**GENERAL INFORMATION LETTER**

**for a Research Study entitled: “Survey of Alabama Wildlife Biologists’ Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Wildlife Health and Zoonoses”**

**SPONSOR**: The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

You are being invited to participate in a research study to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of wildlife biologists in Alabama regarding wildlife health and zoonoses (i.e., diseases transmissible from animals to humans). This study is being conducted by Dr. Stephen Ditchkoff at the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Environment. You were selected as a possible participant because you are a wildlife biologist in Alabama and are age 19 or older. If you decide to participate in this research study, you will be asked a series of questions regarding demographics, your knowledge, attitudes, and practices concerning wildlife health and zoonoses, and future decisions you might make based on the interactions with wildlife. You will record your answers to these questions on the Qualtrics survey website at your convenience. There are no risks to participants anticipated. Your total time commitment will be approximately 10-15 minutes.

Your name and any identifying information will not be captured by Qualtrics; thus, anonymity is guaranteed. Participants will not directly benefit from the research activities. Participants will incur no costs as a result of participating in this survey. Responses will be used to author scientific studies. Although you will not benefit directly from this research activity, generalizable information to be gained from this study includes how wildlife biologists perceive wildlife health and zoonotic disease issues. Using these data, decision-makers in Alabama can use this information to help make management decisions. If at any time you would like to withdraw from the study, you can close the web browser you are taking the survey on. All incomplete surveys will be destroyed and will not be used for analysis.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact Dr. Stephen Ditchkoff via email at ditchss@auburn.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Auburn University Office of Research Compliance or the Institutional Review Board by phone (334)-844-5966 or email at IRBadmin@auburn.edu or IRBchair@auburn.edu. Having read the information provided, you must decide if you want to

participate in this research project. If you do decide to participate, the data you provide will serve as your agreement to do so. This letter is yours to keep. We thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Ditchkoff

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