

Unusual bobcat tree den found in California fire burn zone

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In this April 15, 2021, photo provided by the National Park Service are bobcat kittens that were found in a cavity of a large oak tree in the Santa Monica Mountain range. Biologists studying Southern California bobcats found a mother and three kittens this spring in an unusual den in a cavity up in a tree in an area intensely burned by the huge 2018 Woolsey Fire west of Los Angeles. The National Park Service says bobcat denning in a tree is unusual. Their dens are usually found in hollow areas of thick chaparral or coastal sage vegetation or in woodrat nests. Credit: National Park Service via AP

Biologists studying Southern California bobcats found a mother and three [kittens](#) this spring in an unusual den in a cavity up in a tree in an area intensely burned by a huge 2018 wildfire west of Los Angeles, the National Park Service said.

Bobcat "denning" in a tree is unusual, according to biologist Joanne Moriarty.

Their dens are usually found in hollow areas of thick chaparral or coastal sage or in woodrat nests made of piles of sticks and leaves.

Scientists believe the bobcat used the [cavity](#) because little vegetation has grown since the [Woolsey Fire](#) ravaged the [Santa Monica Mountains](#) and Simi Hills, the [park service](#) said Thursday.

The mother was first [captured](#) in the Simi Hills more than a year after the fire. A radio tracking collar was placed on her and she was given the designation B-370 in the study of how bobcats survive in a region where wilderness is fragmented by [urban development](#).

Moriarty suspected B-370 was denning but was having trouble finding her last month.



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In this April 15, 2021 photo provided by the National Park Service are three bobcat kittens found in a cavity of a large oak tree in the Santa Monica Mountain range. Biologists studying Southern California bobcats found a mother and three kittens this spring in an unusual den in a cavity up in a tree in an area intensely burned by the huge 2018 Woolsey Fire west of Los Angeles. Scientists believe the bobcat mom used the tree cavity because very little vegetation has grown since the Woolsey Fire extensively charred natural areas of the Santa Monica Mountains. Credit: National Park Service via AP

"Then I look up into this little tiny hole in the tree, and her face is just poking out at me," she said.

Moriarty used a remote [camera](#) held on an extension pole to see the kittens.

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