Marin Wildlife Picture Index Project –Data Use Policy
FINAL 01.17.2017

Introduction to the aims of the project

The Marin Wildlife Picture Index Project (MWPIP) uses a network of motion/heat activated remote cameras across Mt. Tam's public lands that are managed by four agencies, to collect non-invasive, long term wildlife monitoring data. With this data, land managers will be able to establish baseline occurrence data for many of our mammal species- both common and harder to see, identify wildlife "hotspots" and crucial corridors for movement, and begin to assess trends in populations. In the long run, the goal is to understand wildlife populations well enough to identify what healthy populations look like, identify early signals of population distress, and avoid population declines.

This document outlines the data lifecycle and use policy for any data created or obtained for the MWPIP.

Data lifecycle

- Regular field checks swap out wildlife camera SD card with images.
- Data is brought back from the field and backed up as per individual agency policies.
- Data is cataloged using one of the following methods:
    - Excel spreadsheets
    - Wild.ID desktop software
    - Wildlife insights cloud based software
- Data is verified following QA/QC procedures as outlined in the project SOP
- Data is ready for analysis
- Raw data is securely stored in case of back up for two years.

Data Use Policy

The following applies to all data or images captured under MWPIP:

- Images of the public and their pets will be treated as confidential; once the dataset is cataloged and verified, images of the public or pets will be deleted.
- No images of the public or their pets will be used, nor released, by any agency to enforce trail-use regulations.
- Images of non-designated public use will be treated as confidential; however, if images depicting any of the following incidents are observed, volunteers should report these immediately to the designated MWPIP representative:
    - Violent crime (assault).
    - Vandalism of cameras or natural resources (cutting trees, bending signs, digging holes).
    - Evidence of poaching/hunting
    - Evidence of camping or fire arms

- o   Irrigation equipment.
- o   Fires
- o   Trail construction, other than by staff
- No images of the public (or pets) will be used for promotional or outreach materials.
- No images will ever be used to identify visitors or their pets.
- Sensitive species information and images will be treated appropriately, and exact locations will not be made public.
- Results of data analysis, and updates on the project will be made available to the public periodically.

Data integrity

Volunteers have been an integral part of the success and sustainability of this project. As we move into the next phase of cataloging images through the online software, we are anticipating greater volunteer involvement. The following applies to all volunteers with access to MWPIP images and data:

- All volunteers (and staff) must participate in, and successfully pass, an in-house training program with MWPIP staff or an approved designee before having access to MWPIP data or cataloging. This is to ensure volunteers understand their roles and responsibilities regarding the MWPIP data and the project purpose, and to ensure that cataloged data is of a consistently high quality.
- Volunteers must sign a MWPIP volunteer agreement before having access to MWPIP data.