

**SMMC
Attachment
Item 12
August 27, 2007**



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-9944 Fax (323) 221-9934

August 27, 2007

Ms. Elizabeth Cheadle, Chairperson
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, California 90265

**Grant Application – Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Grant Request for
NPS Wildlife Poisoning Study**

Dear Chairperson Cheadle:

On behalf of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), I am submitting the enclosed application for grant funding from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the amount of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars).

The proposed grant would provide assistance to MRCA and the National Park Service for a collaborative study on the effects of anticoagulant rodenticide poisons on many species of wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. This is a critical conservation effort, which we hope will aid in ensuring the long term survival of predator species and preserving ecosystem health in and around the thousands of acres of parklands that have been acquired for preservation. If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Mr. Paul Edelman at (310) 589-3230, extension 128, or Ms. Rorie Skei at 310 589-3230, extension 112.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Berger".

Michael D. Berger
Chairperson

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Name: National Park Service Anticoagulant Poison Study on Wildlife in the Santa Monica Mts.	Amount of Request: \$ 15,000 Total Project Cost: \$204,000
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Applicant Name: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority	Amount of Match: \$ 189,000 Source of Match: NPS, UC, NSF, EPA, others
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Applicant Address: 570 West Avenue 26, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90065 Phone: 323-221-9944 Fax: 323-221-9934	Project Address: Various sites, SMMNRA <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">County</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Senate District</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Assembly District</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Ventura and Los Angeles</td> <td style="text-align: center;">various</td> <td style="text-align: center;">various</td> </tr> </table> Email: Paul.edelman@mrca.ca.gov	County	Senate District	Assembly District	Ventura and Los Angeles	various	various
County	Senate District	Assembly District					
Ventura and Los Angeles	various	various					

Grantee's Authorized Representative:
 Cara McLane, Contracts Officer 323-221-9944, x117

Name and Title *Phone*

Person with day-to-day responsibility for project:
 Paul Edelman, Chief of Natural Resources and Planning 310 589-3230, ext 128

Name and Title *Phone*

Brief Scope of Work (60 words maximum):
 Provide matching funds assistance for a National Park Service/Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area collaborative study on the deleterious effects of anticoagulant rodent poisons on a number of wildlife species critical for ecosystem health in area parklands and adjacent lands.

Funding Source Applied for: Conservancy Fund

Narrative/Project Description:
 National Park Service is studying effects of anticoagulant rodenticide poisons on wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains Natl.Recreation Area, with troubling indications that top carnivores are suffering from direct and cumulative effects. The NPS two-year study will determine the prevalence of the poisons, how they are getting into parkland natural ecosystems, how they are moving through the food chain, and will ultimately relay results and information to the public to hopefully reduce impacts on wildlife. Other collaborators and funders include the University of California at Davis Department of Veterinary Medicine, US Environmental Protection Agency, UCLA, National Science Foundation, NPS, and Western National Parks Association. A grant from the Conservancy to MRCA would allow the SMMNRA to continue with bobcat work in the Western Santa Monica Mountains, accelerate blood-based screening techniques, and expand small mammal/prey species monitoring. The SMMC grant is important to help secure matching funds from NPS and future year funding from the Western National Parks Association.

Tasks / Milestones:	Budget:	Completion Date
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1 Screening of prey species; bobcat and \$15,000 (not to exceed) June 30, 2009
mountain lion monitoring; blood
screening.

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Acquisition Projects: **APN(s):**
Acreage:

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Form SMM-001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE RESOURCES AGENCY



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:
N2219

August 17, 2007

Mr. Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265

Dear Mr. Edmiston:

As you know, scientists with the National Park Service (NPS) have been studying the effects of anticoagulant rodenticide poisons on wildlife and the Santa Monica Mountains. Results from this research have been troubling in that numerous wildlife species, including top carnivores such as mountain lions, bobcats, and coyotes, are apparently suffering from the effects of these toxicants. This is a critical conservation issue here and elsewhere, and we hope to continue our work to determine how prevalent these chemicals are across the landscape, how they are getting into the natural ecosystem, how they are moving through the food chain, and ultimately how we can relay information to the public to reduce impacts on wildlife. Funding in the amount of \$15,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy would be extremely helpful to fulfill these objectives. We are greatly appreciative of your consideration of this request.

Conservancy funds would support several initiatives currently underway to evaluate anticoagulant effects on wildlife, including efforts to mitigate potential impacts. In particular, our work includes several components:

- Collaborative research with the Department of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis to develop a simple blood test for measuring anticoagulant exposure in wildlife. Currently, such a screening process is not available and the most accurate measurements require analysis of liver tissues from dead animals.
- Regional screening of small mammals that are important prey for carnivores and raptors (e.g. woodrats, cottontail rabbits, etc.) across sites within the Santa Monica Mountains to determine the extent to which they have been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides.
- Surveys of residents, homeowner associations, and commercial applicators in the area about anticoagulants to determine the prevalence of anticoagulant use and the types and amounts of chemicals utilized. (This component of our work is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)
- Detailed monitoring of bobcats in remote areas of the Santa Monica Mountains to assess the scope and distribution of anticoagulant exposure in this species. The

monitoring will be coupled to ongoing work with bobcats in more fragmented habitats closer to the urban edge.

- Collaborative research with the Department of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis to investigate possible mechanisms for observed links between anticoagulant exposure and susceptibility to fatal cases of mange in mountain lions and bobcats. (We recently published a paper describing this association in the Journal of Wildlife Management.)
- Ongoing monitoring of mountain lions to assess potential anticoagulant impacts on this species.
- Collaborative research with UCLA to study toxicant exposure, disease, and population genetics of bobcats across a range of areas of varying fragmentation in the Santa Monica Mountains.

With funding from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, we will more effectively implement all research components, but specifically could begin work with bobcats in the western Santa Monica Mountains, accelerate research on blood-based screening techniques, and expand the scope of our small mammal work, so important for understanding impacts on carnivores and raptors which depend on small mammals as prey.

Funding from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will supplement significant monetary resources we have already secured for the work and will provide matching funds for future grants we hope to obtain. To date, our anticoagulant studies have received support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (supporting a post-doctoral researcher to conduct resident and applicator surveys), National Science Foundation (pre-doctoral fellowship to investigate toxicant exposure, disease, and genetics), Western National Parks Association (small mammal monitoring and blood-based screening techniques), National Park Service (bobcat monitoring and other project components), and significant in-kind support from UC Davis. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy funds will help secure future National Park Service grants and future year funding from the Western National Parks Association.

Thank you for your interest in this important research and for your consideration of our funding request. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at 805-370-2342 (woody_smeck@nps.gov) or you may contact Dr. Ray Sauvajot at 805-370-2339 (ray_sauvajot@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Woody Smeck
Superintendent