

Wildlife Watch Camera Trap Response Team:

Community Science Summary

Project Summary

There is a lot of wildlife habitat spread across the state of Utah, so much so that it can be nearly impossible to monitor. Although all these lands are managed for different purposes and by different agencies, a major goal shared across each is to maintain healthy wildlife populations. However, to make sure these lands are fulfilling this purpose, consistent, systematic monitoring is required, including areas where active adaptive management strategies are being implemented. With the sheer number and total acreage of these areas, this type of monitoring protocol can be difficult to implement without both a large team of people and pool of resources.

This project will engage teams of dedicated community scientists and use remote sensing camera trap technology to provide a vital monitoring component to areas in critical need of data on wildlife population distributions and behavior. Specifically, after working with government agency biologists to identify focal areas of need and establishing a methodology and timeline, these teams will travel to these areas and provide the much-needed boots on the ground, setting up and maintaining a network of trail cameras.

The data gathered will be used to:

- **Answer ecological questions on the effects of different land-use strategies on wildlife distribution and behavior, including adaptive management strategies specifically implemented to improve wildlife habitat;**
- **Provide long-term monitoring on the health and connectivity of wildlife habitat across the state of Utah; and**
- **Establish long-lasting partnerships between land management agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local communities.**

Position Summary

We invite previous Wildlife Watch participants to join our 'Camera Trap Response Team'. After attending a training session specific to this project and filling out a survey on areas across the state that each participant would be willing to travel to and survey, the process for accessing sites will proceed as follows:

1. **Based on focal area location, partner agency needs, and participant location preferences, response teams will be assembled**
2. **Working with project lead Austin Green, teams will choose 'sites', critical focal areas identified by local, state, and government agencies**
3. **Since the size of these focal areas and the ecological questions of interest will vary from site-to-site, each team will then meet with Austin Green to discuss site-specific study protocol, including the ecological questions of interest, the number of sites established and their**



general locations, the timeline for both the overall project and for rotating sites (if needed), the settings of each camera, and the data download and entry protocol

Partnering Organizations

- Sageland Collaborative
- University of Utah's Science Research Initiative
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- United States Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Salt Lake City's Trails and Natural Lands Division

Contacts

- Austin Green, Ph.D. (austin@sagelandcollaborative.org)
 - Ecologist, Sageland Collaborative
 - Associate Instructor, Science Research Initiative, University of Utah
- Mary Pendergast, Ph.D. (mary@sagelandcollaborative.org)
 - Senior Ecologist, Sageland Collaborative

Preferred Skills/Abilities

- Previous Wildlife Watch experience
- Up-to-date driver's license and experience driving on dirt roads and over rough terrain
- Experience hiking in remote areas and navigating using GPS
- Ability to hike and carry a daypack with all personal supplies and an additional 10-20 lbs. of camera trapping equipment

- Willingness to drive long distances across the state of Utah and spend a full day in the field
- Ability to work together as a member of a small research team (2-6 people)
- Ability to enter data into the Survey123 application

Training Day & Materials Pickups

All volunteers for this project are **required to attend our general Wildlife Watch training or watch the recorded training* prior to participating in this project (see details below)**. However, unlike general Wildlife Watch participants, camera equipment will most likely be sent out at a different time due to the rotating nature of the project. All equipment pick-up for this project will be coordinated with Austin Green (sagelandcollaborative.org)

When: May, 18, 2024: 1:30 – 3:00 pm. The training is will be at 1:30 and the trail camera demo is at 2:30 pm (the demo is required for all new volunteers).

Where: Crocker Science Center Reading Room 330, 1390 Presidents' Circle, Salt Lake City, UT 84112



Time Commitment

The timeline for this project will vary based on the specifics of each site's objectives. Field seasons will last anywhere from 1 month to 1 year. Based on whether a rotation schedule is in place for a particular site, trips to the field will be required every 3-5 weeks. Furthermore, since each site will be run like a standalone project, team check-ins with Austin Green will be required. These will take place roughly once a month until the completion of the site's field season and will last approximately 1 hour.

