

December 26, 2012

Public Notice of Intent to Issue a Permit for Mountain Lion Research in California

Recent legislation requires the 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 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:

Dr. Winston Vickers, DVM, MPVM

Dr. Walter Boyce, DVM, PhD, MPVM

University of California, Davis – Wildlife Health Center, Southern California Mountain Lion Study

December 2012

Executive Summary:

Mountain lions in California are important indicators of ecosystem health and connectivity, especially in southern California where the landscape is highly fragmented by previous and ongoing / planned human development. The Wildlife Health Center, a division of the One Health Institute of the School of Veterinary Medicine at U.C. Davis, has been studying mountain lion ecology, landscape use and population connections, sources of mortality, genetics, disease, toxin exposure, interactions with prey, and interactions with humans and domestic animals in southern California since late 2000. During that time, the study team and our large number of collaborators have contributed significantly to knowledge about mountain lions, and that information has been utilized to benefit mountain lions, other wildlife, humans, and domestic animals in a variety of ways.

Due to the ongoing nature of the research we are conducting, the requests we have received from collaborators, public agencies, and others for additional data from mountain lions in our study area (Figure 1), and several new research questions that have evolved from our previous work, we are requesting a permit to continue our mountain lion capture, sampling, and GPS-collaring efforts. The focus of the research will be to continue to expand knowledge regarding

mountain lion disease and toxin exposure, genetics, and interactions with wildlife prey species, humans, and domestic animals. Additionally, we will assess mountain lion use of specific southern California conserved lands, linkages, and road crossings in order to help guide conservation and road planning decisions.

We have always strived to set the standard for best practices when capturing mountain lions for research, and to that end we will be utilizing only constantly monitored cage traps for all captures conducted under this permit, and an experienced wildlife veterinarian will be administering and monitoring all anesthetics and directing all capture activities. Samples from all mountain lions captured, and reports and publications relating to the research will be forwarded to the California Department of Fish and Game.