

# Laws, Regulations, and Permits associated with Fish & Wildlife Research

## Challenges from the National Park Service Perspective

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# Wildlife Experience

- Research Institutions
  - Multiple Federal Organizations
  - State Wildlife Agency
  - Academia
- Research and Management Projects
  - Disease ecology
  - Animal models
    - species susceptibility
  - Disease Surveillance





# Animal Use Programs

- Inventory & Monitoring
- Integrated Pest Management
- Population Management
- Research







# Challenges for NPS IACUC

- Established in 2010
- Over 400 locations
  - Training
  - Post approval monitoring
- Overlap in Permit Requirements
  - NPS, Federal and State
- Concurrent reviews with academic IACUCs
  - Different levels of expertise
  - Higher standards of care
- Consideration for impacts on non-target species
  - Including seasonal, environmental and visitor impacts
- Inventory and Monitoring Datasets
  - Ethical review for required for publications





# Manage Wildlife

NPS Policy – 2006

- If does not cause unacceptable impacts

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- Population is unnaturally high/low due to humans
  - Protect specific cultural resources
  - Protect rare, threatened or endangered species
  - Protect human health or safety
  - Protect property
  - Accommodate intensive development







# Research vs Management

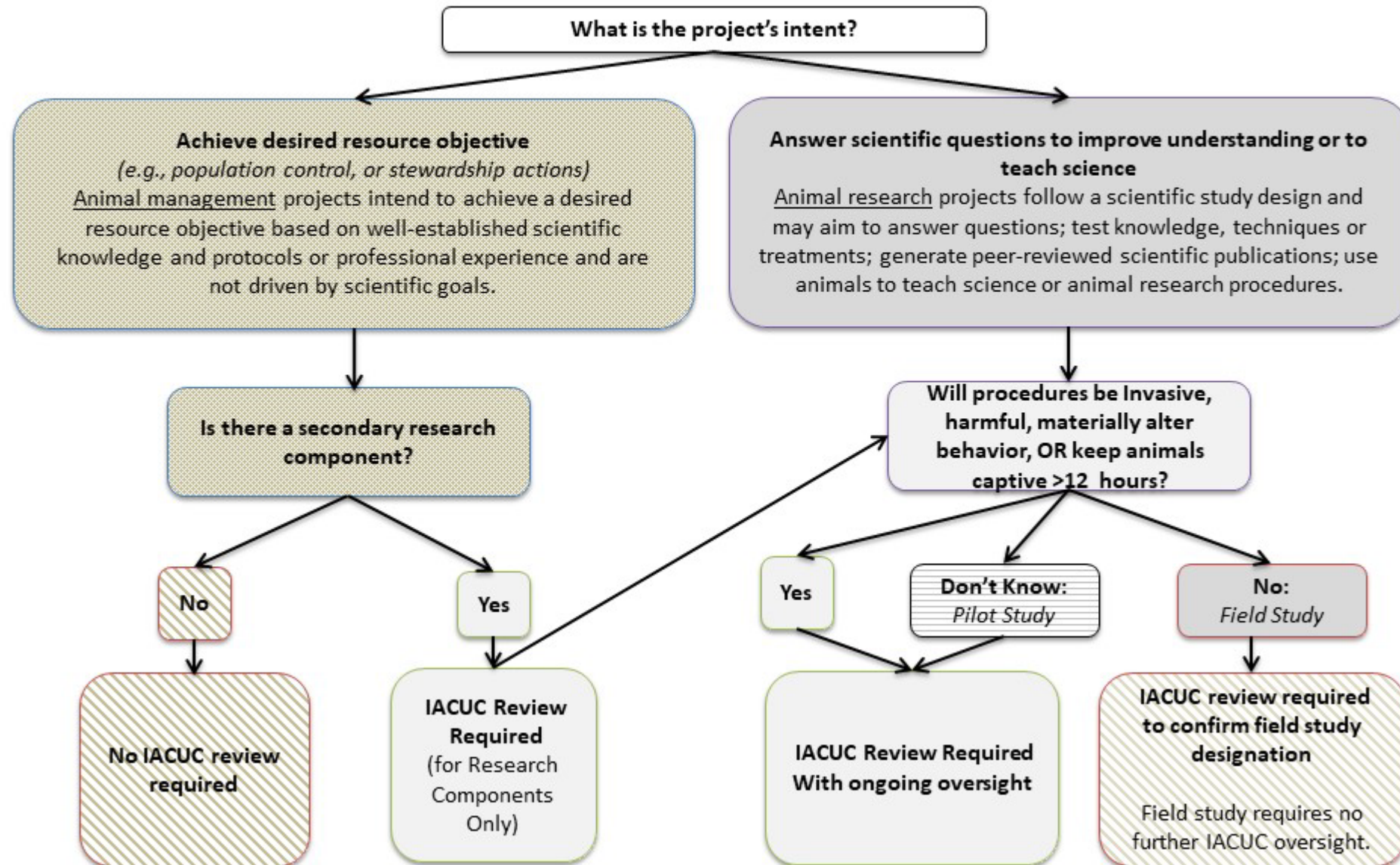
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The need for IACUC review and oversight

- Projects involving vertebrate species
- Poor distinction between research & management
- Lack of definitions
  - Management
  - Harm
  - Materially alter behavior
  - Momentary pain or suffering

## Determining need for IACUC review and oversight for animal use projects

The need for IACUC review and oversight of a project involving vertebrate animals is based on the **intent** of the proposed activities. According to **intent**, projects are classified as *research* or *management*. **Who** is conducting the work may also direct whether IACUC review is needed.





Scenarios

## **Tale of two Martens**

1. Captive bred marten released into park
2. Wild caught martens collared and released





# Achieve Desired Resource Objective

## Animal Management

- Projects intended to achieve park resource objectives
  - e.g. Population control, Stewardship actions
- Are based on well-established scientific knowledge protocols or professional experience
- Are **not** driven by research goals or questions

These do not require NPS IACUC review and oversight regardless of whether animals are harmed, undergo invasive procedures, or their behavior materially altered



# Answer Scientific Questions

## Animal research

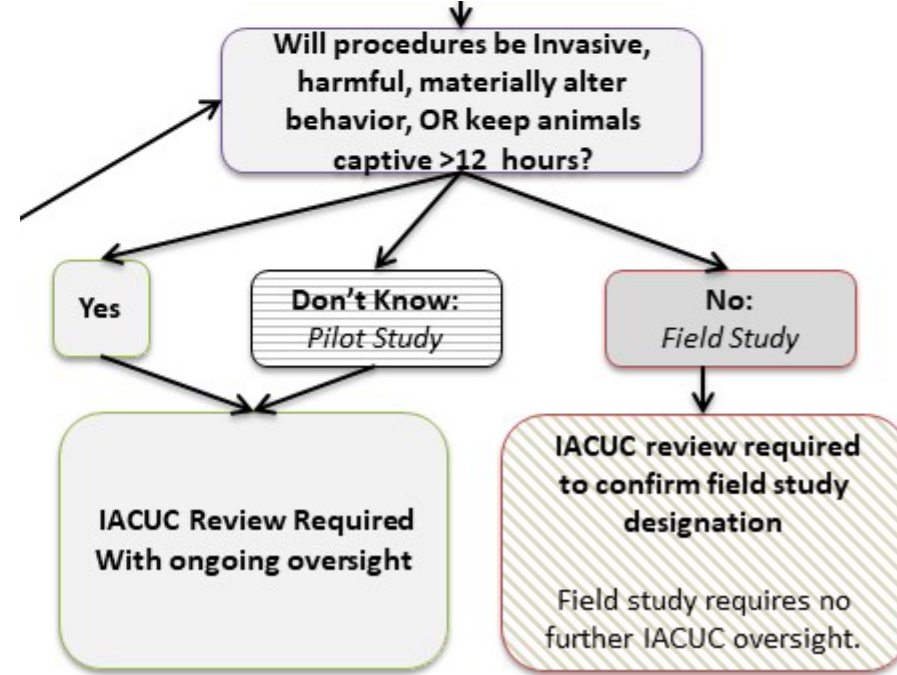
- To improve understanding
- Projects follow a scientific study
- May aim to answer questions
- Test knowledge, techniques or treatments
- Generate peer-reviewed scientific publications
- Use animals to teach science or animal research procedures





# Field Study

- Definition
- Tech Note

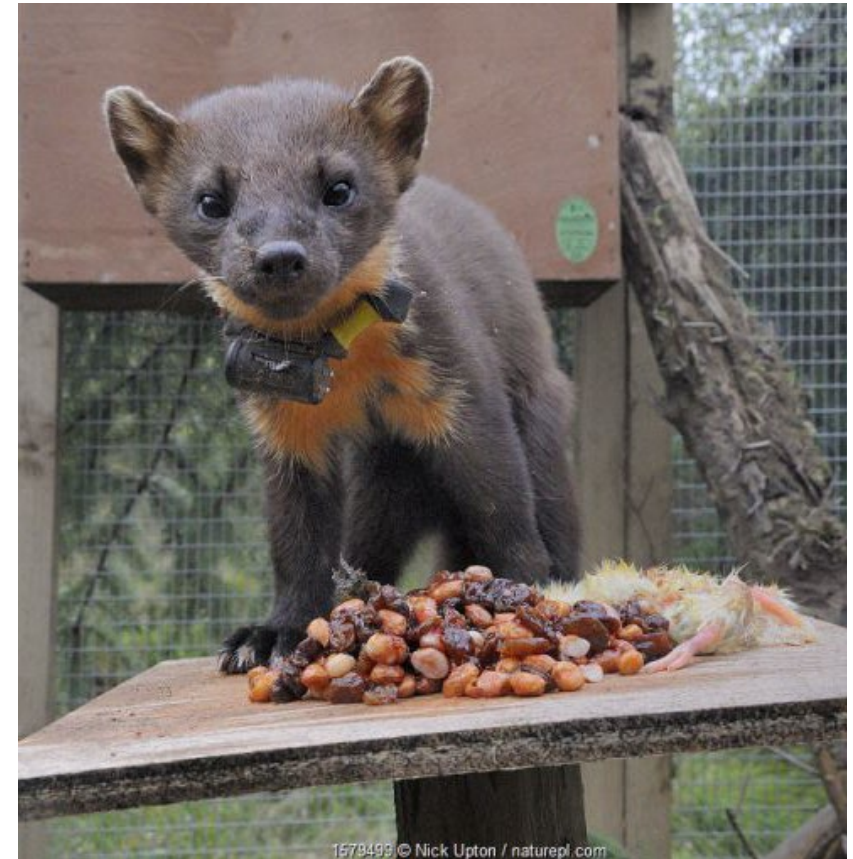


The screenshot shows a PDF document titled "Research Involving Free-Living Wild Animals in Their Natural Habitat" from the USDA. The header includes the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture". Below this is a banner with images of various animals and the title "Tech Note". The document is dated May 2021 and is part of the "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Animal Care" series. The main text explains that the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR) establish legal standards, and that a Tech Note is not legally binding but provides interpretative guidance. The document is intended to assist an Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee (IACUC) in determining

# Release and Reintroductions

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- Captive Research and Release
  - Generally does not occur in parks
  - Natural Resource stewardship
    - Impacts to other park resources
- Reintroductions
  - State and Federal regulations
- Treat and Release
- Decisions are made at the park level





# Reference Materials

## Research vs Management

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Lindsjo J, Cvek K, Spangenberg EMF, Olsson JN, Steen M. 2019. The Dividing Line Between Wildlife Research and Management – Implications for Animal Welfare. Front Vet Sci 6:13

## Animal Welfare – Wildlife Research

Paul E, Sikes RS, Beaupre SJ, Wingfield JC. 2015. Animal Welfare Policy: Implementation in the Context of Wildlife Research – Policy Review and Discussion of Fundamental Issues. ILAR J 56:3, 312-334.

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Mulcahy DM. 2003. Does the AWA apply to free-ranging animals? ILAR J 44:,252-258

## Publishing

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