

Why do deer come to town?

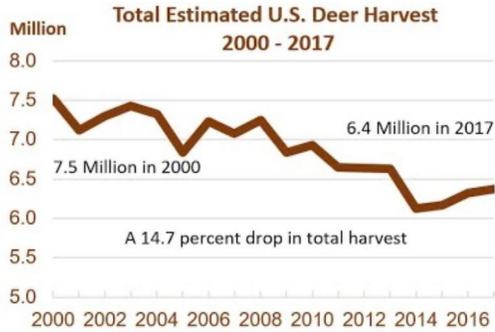
The pros and cons

Every once in a while people living in suburban areas get greeted with a gift of the wild life consisting of snakes, birds, alligators (Florida exclusive) and ect. But the animal that strikes a fine line between interesting and common is the deer. More and more people have been seeing deer come into towns as of late but why is that? Could the deer be interested in human life? Could they be avoiding predators? This is what we will find out but first we need to find possible interesting things about cities for animals and bad things in the wild and vice versa.

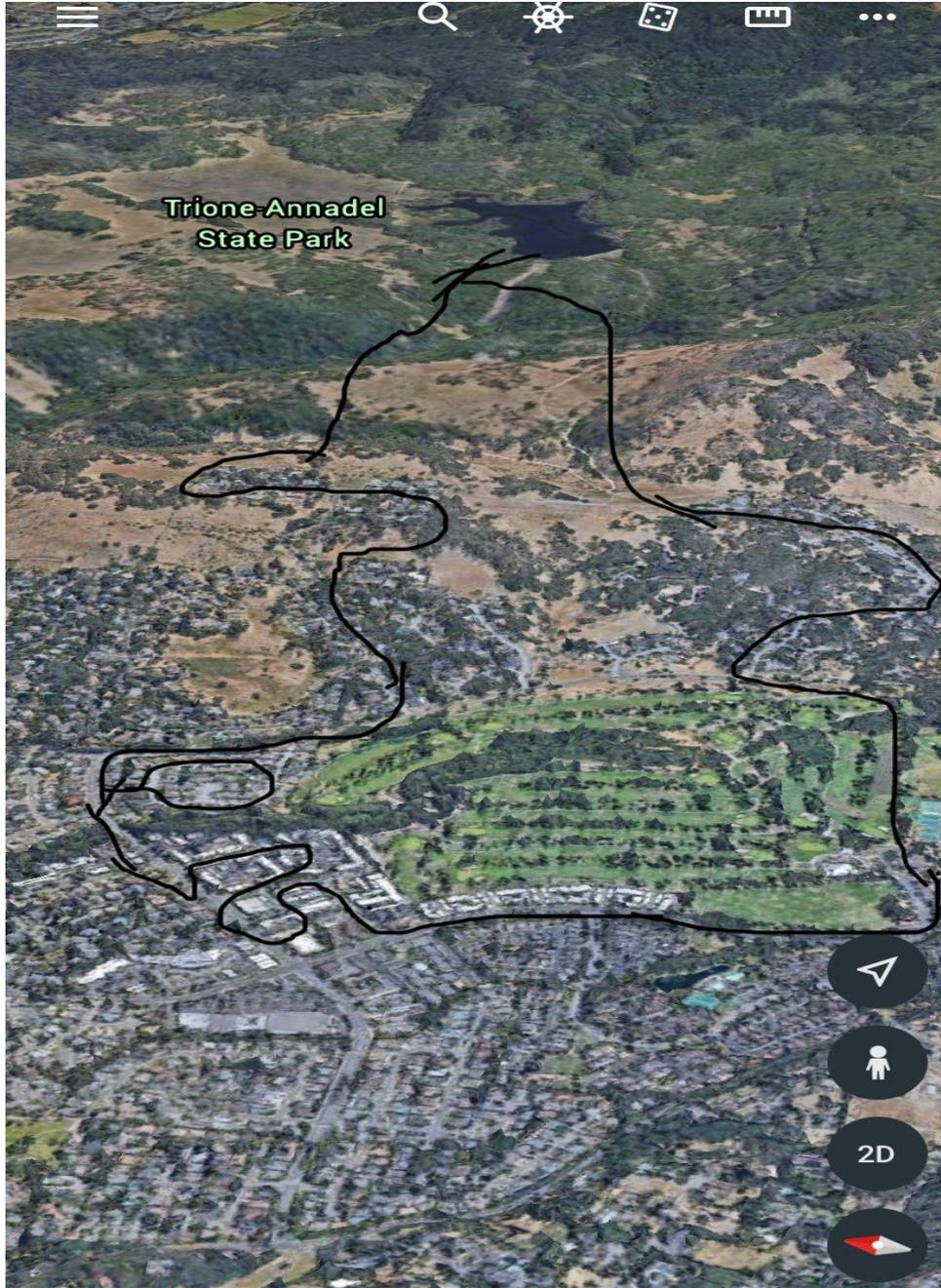


The pros of visiting a city or suburb are pretty much what you expect, food from gardens and trash cans, and less predators such as wolves, coyotes, bears, ect. However the cons are much simpler, humans exist in cities as well as a lack of clean water. Humans can accidentally hit a deer while it's crossing the road or call animal control which doesn't necessarily hurt the deer but it does scare them but water is harder to come by unless there happens to be a lovely fountain gushing in someone's front yard. According to Resource Biologist Chris Cudmore We see some vehicle collisions. It's something we have to deal with around here because we have wild animals."

Now the pros for not visiting the cities include familiar food, easily accessible clean water and a general lack of humans. The cons are also obvious, lots of predators and less obvious, less competition for food. Due to humans building outward, droughts, and fires in California's recent history there is an increase of competition for food and decrease in land to run and hide from enemies.



When I followed a small family of deer into town I found that after looting some poor person's garden the family turned around and retreated to the mountains. Using Google Earth I found that they went to the direction of Lake Ilsanjo which I can only assume they went to get a drink. Using all available information I can safely assume that the family of deer reside near town and go up to Lake Ilsanjo to get a drink then come back to look for food in town. This method has the least worry for predators and most reward in food and water. Chris Cudmore in the same interview he said "Urban places do have areas for the deer to come in and have a perfect spot to rest and have all the food they need."



In conclusion, it seems the reason deer are more frequently seen is because there are less cars driving in towns and less humans in general. With no life and lots of resources, it's common to see life move in and that's simply what's happening now.

Links that I used to research

https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/deer-making-their-way-into-town-not-uncommon/article_9ecb2751-2f92-5414-a1eb-ed59e59c5561.html

<http://www.deerfriendly.com/deer/california/long-term-trends-in-california-s-deer-population>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/20/stags-in-the-city-how-deer-found-their-way-into-our-town-centres-and-back-gardens>

I also looked at “stjohnw”, “direbecca”, and “eltaar” and their findings to confirm that more deer were being found than before.