



P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
wildlife.ca.gov

October 02, 2026

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. Christina Aiello, Ph.D. – Principal Investigator

Wildlands Network – Permitholder Affiliation

Executive Summary:

Preparing to ROAMM: Surveys to monitor connectivity and wildlife crossing structure (WCS) success at SR62:

Our study will estimate changes in metrics that represent the expected benefits of planned wildlife crossing structures on SR62 (wildlife-vehicle collision rate, road crossing rate, and admixture rates) using a before-after-control-impact design where feasible, and a before-after design for metrics where controls are infeasible.

We will target three representative species for genetic-based metrics: mountain lions, bighorn sheep, and bobcat, and broadly survey small and large animals for road mortality metrics. By testing for changes in numerous metrics and species, we can assess the success of the wildlife crossing project and make informed recommendations for needed modifications to these, or other nearby structures, to improve functional wildlife connectivity in the region.

Metrics will be estimated by applying non-invasive techniques to document wildlife roadkill and sampling DNA from the three focal populations. We will use a combination of surveys using experienced scat detection dog teams and scented hair-snare posts with camera traps to sample hair and scat from puma and bobcat populations. Opportunistic samples from encountered or reported carcasses will also be collected and analyzed, along with

any existing samples collected during CDFW-led capture events. Samples will be used to amplify DNA, determine sample genotypes, assign samples to individuals and genetic clusters, and detect individuals crossing the road. Bighorn genetic data will be collected via walking surveys and fecal pellet collections that have been used range-wide to document genetic structure in this species. We will apply standard genetic protocols used in these populations throughout the state by CDFW and collaborators to ensure the resulting data will contribute to ongoing state-wide assessments for these focal species.