

8-31-2017

# Conducting Research Concerning Ecology of Wild Carnivores

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## Recommended Citation

Gese, Eric, "Conducting Research Concerning Ecology of Wild Carnivores" (2017). *Funded Research Records*. Paper 37.  
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## Data Management Plan

### 1. Types of data, samples, and other materials to be produced

Two types of data will be generated by this project:

- a) Archived biological samples are in individually labeled sealed containers and placed in a sub-zero freezer (-40° C) at the USDA-NWRC Predator Facility, Millville, Utah, as required by the funding agency (USDA-APHIS-WS). We will maintain a digital database of all samples retained in the freezer.
- b) All original digital data will be archived at the USDA-NWRC Headquarters, Fort Collins, Colorado, as required by the funding agency (USDA-APHIS-WS).

### 2. Standards to be used for data and metadata format and content

*Findability* - All data and metadata generated from this project will persist with unique identifiers in the USDA-APHIS-WS-NWRC Archive at the NWRC Headquarters, Fort Collins, Colorado, as required by the funding agency. Data can be searched, accessed, and cited from this repository.

*Accessibility* - Data and metadata will be accessible at the USDA-APHIS-WS-NWRC Archive at the NWRC Headquarters, Fort Collins, Colorado, as required by the funding agency. Data may be embargoed until publication or 3 years after the end of the funding period, whichever comes first.

*Interoperability* - Archived data, will conform to metadata standards of the USDA-APHIS-WS-NWRC Archive at the NWRC Headquarters, Fort Collins, Colorado, as required by the funding agency.

*Reusability* – The archival repository we have selected performs validity checks and version control, thus enhancing long-term reusability. Metadata will accompany all data.

### 3. Policies for access and sharing

Data will be disseminated using the following methods:

- a) Upon completion of the study and initial analyses, data related to published articles will be archived at the USDA-APHIS-WS-NWRC Archive at the NWRC Headquarters, Fort Collins, Colorado, as required by the funding agency. This repository allows scientists to validate published findings, explore new analysis methodologies, repurpose data for research questions unanticipated by the original authors, and perform synthetic studies.
- b) Investigators will present data and discussion of results at national and international meetings in the fields of wildlife biology, ecology, conservation, and natural resource management.
- c) Investigators will publish results in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of wildlife biology, ecology, conservation, and natural resources enabling broad distribution of the data across disciplines.
- d) Following publication, the PI and co-PIs will report findings on their institution websites. This will expose this and related work to the general public and

colleagues, potentially enhancing distribution of raw data through the other described means.

#### **4. Policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives**

All research products will be archived and available from the repository described above. There are no privacy, copyright, or confidentiality issues associated with the project data. Additionally, established researchers who may be interested in the generated electronic data for meta-analysis or modeling will be allowed access to the archived data. USDA researchers will be available to work with this groups to best use the data for conservation planning and decision making. The data will also be helpful in informing policy related to wildlife damage management.

#### **5. Plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products**

Final versions of both intramural and extramural publications will be retained in the USDA-NWRC Archive and will be identified as permanent records in the USDA-NWRC Archive. Dr. Gese and Dr. Young (co-PI) will be responsible for retaining all resulting data and samples collected for the proposed studies. To ensure the entire data set remains compiled, Dr. Gese and Dr. Young will maintain copies of all data sets.