



HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Pristine areas are characterized by the lack of habitat fragmentation. In exurban and rural areas, human perception of wildlife habitat may fail to account for residential development, forest and range management, ranching and farming, and other “desirable” habitat alterations. Fragmentation analysis is a tool that used to objectively evaluate the direct and indirect effects of a proposed project. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), fragmentation analysis accounts for site-specific environmental conditions (e.g., terrain) and species-specific sensitivities to objectively measure fragmentation effects from existing and proposed activities. Land management agencies can use this analytical tool to document changes and to assess effects of proposed projects.

Habitat Fragmentation

Habitat loss that results in the division of large continuous habitats into smaller, more isolated habitats



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