



Wildlife Conservation Society
North America Program
301 N. Willson Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

31 January 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you that as an ecologist, I have partnered and continue to partner with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to conduct a scientific study on population demographics, behavior, genetics, population size and trends, and other aspects of black bear ecology along the eastern slope of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains and adjacent Great Basin Desert in western Nevada since the mid-1990s. This study began when I was a graduate student at the University of Nevada-Reno working on my PhD and has continued to present. As a scientist, I am commenting here solely on the availability of rigorous data generated from objective, hypothesis-driven science in the state of Nevada on black bears. Findings and data from this study have been published in publicly available, peer-reviewed scientific journals. The data collected over the past 12+ years from this study of black bears affords managers and decision-makers within NDOW and the state of Nevada the opportunity to make management decisions based on scientific information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at jbeckmann@wcs.org.

Sincerely,

Jon Beckmann, PhD
Associate Conservation Scientist
Wildlife Conservation Society
North America Program