Conducting Scientific Research on Mountain Lions in California
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What permit(s) are required to authorize research that involves the take or possession of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) for scientific, education, propagation, or management purposes in California?**
    a. A California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Scientific Collection Permit (SCP).
    b. Examples of the "take or possession" of a mountain lion may include, but not be limited to, biological data collection from captured or dead individuals; collecting mountain lion carcasses; using bait that may alter behavior; field capture or pursuit, bio darting, GPS collaring, or ear tagging of live animals.
    c. Additional federal, state, county, or other entity permits or agreements may be required (e.g., lands access or special use permit, California Endangered Species Act memorandum of understanding, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval). This is not an exhaustive list.

2. **What is the purpose of a CDFW SCP?**
    a. California Fish and Game Code (FGC) sections 1002, 1002.5 and 1003 establish the authority for CDFW to issue permits for the take or possession of wildlife, including mammals, for scientific, educational, and propagation purposes.
    b. A SCP is required pursuant to FGC section 4810 for any qualified individual or entity conducting scientific research on mountain lions.

3. **What types of activities with mountain lions can be authorized through CDFW SCP?**
    a. CDFW may authorize permitholders to conduct activities with mountain lions, including, but not limited to, pursue, capture, temporarily possess, mark, attach to or surgically implant monitoring or recognition devices in, provide veterinary care to, and transport, mountain lions, or any part or product of a mountain lion.

4. **What types of research and/or related activities with mountain lions do not require a CDFW SCP?**
    a. Any research or related activity involving mountain lions does not require a permit, so long as it does not involve the take or possession of one or any parts thereof.
    b. Examples may include analyses of previously collected data, remotely sensed data, track surveys, deploying camera traps without the use of bait and certain human dimensions research (e.g., public perception survey on mountain lions). This is not an exhaustive list.

5. **What is needed to show relevant experience or qualifications for a prospective SCP researcher?**
    a. *Statement of Qualifications* (SOQ): Describes any relevant experience as required
        i. Location, date, and approximate hours of experience conducting the proposed activities, capture methods, and procedures for mountain lions or similar species or taxa.
        ii. Name(s) of persons who provided relevant hands-on training and/or experience.
    b. *Resume or curriculum vitae* (CV): Resume or CV that describes relevant education and experience, including a list of publications if applicable.
    c. *References*: Contact information for two (2) references (e.g., researchers, subject-matter experts).

6. **What is the timeline for acquiring a CDFW SCP?**
    a. Subsection 650(e), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations, provides for 100 calendar days pending receipt of a complete application by CDFW. CDFW will notify an applicant if an application is incomplete with a list of any deficiencies, missing documents, or outstanding information.
    b. SCP proposals then undergo a 30-day Public Information Notice posted on the CDFW Mountain Lion Conservation Program webpage at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Mountain-Lion.

7. **What other CDFW agreements or authorizations may be required?**
    a. Projects that utilize data collected using CDFW equipment (e.g., GPS collars, camera traps) may require a CDFW data sharing agreement or memorandum of agreement.
    b. Manuscripts that use CDFW data shall be reviewed by CDFW prior to submission. CDFW Mountain Lion Conservation Program will assign a manuscript number for internal tracking purposes.