOSKETCH

RM explores how anthropogenic pressures alter species interactions. More specifically, he is interested in how fragmentation alters native carnivore movement (short time-scales) and occupancy (longer time-scale), and how this translates to the community level.

JEJ examines the population and community ecology of mammals and birds with conservation concern in southern South America and Texas. More recently, he added the impacts of exotic mammals on local biotas, dispersal ecology and the biogeography of tardigrades. <http://jaimeejimenez.com>

NCH explores the antagonisms in nature, focusing on competition, predation and parasitism in mammalian systems. She links these research themes with anthropogenic pressures such as human-wildlife interactions to inform the conservation of large carnivores.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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