

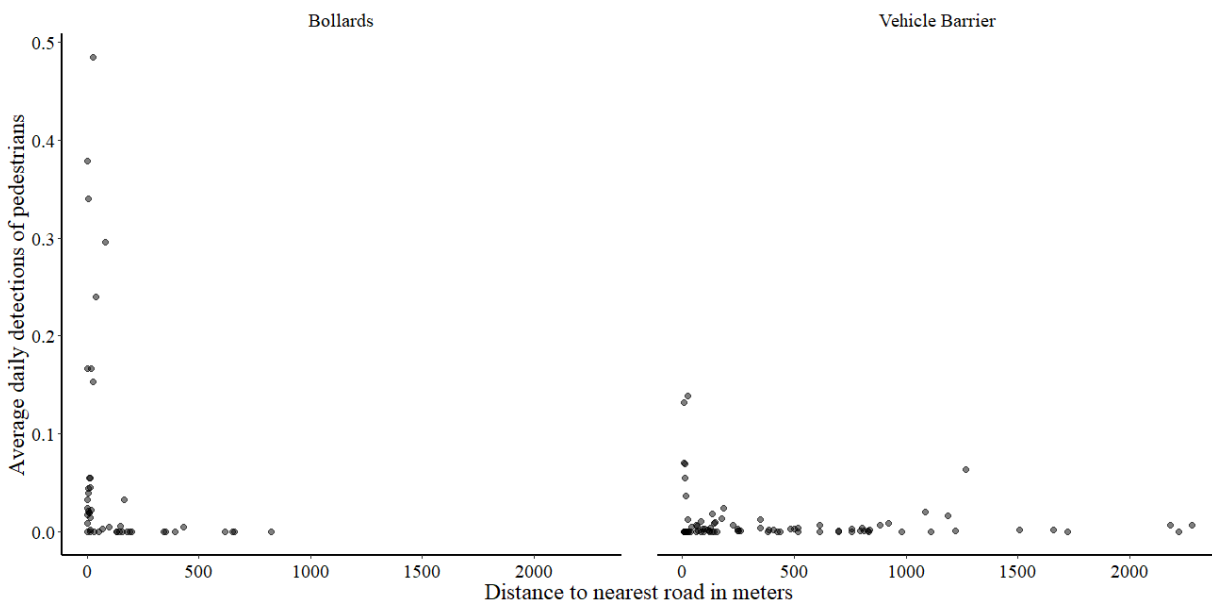


Pedestrian Traffic Highest Near Roads at the U.S.-Mexico Border in Southeastern Arizona

October 12, 2023

Sky Island Alliance operates a network of 110 motion and heat-activated wildlife cameras along the U.S.-Mexico border on federal lands of southeast Arizona. Camera detections of pedestrians within 1.5 miles of the border from March 2020 to present were analyzed from Coronado National Forest, San Rafael State Natural Area, Coronado National Memorial, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and San Bernardino National Refuge Area. During this period, the cameras detected a total of 13,978 vehicles and 634 people on foot including recreationists, biologists, ranchers, and refugees. Refugees constitutes no more than 17% of total observed pedestrians. Vehicles outnumber pedestrians 22:1.

Daily rates of pedestrian detections are plotted against distance from the camera to the closest road for cameras north of border with bollard barriers (Coronado National Memorial, San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge) and vehicle barriers (Coronado National Forest and San Rafael State Natural Area):



Key takeaways:

- There are significantly higher daily detection rates of pedestrians on federal lands near roads.
- The highest daily rates of pedestrians occur on federal lands with bollard barrier at the border.