

MEMORANDUM
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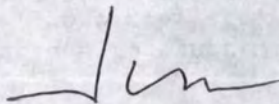
To: JIM AKENSON

Re: cougar work

Jim, Howard and I visited about your proposal. The information that would be most valuable at this point would be an estimate of the population in the Big Creek drainage. If we are going to get into long-term monitoring of the drainage, we will have to capitalize on the cougar work of days gone by and demonstrate the capability of continuing it. You have the expertise and the knowledge of the terrain and the situation, and access to dogs that can do that. In order for this to be of value, you would want to trap the Rush Creek male again (or wherever his successor happens to concentrate his time), and the males up to at least Coxey Creek and down to and around the bend in the Middle Fork. Any females and itinerants you can capture would also be very useful, of course. Rather than make this expensive, you could tattoo the animals and get a tooth to assess age and their measurements. The idea is to get an estimate of the population and its structure for the winter, keep the effort low-budget but information-intensive. This experience will also give you an idea of what kind of effort it will take to actually monitor cat populations in there, something we need for the monitoring program. The other thing is that you should work primarily with Howard as the advisor on this. Howard has the experience and the knowledge, and brings continuity back to the start of the program with Maurice. I think this is very important.

We have ten students lined up for a short course over spring break at Taylor Ranch, and I'll be in touch with you about that later.

With best wishes to you both.



Cc: H. Quigley

229. Mech, L. D. 1996. Gray Wolf, Canis lupus. pp. ____ - - - 100
in D. E. Wilson, ed. Complete Book of North
American Mammals. in press.
230. Mech, L. D., M. K. Phillips, D. W. Smith, and T. J. Kreeger. 1996. Denning behaviour of non-gravid
wolves, Canis lupus. Can. Field Nat. 110(2):000-000. 100 50 100 75
231. Smith, D., T. J. Meier, E. Geffen, L. D. Mech,
L. G. Adams, J. W. Burch, and R. K. Wayne. submitted. 75 25 25 25
Is inbreeding common in wolves? Behavioral Ecology

Note: The above list does not include 95 other miscellaneous popular articles on wildlife, conservation, research, etc, in such periodicals as the following: Sports Afield, Field and Stream, Outdoor Life, Animal Kingdom, National Geographic, Science Digest, Pennsylvania Game News, National Parks Magazine, Boys Life, Farm Journal, Reader's Digest, etc.