

# **Rose Canyon Global Forest Project**

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Rose Canyon is a small forest near the 52 highway in San Diego, California. We hypothesize that due to human traffic in the area due to Rose Canyon being a fairly popular hiking and biking destination. The large amount of human foot traffic will create large well worn paths that would not normally be there, also with people comes garbage. Regular human presence often drives many animals away. We believe that the major drought that San Diego is will have a large impact on the amount of tree cover and greenery seen in the canyon.

Busy roads are going to create a large negative impact on this area. Because of the amount of through traffic people have a high amount of access to this place. Yes, sometimes human impact is good for the environment, but too much traffic often results in the degradation of the forest. When we visited rose canyon we found that the noise pollution was the most prominent human impact. Rose Canyon is surrounded by many larger and busy streets which constantly have large amounts of traffic. It even has a freeway going through the middle of the canyon. All of these cars constantly traveling by the canyon leads to severe noise pollution, which had a very negative impact on the wild animal populations in the area.

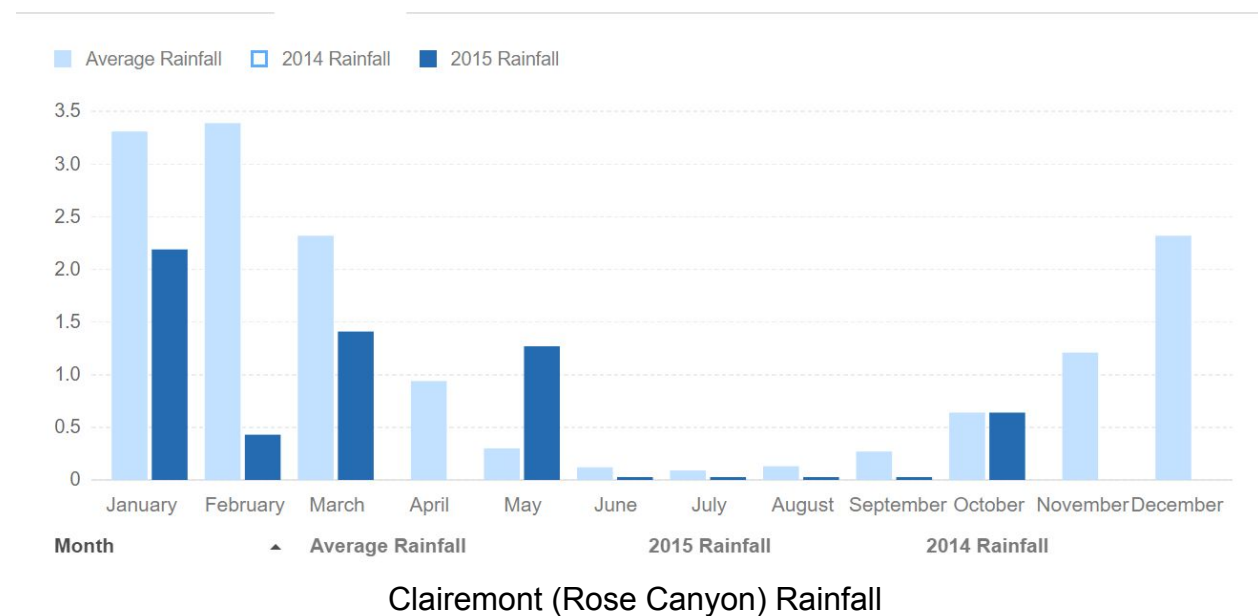
The large amount of human traffic also has resulted in the slight domestication of the animals in Rose Canyon. While we were there I realized that I was only about 5 feet away from a wild norway rat and I was not being quiet. The animal didn't even flinch as I approached to take a photo and was not intimidated at all. I assumed that the amount of trash and overall pollution was going to be much more severe than it was and it seemed that even though there was a high amount of human traffic the pollution was very low and the area seemed very clean.

The seasonal changes were very obvious there and there were piles of dead leaves on the ground. Also, there was a small amount of deadwood but most of the trees in the area were very alive, but this is fairly standard for California Sycamores.

One issue that was surprisingly less of a factor than I would have expected was the issue of the drought that has plagued San Diego and the rest of southern california for many years now. The drought, however, had much less of an impact than we initially hypothesized. There was actually a fairly large amount of greenery surrounding the trail and were little standing deadwood. Also, many of the plants that inhabit the canyon are plants native to the southern california chaparral environment and have adjusted to the very hot temperatures with little rainfall. These plants include cacti, California Sycamores, Arroyo willow, and California live oak trees.

The Kumeyaay indians were the first to inhabit Rose Canyon thousands of years ago, there was a seasonal village there in order to access the waterholes and game there. Next was Juan Portola's expedition to San Diego. In 1853 Louis Rose bought 650 acres and started a ranch. Over the years it has been inhabited by commercial interests until the 1960s when a railroad was built through the area. The railroad is still used today.

Rose Canyon is a hidden paradise in plain sight. Thousands of people pass right over it everyday yet it does mostly unnoticed. If it had similar interest level to Torrey Pines the human traffic could be a problem due to its smaller size, but because of its humble nature the wildlife remains mostly untouched. Luckily, it seems relatively unaffected by the drought, however the major issue of noise pollution is constant and unchangeable. Overall, the canyon is in very good shape considering our current environmental issues.



Sources:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/rosecan1>

<https://rainfall.weatherdb.com//5127/Clairemont-California>