

Wildlife Camera

Materials:

- Wildlife Camera-no-glo IR flash for least wildlife disturbance; range ≥ 70 ft; trigger speed less than 1 second. (ex. Browning)
- Security box, lock, key same brand as camera.
- Mounting strap, shims
- Identification tag
- Vegetation clippers/pruning saw
- Batteries for camera
- SD card (at least 32 GB)
- Measuring tape

Sampling summary:

- Set one camera parallel to beach by strata (restoration, natural, armored).
- Test camera visual range, turn on camera, set to still photos (not video).
- Leave camera at site for 48-96 hours (longer may fill SD card).
- Retrieve camera
- Sort photos and remove blanks and people or blur faces.
- Count number of captures per species per total trap hours.

Data to record in the field:

Date, time, site name, strata, GPS coordinates of camera, camera unique name/number, detection range

Data to record in analysis:

Date, time, site name, organization, strata, GPS coordinates, total trap hours, species detected, detections/total trap hours.



Remote sensing wildlife cameras provide information about wildlife use of shoreline environments including species richness, behavior, and frequency of use. This protocol is for analysis of wildlife not humans (people require special permissions and permits).

Methods:

Camera setup: Set camera at or above MHHW and at least 4 feet above ground with view parallel to waterline. Use shims to angle camera view downward if needed. Cut vegetation to prevent swaying branches in view. Avoid setting camera facing due south to avoid backlit photos. Test detection range if camera feature is available (otherwise assume based on manufacturer reported value). Set time, date, camera id number. Turn on camera and leave for 48-96 hrs.

Camera retrieval: If only conducting one round of captures turn off camera and retrieve it from the field. If conducting multiple camera capture sets, bring extra SD card and batteries. Check battery level, if less than 60% replace batteries. Turn off camera, take out old SD, put in new SD. Turn on camera and confirm date/time are correct.

Camera upload: Upload all photos to a hard drive. Confirm start and end dates. Calculate total camera trap hours.

Photo sorting: Manually sorting photos is possible but not recommended. Wildlife Insights (wildlifeinsights.org) is an application available by registration that can be used to help automatically sort photos. It reliably identifies wave tripped photos as blanks and blurs human faces.