



## General Instructions for Completing Mortality Reporting Form

The California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Investigations Lab, Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and other functions within the Department need to collect and track fish and wildlife mortality and disease information in a timely manner so as to improve our ability to respond to these events. An important part of solving disease and mortality problems is the need for information. With your assistance, your report could help us better understand these phenomena, may lead to more effective prevention and control and help us detect emerging diseases affecting fish and wildlife. Your report is a valuable contribution to the information we are trying to collect and a source for disease outbreak monitoring and real-time surveillance of emerging health threats.

Please help us monitor the fish and wildlife populations in California. If you notice dead fish and wildlife, please do not touch or handle them; simply let us know by filling out the Mortality Reporting Form.

### **IMPORTANT !**

California Department of Fish and Game does not encourage the handling of sick, injured, or dead wildlife without proper training. Individuals who do this, do it at their own risk and should be aware of the risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases and injuries.

Additional information on zoonotic diseases may be found at:

- <http://dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/WIL/disease/zoonoticdiseases.html>
- [USGS National Wildlife Health Center - Avian Zoonotic Diseases: Work Smart, Stay Safe](#)
- [USGS National Wildlife Health Center - Zoonotic Diseases \(Mammalian\): Work Smart, Stay Safe](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases](#)

The Mortality Reporting Form is available in Adobe Acrobat PDF format (download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> ) and may be submitted by email or printed and mailed to the address at the top of the form. The following table details what kind of information is desired for each field on the form. You may either submit a map with the form or fill out the fields in the location section of the form. If you choose to submit a map, please make sure that the location of the mortality or disease occurrence is clearly marked. If you choose not to submit a map, please make sure that you fill out the location section of the field survey form by providing us with a detailed location description or a set of coordinates with datum. Remember that your name, telephone number, and email address are very important in case we have questions about the information.

Additional assistance with species identification may be found at:

Birds

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/browse>

<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/bio/birds/main/ident/bvk1.htm>

<http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=1>

Mammals

<http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=5>

Fish

<http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=3>

Reptiles and Amphibians

<http://www.enature.com/fieldguides/intermediate.asp?curGroupID=7>

Invertebrates

<http://www.seanet.com/~leska/Online/Guide.html>

## Introduction to the Fish and Wildlife Mortality Reporting Form

The Fish and Wildlife Mortality Reporting Form is used to report mortality involving wild birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. Please provide as many details as possible so we may determine if a follow up investigation is necessary. Data generated by these reports are used to monitor fish and wildlife population health and to alert us to potential emerging diseases or pollution and contaminant issues.

Directions for completing form:

Open PDF in Adobe Acrobat. Complete the form as accurately as possible. Click on the "Send Form" button to submit the completed form via e-mail (preferred), fax, or regular mail. If you have any questions, please contact the Wildlife Investigations Laboratory at [WILab@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:WILab@dfg.ca.gov) or 916-358-2790.

<b>Fish and Wildlife Mortality Reporting Form field names and descriptions and/or definitions.</b>	
Observation Date	Date mortality was observed in mm/dd/yyyy format.
Reporter	Reporting person's name, affiliation, postal address, email address, and phone number. Reporter is person reporting the mortality to the Wildlife Investigations Lab.
Witness	Name and phone number for someone who may have witnessed the wildlife mortality or injury event.
Animal Classification	Check whether animal is a bird, mammal, fish, reptile, or amphibian.
Suspected Cause	Check the suspected cause of the mortality including disease, pollution or contaminant, trauma, or unknown.
Location Description	Record specific location where mortality occurred, including county and city. Include as many details as possible.
Datum	Select the specific datum used to determine the location coordinates.
Coordinate system	Indicate UTM (including either Zone 10 or 11) or geographic (Latitude/Longitude) coordinates for the location.
Coordinates	Record numeric values of coordinates (e.g. Northing/Easting for UTM; decimal degrees, decimal degrees minutes, degrees minutes seconds for Geographic Lat/Long).
Coordinate source	Provide the source of the coordinates, such as GPS device, topographic map, Google Map, Google Earth, or computer software program.
Mortality onset date	Date mortality began (estimate date if actual date is unknown) using mm/dd/yyyy format.
Mortality end date	Date mortality ended (estimate date if actual date is unknown) using mm/dd/yyyy format.
Species affected	Record all fish and wildlife species involved in die-off.
Known dead/Known sick	Actual counted number of each species found dead or sick.
Estimated dead/Estimated sick	Estimated number of each species found dead or sick after considering removal by scavengers or other means, density of vegetation, etc.
Unsure About Species	Provide detailed description of animal including size, color, and any distinctive markings; if bird, describe bill color and shape, leg color and length, and foot shape.
Incident description and Population at risk	Describe what may have happened to cause the mortality event. Estimate the number of animals in the area that might become affected.
Clinical signs	Describe unusual behaviors or characteristics (labored breathing, salivating, unable to walk or fly, or any visible wounds or injuries).
Environmental factors	Describe weather (rain/excessive heat or cold), changes in water levels, food shortages, algal blooms, pollutants, or contaminants.
Problem area description	Describe the location where the mortality occurred including urban, rural, agriculture, industrial (oil wells), grazing, habitat type, waterbody type and access to artificial food or water.

Mail to:

Wildlife Investigations Laboratory  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite D  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Fax: 916-358-2814 E-mail: WILab@dfg.ca.gov

For Office Use Only			
Date received:	By:		
Routed to:	WIL OSPR Other:		
	Date:	By:	
Follow up required:	Yes	No	
	Date:	By:	
Date entered:	By:		

Observation Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/10/2012

## Fish and Wildlife Mortality Reporting Form

<b>Reporter:</b> <i>Jane Doe</i> <b>Affiliation:</b> <i>citizen</i> <b>Address:</b> <i>1234 5<sup>th</sup> Street</i> <i>Los Angeles, CA 90012</i> <b>E-mail:</b> <i>doe@gmail.com</i> <b>Phone:</b> <i>555-555-5555</i> <b>Witness:</b> <i>John Buck</i> <b>Phone:</b> <i>555-555-5555</i>	<b>Animal Classification:</b> Bird                      Mammal <i>X</i> Fish Reptile                      Amphibian                      Other <b>Suspected Cause:</b> Disease <i>X</i> Pollution                      Unknown Trauma/Injury (vehicle or window collision, shot, etc.)
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### Location Description (please be as detailed as possible; include coordinates if possible)

Specific mortality location (refuge unit, pond number, address, intersection, park, etc):

*In a wash, 4/10 mile northwest of Lytle Creek Ranger Station, 1209 Lytle Creek Road, Mt. Baldy –Wrightwood, CA 92358*

County: *San Bernardino*

Nearest City: *Rancho Cucamonga*

Datum: NAD 27      NAD 83      WGS 84\* *X*

Coordinate system: UTM Zone 10      or Zone 11      OR Geographic (Latitude & Longitude) *X*

Coordinates: *lat 34.236235 lon -117.484484*

Coordinate source:

(\*Google Maps & Google Earth use WGS 84)

### Mortality Information

Mortality onset date (best estimate): *06/09/2012 ?*

Mortality end date (best estimate): *unknown*

Species affected	Known dead	Known sick	Estimated dead	Estimated sick
<i>Bobcat</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

If unsure\* about species, describe (size, color, distinctive markings, if bird describe: bill color & shape, leg color & length, foot shape) (\*submit photo if possible):

Incident description and Population at risk (Number of animals in the area):

*unknown*

Clinical signs (Any unusual behaviors or physical appearance):

*One bobcat found dead. One bobcat seen stumbling, moving around in a circle, then died. Another bobcat seen at a distance.*

Environmental factors (Weather, change in water level or temperature, food shortages, pollution, etc):

*Desert wash, no water. High temperature. Windy.*

Problem area description (Urban, rural, agriculture, industrial, habitat type, waterbody type etc; access to artificial food/water): *Desert wash. Close to urban population.*



# Example of using Google Earth to submit location information:

The screenshot displays the Google Earth desktop application. On the left, the 'Search' and 'Places' panels are visible. The 'Places' panel shows a list of locations, with 'Bobcat' highlighted. A yellow box highlights the 'Bobcat' pin on the map, with a callout box stating 'Use pin tool to show location'. The 'Edit Placemark' dialog box is open, showing the name 'Bobcat' and the coordinates: Latitude: 34.236235° and Longitude: -117.484484°. A callout box points to these fields, stating 'Pin tool properties will show coordinate information'. The dialog box also includes tabs for 'Description', 'Style, Color', 'View', and 'Altitude', and buttons for 'Snapshot current view', 'Reset', 'OK', and 'Cancel'. The map shows a landscape with a road labeled 'Lytle Creek Rd' and a copyright notice for 2012 Google, Image County of San Bernardino. The status bar at the bottom shows the imagery date as 1/31/2009, a year of 1994, and coordinates: lat 34.233378° lon -117.482817° elev 2755 ft. The Google Earth logo is in the bottom right corner.