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1 University of New Mexico  
MSC03-2020  
Albuquerque, NM 87131.

23 May 2016.

Dear Joe,

I am writing to request a large loan of skin samples from small mammals on behalf of Dr. Angela Matz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who works at the Field Office in Fairbanks Alaska. I collected these skin samples in summer 2014 during my field sampling along the Kobuk River specifically at the request of Dr. Matz and Melanie Flamme to facilitate a project examining environmental contaminants through this region. As part of this effort, I explained that these NPS samples would be permanently archived at MSB but that I would help to facilitate a loan of materials for contaminants research once the project commenced, which it now has. This request therefore outlines the main goals of the project as far as my knowledge allows, and provides a list of samples requested. These skin samples consist generally of 1-2 sq. inches of skin with fur, attached to a small piece of blot paper. The protocol for contaminants sampling consists of shaving fur from the skin and using it to quantify environmental contaminants. As such, the fur is consumed in the process. I have indicated that any spare materials should be returned to MSB for potential use in other research endeavors. Dr. Matz has requested all available skin samples from the 2014 Kobuk River survey, given that specific quantities needed are not yet known. Methods may utilize all fur from a subsample of skins, or small amounts of fur pooled from all skins for analysis but this would depend on preliminary analyses yet to be determined.

Given pending industrial development through the Arctic (in particular potential construction of the Ambler Road to mineral beds in northwest Alaska) it is critical to get quantitative baseline data for environmental contaminants, pre-development. The major goal of this research will be to assess contaminants levels through analysis of small mammal fur. As Arctic development is likely to increase into the future to access natural resources, it will be critical to monitor and evaluate the effects of such development on local and regional environments, that may have implications for health and maintenance of local communities and ecosystems. This project is a first step in long-term evaluation of development that includes construction through Federal wilderness areas.

Money to fund this research has recently been obtained both for lab analyses and also for stipends to promote student involvement over summer 2016. With this timeline, the request if possible is for expedited processing of this loan to begin lab work in first half of June 2016. If the loan is granted, and given that it is for all available samples, we hope that loan processing effort will be minimal. Dr. Matz is an environmental contaminants specialist and fully qualified to conduct the proposed research, with a lab and resources capable of fulfilling specified goals.

The attached list of specimens includes all skin samples requested. It is understood that all non-used parts will be returned to MSB upon completion of the project goals, or if the project is discontinued. All publications resulting from this research will cite specimens by museum catalog number and recognize MSB as the curating institution for these resources.

Thank you in advance for considering this loan. If you require more detail on specific research methods or goals, please contact Dr. Matz ([angela\\_matz@fws.gov](mailto:angela_matz@fws.gov)). I will also be available to help further as necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew G. Hope", written in a cursive style.

Andrew G. Hope