

**WY Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD) 2020 FIELD WORK POLICY – version 7 April 2020**

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In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, WYNDD recognizes three types of projects currently scheduled for field work in 2020:

I. Projects scheduled for field work starting before 1 July 2020, and that involve two or more people traveling in the same vehicle; and/ or operating in close proximity in the field; and/ or being housed together in the field and/ or in Laramie. **WYNDD WILL NOT PERFORM FIELD WORK ON THESE PROJECTS IN 2020.**

II. Projects as above but scheduled for field work starting after 1 July 2020. **PROJECT PI'S AND THE WYNDD DIRECTOR WILL JOINTLY EVALUATE WHETHER IT IS SAFE TO PROCEED ON THESE PROJECTS ON 1 JUNE 2020.** Given the potentially difficult logistics of hiring field technicians, acquiring necessary vehicles, and establishing Laramie or field-based housing on such a compressed time frame, PI's may elect in April or May 2020 to cancel all 2020 field work for these projects - the WYNDD Director will fully support such decisions. Alternatively, PI's can plan modifications to the scope and extent of the scheduled field work in order to perform it more safely (e.g., convert the work to a type III project, below), discuss those modifications with the WYNDD Director, and proceed on a new basis. The WYNDD Director will work to fully support PI decisions in this context as well.

III. Projects scheduled for field work at any time during 2020 and that involve only one person (or fully-independent "crews" of one person each) traveling and operating in the field; and camping on their own in the field; and housed in an established residence in Laramie in which they and all other residents have been practicing social distancing and other recommended procedures to avoid virus contraction. **WYNDD WILL PERFORM FIELD WORK ON THESE PROJECTS IN 2020 UNDER NEW PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES (OUTLINED BELOW).** Implementation of this policy shall not push any PI beyond his/ her comfort zone in project performance – PI's are directed to discuss concerns and possible modifications with the WYNDD Director and proceed with field work only when comfortable. The WYNDD Director will work to fully support PI decisions in this context.

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**NEW FIELD PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES.** These are in addition to the standard WYNDD field procedures (e.g., SPOT/ InReach use, posted contact schedules).

-- Field work will involve one person per vehicle. Each operator will acquire/ return, provision, and maintain their own vehicle, and operate in a fully "self-contained mode". No other person will enter the vehicle. Operators and PI's will place special emphasis on double-checking road access, as certain routes may be closed due to travel restrictions or other orders.

-- To the fullest extent possible, all personal, work, and vehicle provisioning will occur in Laramie and be performed only by the eventual vehicle operator using safe practices. These practices include mask and glove use when in public spaces; frequent handwashing and sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces; minimal contact with other people, and always at safe distances. Only the eventual operator will be involved in vehicle acquisition/ return and all gear provisioning, organization, loading/ unloading, and use.

-- The only reason field personnel will use high-traffic public spaces in the field is for necessary refueling of vehicles, which will utilize disposable gloves, card purchase at pumps, and full social distancing practices. This restriction puts a premium on forethought and planning, to prevent any need to use grocery stores or other facilities in the field. It will also require operators and PI's to plan carefully to ensure fuel stations are open and operating at critical sites.

-- Field housing is restricted to camping. Each camp will be single-person and adequately distanced from any adjacent camps.

-- Any contact with other people in the field will be at safe social distances. PI's and field personnel will work to eliminate the need for contacts with project partners in the field, conducting any necessary meetings by phone instead. In the event of an unavoidable or incidental contact in the field, safe distancing will be used at all times.

-- Upon return to Laramie, all material taken into the field will be cleaned and stored in an isolated area away from WYNDD offices and storage areas. Material will be isolated for a minimum of 3 days before it is returned to WYNDD offices or storage areas.

-- Regarding emergency or semi-emergency (e.g., vehicle towing, tire repair) services needed in the field: all standard WYNDD communication procedures apply, and field personnel will take reasonable steps to ensure safety from virus transmission and exposure under these circumstances. Such incidents will be reported immediately to PI's and the WYNDD Director for further considerations.

**EVERYTHING OUTLINED ABOVE MAY BE SUPERSEDED AT ANY TIME BY NEW ORDERS, RESTRICTIONS, OR MANDATES FROM WYNDD, UW, OR THE STATE OF WYOMING**