

**USFS R&D IACUC Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Final Meeting Notes - Approved**

Attendees: Todd Wilson, Patty Klein, Cat Whitteker, Dan Saenz, David King, Lief Gallagher, Julie Jenkins, John Squires (b)(6) and Carl Lucero.

The Chair called the meeting to order and a quorum of IACUC members was present. All research stations and non-affiliated members were represented. The October 2019 meeting agenda was approved as amended by the Committee. The September 2019 draft meeting notes were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

2019 Fall Semi-annual Report

Carl Lucero, IACUC IO, participated in the meeting to share his comments on the 2019 Fall Semi-annual Report. He thanked the Committee for their efforts and time commitment to ensuring our compliance with the AWA. He asked the Committee several questions:

1. How has the IACUC changed over the last four years? Response was about improved knowledge and efficiency, and streamlining paperwork.
2. How is the workload and committee capacity? Response was that workload was adequate but concerns about diminishing number of USFS wildlife researchers. Also, new technologies (e-DNA, non-invasive testing) result in less direct animal activities. National conversations ongoing about reducing regulatory burden on research projects.
3. IACUC role for NFS? Response that this is an ongoing discussion to clarify 'research' and 'management' activities relevant to animal handling. Same procedure done to animals but under different auspices – still animal welfare concerns should be addressed. Some ongoing NFS-RD collaboration on research studies approved by our IACUC. Recommend to follow up with leadership at senior level.
4. Any immediate needs for 'back-up' Attending Vet? Not at this time but the AV position is important to avoid being out of compliance.
5. IACUC refresher training – needs to be resolved for some members and IO.
6. IACUC training for USFS scientists – webinar will be scheduled this Fall 2019 – "IACUC Basics" and another in Spring 2020 on specific topic – maybe field euthanasia.
7. Committee membership – there will be at least one person (NRS) whose extended term expires in May 2020 so will need a new nominee.
8. The Committee did not have any specific comments at this time about what the IO can do for the Committee.

Annual Reviews

- **2017-017** – *Will Use of Alternate Winter Roosts by Tri-colored Bats Protect Them from White Nose Syndrome?* (Loeb/LR=Jenkins) No adverse events reports. Project was terminated. Approved: Yes.
- **2019-001** – *Connectivity for a sensitive carnivore within and beyond the Storrie Fire: Habitat modeling and field surveys for Pacific marten to identify target areas for forest restoration and improving wildlife connectivity in Lassen National Forest* (Lesmeister/ LR= Saenz) There will be a PI change, and an

increase in some non-target animal numbers – a Significant Amendment was submitted. An error was found in stating the study would be terminated. This needs to be corrected to state study will continue. Committee voted for DMR to follow FCR: AV/LR to conduct DMR.

Significant Amendment

- **2019-001** – *Connectivity for a sensitive carnivore within and beyond the Storrie Fire: Habitat modeling and field surveys for Pacific marten to identify target areas for forest restoration and improving wildlife connectivity in Lassen National Forest* (Lesmeister-Green/ LR= Saenz). Changes requested for new PI to include background experience/training, increasing non-target animal numbers (Douglas Squirrels), and modification to hyperthermia procedure to use focal topical applications of isopropyl alcohol and ice packs to reduce body temperatures. Committee voted for DMR to follow FCR: AV/LR to conduct DMR.

IACUC Business

- IACUC Charter to recognize the IACUC as an official USFS standing committee – will be submitted to IO for signature approval.
- IACUC Basics training webinar scheduled on November 6th, announcement to be distributed to USFS R&D scientists.

Action Items for the next meeting

- Report on completed DMR's.
- Consider Revision to Annual Review Forms
- Discuss highlights of training webinar

Meeting was adjourn at 4:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cat Whitteker, IA

USFS R&D IACUC Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern
Summary Notes – Approved 12/18/19

Attendees: Todd Wilson, Patty Klein, Cat Whitteker, Roger Perry (SRS), Scott Stoleson (NRS), Lief Gallagher (PSW), Julie Jenkins (PNW), John Squires (RMRS), (b)(6) (NAM).

The Chair called the meeting to order and a quorum of IACUC members was present. All research stations and non-affiliated members were represented. The November 2019 meeting agenda was approved by the Committee. The October 2019 draft meeting notes were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

DMR Updates:

- **2019-001** – *Connectivity for a sensitive carnivore within and beyond the Storrie Fire: Habitat modeling and field surveys for Pacific marten to identify target areas for forest restoration and improving wildlife connectivity in Lassen National Forest* (Lesmeister) – The PI made final modifications as requested by the Committee and the AR and SA were approved by DMR (DS, PK).

Annual Reviews

- **2016-015** – *Terrestrial Food Web Dynamics in Managed and Unmanaged Forests in Oregon* (Lesmeister/ LR = Klein). Termination of study. Study didn't start until following calendar year resulting in only two years of work. Most of the animals studied were mustelids (skunks). No adverse events reported. Study was terminated. Approved: Yes.
- **2017-016** – *Identifying Forage Fish of Marbled Murrelets in Washington* (Lorenz /LR= Stoleson). No adverse events reported. Captured fewer animals than expected in 2 years. Termination of study to be 12/31/2019. Approved: Yes, with caveat to amend AR if any more animals captured by 12/31/2019.
- **2018-002** – *Roosting and Foraging Ecology of Rare and Sensitive Coastal Bats* (Loeb /LR = Perry). Concurrence with Clemson University. No adverse events. Study was terminated. Approved: Yes.
- **2018-001** – *Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Study – New Stage* (Green-Purcell / LR= Squires). During field research this past year, the number of approved captures of ring-tails was exceeded and a new non-target species (bobcat) was captured/released unharmed. No adverse events occurred. The PI is amending maximum animal capture numbers and adding bobcat as non-target species to correct for under-estimation – see Significant Amendment (SA) below. Approved: Yes.

Significant Amendment

- **2018-001** – *Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Study – New Stage* (Green-Purcell / LR = Squires). SA is submitted to increase animal capture numbers and add bobcats as a non-target species. The PI noted this coming year will be the final year of the study. Approved: Yes.

IACUC Business

- IACUC Charter Status—No updates – awaiting IO notification
- IACUC Training Webinar (November 7, 2019) – Poor attendance and the webinar was not recorded (technical error). PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the IACUC Intranet. Question for the committee: What do you think happened that caused the low attendance? Announcements not distributed well enough in advance – need at least one month advance notice. Possible decline in new wildlife research within USFS. Will consider

repeating this webinar in January/February 2020 or present specific topic (Eg. Field Anesthesia or Field Euthanasia).

- 2019 USDA Annual Report— completed report was mailed to USDA last week but corrected data just received from a USFS researcher so amended report sent today. USDA notified of updated report submitted.
- Collection of annual animal numbers – currently have to collect 2 sets of numbers only for mammals covered by the USDA Animal Welfare Act reflecting 2 different annual reporting periods. One is for the USFS anniversary of study approval date; the other is for USDA fiscal year requirement. AV will contact USDA Animal Care for advice.
- Cat Whitteker (IA) will be on a 4-month detail starting November 25th.

Action Items for the next meeting

- Annual reporting schedule updates (mammals)
- At least one new proposal and 3 Annual Reviews anticipated.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cat Whitteker and Pat Klein

USFS R&D IACUC Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern
DRAFT SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Roger Perry (SRS), Dan Saenz (SRS), Scott Stoleson (NRS), Lief Gallagher (PSW), Pat Manley (PSW), Bruce Hansen (PNW), Frank McCormick (RMRS), (b)(6) (NAM), Todd Wilson (Chair), Patty Klein (AV)

The Chair called the meeting to order and a quorum of IACUC members was present. All research stations and non-affiliated members were represented. The December 2019 meeting agenda was approved by the Committee. The November 2019 draft meeting notes were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

Annual Reviews

- **2017-013** – *Conservation of North American bat species, nutritional requirements of insectivorous bats in Oregon* (Amelon/LR=Klein). The PI notified the AV by email that this study had been completed but did not submit the required USFS IACUC forms to document as requested. Communication with the PI has been difficult. The PI collaborates with U Missouri researchers and uses the university IACUC but is required to receive USFS IACUC concurrence on animal studies. The USFS Chair and IO have been made aware of this situation. The USFS Chair/AV plan to contact PI's supervisor and the U Missouri IACUC for follow up discussion.
- **2018-004** – *Small mammals and King Ranch bluestem (Bothriochloa ischaemum) at isolated prairies on the Sam Houston NF* (Schaefer/LR=Wilson). This study has been completed in Feb 2019. No adverse events reported. IACUC approved: Yes.
- **2018-005** – *Canada lynx resource use in recently burned landscapes* (Squires/LR=(b)(6)). Four snowshoe hares incidentally found dead in lynx traps. Included in state collection permit for harvesting hares to facilitate lynx capture. No other incidental events reported. IACUC approved: Yes.
- **2019-002** – *Aquatic Biota Inventory-Conserving Biodiversity, Strategies for the Future* (Barnett/LR= Hansen). Study focused on invertebrate crayfish but non-target fish incidentally captured and released without injury. List of IACUC approved non-target fish species provided. No adverse events reported. IACUC approved: Yes.

Significant Amendment

- **2018-005** – *Canada lynx resource use in recently burned landscapes* (Squires/LR=(b)(6)). Request to increase snowshoe hare harvest by state collection permit to use as bait to facilitate lynx capture. IACUC approved: Yes.
- **2019-002** – *Aquatic Biota Inventory-Conserving Biodiversity, Strategies for the Future* (Barnett/LR=Hansen). Request to add fish species (sunfish and darters) as target animals for capture to collect caudal fin tissue for DNA analysis. Tissue collection procedure described and additional references provided. PI to confirm same approved capture methods to be used and fish numbers listed are adequate. IACUC approved: Yes.

New Proposals

- **2020-001** – *Demography of Northern Spotted Owls in Oregon and Washington* (Lesmeister/LR=Gallagher). PI joined IACUC meeting to respond to several Committee questions. PI received list of additional questions and comments for proposal modifications. PI will submit revised proposal to be further reviewed by FCR at January IACUC meeting. IACUC Approval pending.

IACUC Business

- IACUC Charter Status – R&D Deputy Chief supports establishing IACUC Charter by IACUC Chair and IO signature approval. Final signed document will be posted on IACUC SharePoint site and IACUC Intranet.

Action Items for the next meeting

- 2020-001 revised proposal expected
- Any new proposals submitted (pending)

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM Eastern

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Klein