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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 (CDFW) 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](#), and [Title 14, Section 650\(e\)\(3\)\(C\) of the California Code of Regulations](#).

A summary of the proposed research is below. Copies of the DRAFT permit are available upon request to CDFW. Please contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Branch- MOUNTAIN LION SCP at 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Prospective Scientific Collecting Permit Renewal Issued to:

Dr. Alys Granados, Ph.D. – Principal Investigator

Felidae Conservation Fund – Permitholder Affiliation

Executive Summary:

Wild Cat Health Project – Health, Stress, and Disease Dynamics in Pumas and Bobcats at the Urban Edge:

The Wild Cat Health Project, an initiative of the Felidae Conservation Fund, investigates the physiological and epidemiological impacts of expanding human infrastructure on California's native wild felids. As habitat fragmentation restricts wildlife movement and forces pumas (*Puma concolor*) and bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) into human-dominated landscapes, isolated populations face growing threats from reduced genetic diversity, elevated physiological stress, and pathogen exposure.

Increased contact along the urban-wildland interface also elevates the risk of bidirectional disease transmission between wild carnivores, domestic animals, and human communities. Operating under a One Health framework that connects ecosystem integrity with public health, this five-year study evaluates how anthropogenic land use influences wildlife health and zoonotic spillover potential across two highly fragmented regions: the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and Orange County.

To evaluate these impacts without capturing or disturbing animals, the project relies on non-invasive scat detection surveys and a pilot study deploying non-invasive hair snare stations across protected public lands and private parcels. Scent-detection dog teams

search fire roads, hiking trails, and game paths within areas showing high felid activity on camera trap networks. Collected scat samples undergo spatial mapping and laboratory analysis through academic and agency partnerships.

Genomic sequencing conducted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Wildlife Health Laboratory provides species verification, sex determination, and measures of population connectivity. Partner University laboratories analyze fecal samples for endoparasite burdens including *Toxoplasma gondii*, heavy metal concentrations (mercury), and fecal cortisol metabolites to quantify stress responses along gradients of urban density, road cover, and human activity. Additionally, non-invasively collected hair samples undergo stable isotope analysis to evaluate diet composition, prey shifts, and weaning timing across land-use gradients.

By establishing a long-term baseline of felid health metrics, the Wild Cat Health Project generates empirical data to identify disease hotspots, inform regional open space management, and contribute directly to state genomic databases supporting species recovery efforts. Alongside biological research, project findings feed directly into public education and community outreach programs designed to reduce human-wildlife conflict, correct misconceptions about native carnivores, and provide actionable guidance to livestock owners, pet owners, and residents living along the urban edge.