



Region 3 Barrier ID: W023 (Top Priority Barrier).

Barrier Name: SR-17 Los Gatos (Lexington Reservoir) to Scotts Valley (Carbonera Creek undercrossing).

Linear Infrastructure: SR-17.

Geographic Area: Lexington Reservoir to Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz Mountains.

Length: 18.93 km (11.77 mi).

Target Species: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), small mammals.

Connectivity Concerns: Roadkill, camera, and radio collar data indicate this is a high road mortality area for wildlife attempting to navigate this forested area. Continuous heavy traffic, concrete median barriers, and lack of safe undercrossings make SR-17 a significant barrier to connectivity. A genetics study on this population of mountain lions shows a trend toward genetic isolation.

Remediation Goals: Studies evaluated existing structures and identified locations for crossings. One undercrossing at Laurel Curve was completed in 2022 and has been very successful. An additional undercrossing and trail project at Lexington Reservoir is planned but not yet fully funded. Caltrans identified two culverts at Los Gatos Creek, but these are not yet planned or funded. Additional crossings may be needed.

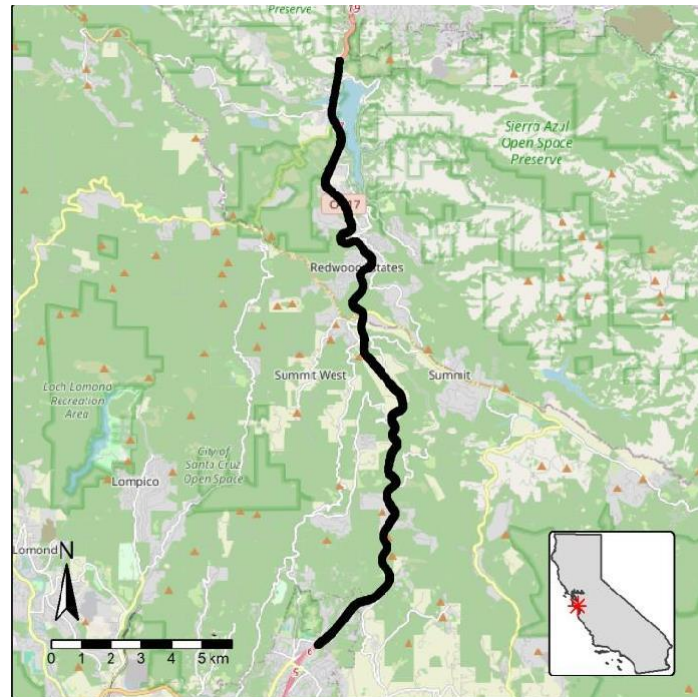


Figure: W023 along SR-17 in Lexington Reservoir in Santa Cruz Mountains.