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Cc: [Sean Matthews](#); [Roger Powell](#)
Subject: Klamath fisher research
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Attachments: [KlamathFisherResearchMap2017.jpg](#)

Dear Klamath fisher collaborators,

This year we had our 12th (!) year of collecting data on carnivores in and around the Klamath National Forest. By all accounts, it was another very successful year. In total, we collected 322 genetic samples and 472 track impressions from the 100 sites that we monitor in our 465 km² study area. Our genetic samples are now at the Rocky Mountain Research Station being analyzed for individual identifications. In addition to the normal 100 sites that have been monitored with hair snares and track plates since 2006, we had a couple of interesting additions this year.

First, with support from the USFWS in Yreka, we deployed 15 trail cameras at sites in our study area. Preliminary analyses of the effects of the Beaver Creek and Happy Camp Complex Fires have indicated that regions of high severity (e.g., change in > 50% canopy cover) led to the largest declines in fisher density. We deployed cameras to investigate how these high severity regions may be influencing larger carnivores that may not be sampled in our cubbies. We collected over 40,000 photos in just 5 weeks on these cameras, and we are currently processing these photos.

Second, this year we partnered with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to add an additional 50 sites north of our historic study area. I have attached a map here to give you an idea of the amount of ground we covered this year. Using the same data collection techniques and protocol, our colleagues at ODFW collected 97 genetic samples of animals visiting their sampling cubbies in addition to hundreds of tracks. We look forward to a successful continuing collaboration with our colleagues to continue monitoring this population of fishers in the NCSO.

This long-term fisher dataset is bearing many fruits with regards to the effects of translocations on source population dynamics, interactions among small carnivores, how wildfires affect carnivore communities, and how we can best monitor species of conservation concern using non-invasive techniques. For example, we just had a manuscript accepted for publication in the Journal of Animal Ecology this week outlining the effects of removing 9 fishers for translocation on fisher populations and small carnivore community dynamics. We will send along the reference as soon as it becomes available. In the next month or two, we look forward to finalizing analyses investigating the effects of wildfires on fishers and carnivore community dynamics, and to tease out any effects from the fire with any post-fire management activities.

We had a great season this year, and we want to thank you all for all of your help in making it a reality. We really appreciate all of your support this year, and every year. Please feel free to be in touch if you have any questions.

Have a great holiday season.

Warm regards,
Dave

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