



December 16, 2016

Public Notice of Intent to Issue a Permit for Mountain Lion Research in California

Legislation passed in 2012 requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to notify the public at least 30 days prior to the issuance of a Scientific Collecting Permit (SCP) to qualified researchers desiring to conduct research on mountain lions.

The legislation is described in Section [4810 of the Fish and Game Code](#).

A summary of the proposed research is below. Copies of the DRAFT permit are available upon request to the Department. Please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Branch- MOUNTAIN LION SCP at 1812 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

Prospective Scientific Collecting Permit Issued to:

Integral Ecology Research Center – Entity

Dr. Greta M. Wengert, Ph.D. – Principal Investigator
Dr. Mourad W. Gabriel, Ph.D. – Principal Investigator
J. Mark Higley – Principal Investigator

Project Title:

Mountain Lion Ecology in Northwestern California Forests and the Impacts of Illegal Marijuana Cultivation on their Populations and Prey

Executive Summary:

Poisons from illegal marijuana cultivation are known to affect many forest species by either direct poisoning, or exposing them to sublethal impacts to individual and population health. Mountain lion ecology in northwestern California is an unexplored field and less is known about the impacts of illegal marijuana cultivation on their population health and prey communities. We propose to investigate the direct and indirect impacts to mountain lion individuals and populations in northwestern California from the use of pesticides by illegal marijuana growers on public and tribal lands, and the indirect effects on smaller forest carnivores taking advantage of mountain lion prey. We will safely capture and affix satellite collars on up to eight mountain lions on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation to study their movements in relation to known marijuana grow locations, track them to their kill sites to monitor prey selection and use of prey by other carnivores, and assess their prey for exposure to pesticides. This study will provide baseline knowledge of the risks to mountain lion health from rampant illegal marijuana cultivation on tribal and nearby public lands in northwestern California, and allow for the development of approaches and solutions to tackle this growing problem.