



WASHINGTON URBAN–WILDLAND CARNIVORE PROJECT

In partnership with the University of Washington



The Washington Urban–Wildland Carnivore Project is exploring ways to promote coexistence among humans and carnivores in King County. A collaboration between Woodland Park Zoo and the University of Washington, we research how carnivores respond to urbanization and human activity by studying where and when they occur, what they eat, and what happens to the system when apex carnivores are absent.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our study relies on placing wildlife monitoring cameras along the gradient of human development and activity in King County. This requires access to private property within our study area—meaning your yard! By allowing us to place a camera on your property you are not only helping conduct valuable scientific research, but you also get the opportunity to see what type of wildlife may be visiting your home!

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

- Your property should be contiguous or in close vicinity to some type of natural landscape such as a greenbelt, forest, park or other similar open space.
- There should be no physical barriers—such as fencing—that would prevent or impede animals from accessing the camera location.
- A field technician must be able to access your property once every 2–4 weeks to conduct camera maintenance. The technician will contact you 3–5 days before a scheduled camera check.
- Your property must be located within the study area shown on the following page.

Read the other side of this handout for more information about participating in the Washington Urban–Wildland Carnivore Project!



Do you want to see what's in your backyard?

If you'd like to participate in our research and have a camera installed on your property, please contact:

Michael Havrda
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences
University of Washington
Email: urbwild@uw.edu

Additional Information for Interested Participants

Interested in having a camera installed on your property, but want more details about what's involved? Please check out all of the additional information below!

CAMERA INSTALLATION

This project uses remote cameras (also known as trail cameras or “camera traps”) to collect information about carnivores. Camera installation is temporary: the camera is attached to a tree using a bungee cord and a locking cable. To prevent the camera’s motion sensor from being falsely triggered, the field technician may need to trim some small branches or remove brush that is within the camera’s field of view. Depending on the site, camera installation typically requires 30–60 minutes. You are welcome to observe the field technician during installation, but it is not required. The field technician will ask for your approval before selecting the final site, and before trimming any branches or brush.

CAMERA CHECKS AND REMOVAL

Cameras are typically checked 2–3 weeks after installation to ensure they are working properly. A camera check typically takes 15–30 minutes. You are welcome to be present with the field technician, but it is not required. The field technician will notify you 3–5 days before a scheduled camera check.

Camera removal is very simple: the field technician simply detaches the camera from the tree. Removal can typically be accomplished in fewer than 10 minutes. As with camera checks, the field technician will notify you 3–5 days before camera removal. The camera will be removed 4–6 weeks after installation.

PHOTO SHARING AND OWNERSHIP

You are welcome to view the photos with the field technician while they are checking the camera on your property. However, we are unable to share digital or hard copies of the photos while the research project is ongoing. After the project is complete, all photos from your property will be made available to you. The photos taken by the camera are the property of Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ) and the University of Washington (UW), and cannot be disseminated in any form without written consent from WPZ and UW.



PRIVACY

Your privacy is very important to us. We will never publish or make available your name, address or any other personal information.

ETHICAL USE OF INFORMATION

The University of Washington’s Office of Animal Welfare prohibits any knowledge gained from this research to be used for the purposes of hunting and/or trapping of animals.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

Please contact Michael Havrda via email at urbwild@uw.edu



CHECK US OUT IN THE NEWS!

Check out the King 5 news story “Urban Carnivores Tracked by Secret Cameras” online at www.zoo.org/conservation/urbanwildland