

Use of Remote Camera Traps for Environmental Education



Jeff Schwegman
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
Stanford University
jeffrey.schwegman@gmail.com

Learning Goals:

1. Developing Observational Skills
2. Sparking Curiosity and the Ability to Formulate Questions
3. Cultivating a Sense of Place

Central Technique: Alternate Between Footage and Site Visits



Camera trap Footage of a brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) browsing on toyon leaves (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) at night.



On-site evidence of the herbivory.



Sample Curriculum

1. Setup: Instructor selects camera trap sites likely to concentrate high levels of activity or provoke interesting behaviors.
2. Preliminary site visit to look for sign. Assignment: Formulate hypotheses.
3. Review camera trap footage. Assignment: Document observations and questions in a journal.
4. Return visit to site to look for evidence of species and behaviors observed in footage.
5. Repeat Assignment 1 and steps 2 and 3 if time allows.
6. Final Assignment: Edit camera trap footage into a video that illustrates your key discoveries and questions.