



Editor-in-Chief

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Journal of Mammalogy

Dear Editor,

Please consider our manuscript, “*Wildlife Responses to Non-Motorized Recreation in the Southern Canadian Rockies: A Multi-Scale Analysis near Fernie, BC*”, for publication in the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

Recreation ecology has become a pressing management issue across North America and beyond. Despite a rapidly growing body of work, findings remain mixed, leaving land managers uncertain about how best to steward landscapes under increasing recreational demand. Our study adds incremental but important information in this space. We integrate multiple lines of evidence — combining camera trap detections, diel activity analyses, and grizzly bear GPS collar data — to evaluate how a unique assemblage of large mammals, including grizzly bears, elk, and moose, respond to non-motorized recreation across spatial and temporal scales.

Our results illustrate variable responses by species and scale: elk consistently avoided recreation areas, grizzly bears showed moderate avoidance at broad scales but functional use of trails as travel corridors, while moose and mule deer were more frequently detected on or near recreation trails. These heterogeneous responses underscore why management decisions based on single-species or single-scale studies can be misleading. We propose directions forward for stronger inference — including experimental approaches — while demonstrating the value of robust observational designs that leverage multiple data sources.

A strength of this work is that it was co-developed with wildlife managers and the Fernie Trails Alliance. This collaboration ensures that our results are immediately relevant for ongoing management decisions about where and how to concentrate recreational use, how to retain refugia for sensitive species, and how to minimize conflict risks.

Given the *Journal of Mammalogy*’s focus on advancing knowledge of mammalian ecology and informing conservation practice, we believe our manuscript will be of strong interest to its readership.

Thank you for considering our work. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Clayton T. Lamb, PhD
Wildlife Science Center—Biodiversity Pathways
University of British Columbia

(on behalf of coauthor Emily Chow)