



Wildlife Science in Yosemite: Wildlife Tracking

There are many ways that **wildlife biologists** find out new information about the animals they study. One of them is by **tracking wild animals**.

Biologists use tracking devices in the form of **collars, tags, or tiny antennas** to track wild animals. This gives biologists the ability to find out more information about where animals are moving, how large of an area they use, and what kind of habitat they use.

Some tracking devices send **GPS points** directly to biologists, and tell them where tagged animals are moving every hour. Other devices store data and biologists have to retrieve the data later. Still other trackers don't collect GPS data, but instead, help biologists locate animals by putting out a **radio signal (telemetry)**. This signal can be picked up using a radio receiver and an antenna, like in the picture here!

Biologists make sure that tracking devices weigh less than 3% of an animal's body weight, and that they are made of smooth, safe materials, so that they **do not harm wildlife**. The information biologists collect by tracking wildlife helps better **understand and protect** many species within the park!

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