

Ad Hoc Sample Policy – Accepting Samples from Private Citizens or NGOs.

Our lab works with over 50 different partners across the political spectrum. One reason we can work with so many partners is that we try to remain unbiased; our goal is to provide the best information for managers to act upon.

Because we work on a national and international scale, we don't always have the personal contact with people providing samples to the lab. Thus, we cannot vouch for their intentions, integrity, or skills in keeping samples uncontaminated in the field. To protect our lab and the results of all of our collaborators, we have enacted the following laboratory policy:

All ad hoc samples (i.e., samples not part of an ongoing project) will need to be submitted to the laboratory from a branch of a State, Tribal or Federal Agency. Results will be reported back to the agency.

This doesn't mean that we won't collaborate with NGOs on research projects; in fact, we have quite a few successful collaborations. However, these projects are built on personal relationships that have developed over time, and we both have instituted appropriate collection methods and safeguards.

We realize that this request to work through a local agency is an extra step that is time consuming, but for everyone's best interest it is important to keep in place.

We also ask that if anyone is submitting an ad hoc sample to the lab they use the chain of custody form found on our website:

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/wildlife/genetics/pdfs/CHAIN_OF_CUSTODY_RECORD.pdf
(Having this record has served well in the court cases that we have been involved with).

In addition, for best recommendations on how to handle samples please see:

http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/wildlife/genetics/pdfs/SchwartzPilgrimDNA_tissue_storage_12_12_06.pdf .

Thanks

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