



August 16, 2017

Public Notice of Intent to Renew 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:

National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area – Entity

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Project Title:

Proposal to California Department of Fish and Wildlife to Collect Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*) for research purposes at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Executive Summary:

Understanding the movements and ecology of mountain lions is critical for the effective conservation of this wide-ranging and low-density species in the complex urban landscape of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Information on mountain lion movements is also valuable for many other conservation organizations and efforts in the region, and will help to improve the currently meager state of knowledge about large carnivore ecology, management, and conservation in urban landscapes generally. We propose to capture and radio-collar mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains, south of 101, as well as in areas to the north and east of the Santa Monica Mountains, specifically the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, and Verdugo Mountains, which are critical stepping stones for connectivity between remaining natural areas in the region. The primary goal of the project is to understand how mountain lions are using this landscape and in particular whether and how they are able to move between remaining areas of open space. We also propose to investigate a number of specific issues related to mountain lion persistence in the region, including 1) reproduction and

the survival and dispersal of young mountain lions; 2) genetic diversity relative to barriers and population isolation; and 3) exposure to toxicants such as anticoagulant rodenticides. Particularly because of the urban and high profile nature of the park and study area, public outreach and education about mountain lions and their ecology and conservation is a critical part of our project. The basic methods of our project are to capture mountain lions using cage traps and trained dogs. The highly urban and fragmented nature of the study area make capture efforts difficult, and specific methods (e.g., using trained hounds) can only be used in particular circumstances. We track adult mountain lions with GPS/VHF radio-collars, programmed to collect locations throughout the diel period at varying intensities. The highly accurate location data from the GPS collars allow us to study many aspects of mountain lion behavior and ecology, including home range size, land-cover and habitat use, survival, mortality causes, reproduction, intraspecific interactions, food habits, and perhaps most importantly movement patterns, particularly relative to roads and development. The ultimate goal of all of our wildlife projects at the park are to understand and conserve natural populations and processes, and we endeavor in all of our work, including the mountain lion project, to minimize any stress and danger to the animals we study.