



10 March 2015

Dear Joe & Jon,

I'm writing to request a loan up to 16 collared pika (*Ochotona collaris*) skulls from your collection for inclusion in a study of craniometric variation in collaboration with Hayley Lanier (U. Wyoming-Casper). We've already measured over 300 skulls from several institutions (UAM, USNM, UMMZ, FMNH, etc.), but there are several at MSB from areas where we don't yet have good representation (large enough numbers to test and control for sex dimorphism). This is why the below specimens were selected from MSB's collection.

We're using traditional morphometric methods to investigate patterns of geographic and sex variation. Specifically, we're interested in testing for Bergmann's rule and sex dimorphism. I will personally measure the skulls (I've measured thousands of small mammal skulls for various research projects). Funding from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is supporting this research, including FedEx shipping to and from lending institutions. The results will be submitted for publication and all specimens will be individually cited by either MSB catalog number or GUID.

Because we are only interested in adult specimens, and if you are agreeable, I would welcome your assistance in screening out subadults in order to minimize unnecessary specimen handling and transport. I have included a key to aging pikas based on the relative development of a ridge for muscle attachment on the lateral surface of the angular process of the dentary (as well as the publication it's based on); we are interested in any specimens with evidence of this ridge, which becomes evident near the end of a pika's first summer (when they attain full adult size).

If this request is approved, please use our FedEx account (522680028). Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Many thanks either way,

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