

January 15, 2012

Re: Report to the Langara Research Council

Dear LRC,

The main goal of my research project was to research and write a general interest book about conservation biology for *Greystone Books*, one of Canada's most prestigious publishers. The research project was entirely successful in that a first draft of the book, *The Endangered Species Road Trip*, was submitted to the publisher on January 3rd, 2012. The book is scheduled to be published on March 22, 2013; see Amazon posting [here](#). The much appreciated LRC funding was used to offset the very significant travel and equipment costs associated with the book's research.

In addition to the completed first draft, several additional tangibles have already resulted from the project including the publication of four articles in *The Vancouver Sun*. The first article, [*A family searches for endangered species*](#) (June 11, 2011), gives a good overview of the whole project. The second article, *Summer heat dulls the thrill of the hunt* (July 16), details my attempt to see an endangered Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan. The third article, *Rescued rarities go to boot camp* (August 13), documents the Ontario portion of the continental road trip. The fourth article, *Polar bears, on the cheap* (November 12), is about a separate trip to Churchill, Manitoba. Additionally, I have given presentations at the West Vancouver Memorial Library, Laura Secord Elementary School, and Brock House. The looming book launch will also involve significant publicity—more articles, speaking engagements, and book reviews.

Importantly, the project was also directly related to the courses I teach at Langara. As a result, I have updated the information and images for all of my courses. In particular, the delivery of *Biology 1218: Biodiversity and Conservation Biology* and *Biology 2380: Introduction to Ecology* will be dramatically improved as a result of this research project. I also look forward to giving an on-campus presentation about the project in the near future.

If the LRC requires more information about the project, please do not hesitate to contact me. There is a 70,000 word manuscript available for your perusal that flushes out all of the details that I omitted from this brief report. I greatly appreciate the many opportunities Langara provides to its instructors, particularly the ability to, on occasion, pursue our academic passions. It is a good place to work.

Sincerely,

Cameron MacDonald
Biology Department



Spotted
owl,
Roseburg,
Oregon

California condor (adult), South of Big Sur



Desert tortoise, North of California City



Bristlecone Pine, White Mountains,
California



Black-tailed prairie dog, Badlands NP





Plains bison, Yellowstone



Vancouver Island Marmot
with handler at Toronto Zoo

Kirtland's Warbler, Mio, Michigan



Black vultures, Everglades



Karner Blue Butterfly, Wilton, NY



Belugas, Gulf of St. Lawrence



Polar bear, Churchill, MB

