

Telluride Valley Floor Citizen Scientist Wildlife Monitoring Project

Project Background:

The goal of this project is to understand if and how the fauna populations are changing in response to other changes on the Telluride valley floor, including re-routing of the river, climate changes, the introduction of invasive plants, and recreational use. This project focuses specifically on the elk and the river otter populations.

How to contribute:

When you are on or near the Telluride valley floor. If you see elk or river otter, take a couple of minutes to report your observation. Ideally, use the free, user-friendly iNaturalist app (instructions on the back).

Elk: We know that elk frequent the Telluride valley floor. Our question is, how many elk are there and how many of them are young. When you see elk on the valley floor follow these simple steps...

1. Snap a photo on your smart phone.
2. Try to get a rapid count of how many there are. You may not get an exact number if they are moving if there is vegetation in the way. Just get an estimate.
3. Count how many are young elk, based on their smaller size.
4. Repeat your counts (total and young) several times or until you lose sight of the elk. Use your multiple counts to give your best estimate of the total number of elk and the number of young.
5. Upload your photo(s) to iNaturalist using the free phone app OR your computer
 - a. Species Name = Elk = Wapiti = *Cervus canadensis*. This goes in “*What did you see*” on the phone app.
 - b. Use the ‘Notes’ field to describe how many adults and young you saw .

OR – if you’d rather not submit a photo, simply email how many adults and young you spotted, the time and date, and the approximate location to jeremy@mountainstudies.org.

River Otter:

1. Snap a photo on your smart phone. If you don’t get a photo of the otter, take a photo of the location that you spotted it.
2. Upload your photo(s) to iNaturalist using the free phone app OR your computer
 - a. Species Name =North American River Otter = common otter = *Lontra canadensis*. This goes in “*What did you see*” on the phone app.
 - b. Use the ‘Notes’ field to give any details you can about the observation.

Need Help?

If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact jeremy@mountainstudies.org

Instructions for Observation Submission

You can submit observations in three different ways:

- A.** Use the iNaturalist app on your smartphone.
- B.** Upload observations to iNaturalist.org on your computer.
- C.** Email your observations to jeremy@mountainstudies.org Using options (A) or (B) are preferred.

A. Use a smart phone – This is the easiest, most useful way to contribute. Use the app even when you don't have service to take photos and record GPS coordinates. When you get back to service or wifi you can upload your observations.

- a. Turn on the 'location' services on your phone (phone model specific). This is likely found in your 'Setting' under 'Privacy' and 'Location' or 'Location Services'. If you have trouble finding it, try searching 'How to turn on location services on [your phone model]' in a search engine to find instructions. Without the location services on, the coordinates of your photo will be lost making the observation .
- b. Download and install iNaturalist (green bird logo) on your phone using Google Play or AppStore.
- c. Swipe through the intro screens, reading to learn about the program.
- d. When you get to 'Let's get started!', select 'skip for now'.
- e. Sign up (free and fast) with an existing email address (or facebook , or google+ account)
 - Enter your email address, and create a password and username, then press 'Sign up'
 - OR** choose 'skip' and move on to step (g).
- f. *Preferred – Join the Telluride Valley Floor Monitoring project. If you identify one of our target species in our region, it will automatically populate our project, so this step is preferred but not required.

Android phones	Apple phones
i. Press the three horizontal lines in the top left	i. Select 'More' in the bottom right
ii. Select 'Projects'	ii. Select 'Projects' or skip to step (iii) if not found
iii. Press the magnifying glass 'Search' icon in the top right and search for 'San Juan Mountains Rocky Mountains Bighorn Sheep Monitoring'	iii. Press the magnifying glass 'Search' icon in the top right and search for 'San Juan Mountains Rocky Mountains Bighorn Sheep Monitoring'
iv. Select the project and press 'Join'	iv. Select the Project and press 'Join'

- g. Make an observation: Press the 'observe' or 'make an observation' button (phone model dependent)
 - i. Assuming you have already taken the photo, select 'choose image' or the photo icon and pick a photo from your phone
 - ii. Tap on 'Notes' to write a comment telling what you saw, including how many adult and young elk. The more information the better.
 - iii. IMPORTANT: Tap on 'What did you see?' to enter the species' name.
 - Elk – Wapitit - ***Cervus canadensis***
 - North American River Otter – ***Lontra canadensis***
 - iv. To submit your observation (when you have data or wifi service) hit the check mark in the top right corner or the green 'Share' button.

B. Use a camera (and optionally a GPS) and upload the information on a computer – Take photos with any digital camera and, optionally, record your location coordinates with a GPS unit or your smart phone. Upload your photos online to iNaturalist.org. Create a free login using an existing email address. Then 'Add Observations' referencing *step g* of the smartphone instructions above.

C. Email - This option is not the preferred method, but if you cannot use the iNaturalist app or website, simply email your observation (and photos if you have them) to jeremy@mountainstudies.org. If it is an elk observation, include total number and how many young elk you observed.