



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY – DIVISION OF MAMMALS  
DESTRUCTIVE SAMPLING APPLICATION

Destructive sampling includes, but is not limited to: anatomical dissection; parasite removal; hair plucking; and the taking of bone, dried muscle, skin, and other tissue samples for genetic, isotopic, or any other analysis. Requests for frozen tissues are not considered “destructive” because these materials were specifically collected for consumptive use. Please use a [tissue request form](#) for frozen tissue requests. Destructive sampling requests are granted at the discretion of a committee based on a balance of the merits of the proposed research, the overall destructiveness of the sampling, and the amount of staff time required to process the request.

Please note that we do not loan specimens for destructive sampling. Samples must be taken on site under the supervision of Division of Mammals staff. Samples are then subsequently loaned to a permanent staff member of the requestor’s institution. Loans are typically granted for a period of 6-12 months and will remain open until the following are provided:

- 1) Return of remaining samples and extracts or written notification that the samples were fully consumed in analysis.
- 2) A spreadsheet listing USNM specimen numbers and corresponding GenBank numbers if applicable.
- 3) Copies of any publications resulting from analysis, or else a statement explaining that results were inconclusive and that no publications are expected.

SECTION I – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Researchers must acknowledge that they have read and accepted the [terms and conditions](#) of this policy before requests may be considered.

**Have you read and accepted the terms and conditions of our tissue and destructive sampling policy?**

YES  NO

SECTION II - RESEARCH TEAM

**Requester:** (The person accepting responsibility for the loan. If the requester is a student or non-permanent faculty member, an advisor or faculty sponsor must be named to accept responsibility for the request.)

Name and Title:

Education:

Professional Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

**Advisor/Sponsor:**

Name and Title:

Education:

Professional Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

**Collaborators: (include all)**

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| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

**Lab and lab manager where analysis will be performed:**

Name and Title:

Education:

Professional Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

**SECTION III - RESEARCH QUESTION AND SPECIMENS**

**Purpose and scientific merit of the proposed research.** What is your research question and how, specifically, do the requested specimens fit into your research? Where do you intend to publish your results? (1000 words or less)

**Purpose and scientific merit of the proposed research (Continued)**

**Specimens requested.** List the specimens you wish to destructively sample by USNM number (preferably). Attach an excel spreadsheet if requesting more than five specimens. Priority will be given to requestors who have visited the collections and examined specimens to determine their suitability for sampling.

**Type specimens.** Are you requesting samples from the type collection? If yes, provide details, knowing that we only approve such requests under special circumstances and with compelling justification.

YES  NO

Details:

**Permits.** Are you requesting samples listed under CITES, ESA, MMPA or that are subject to other restrictions? If yes, provide details:

YES  NO

Details:

**International shipping.** Will you need to have samples shipped internationally? If yes, provide details:

YES  NO

Details:

**Frozen tissue repositories.** Please detail your efforts to source materials from frozen tissue repositories. List all frozen tissue repositories contacted and the status of all requests.

**Explain why NMNH specimens are needed.** Have any other collections been approached and what are the statuses of these requests?

**Prior Requests.** Have you or any member of your research team received permission to destructively sample NMNH specimens at any time in the past?

YES  NO

If yes, provide an update on the status of the research involving these samples including all published results and the final disposition of any unused samples or products if not already done. As per the terms of USNM loans, remaining samples and extracts must be returned. A spreadsheet listing USNM numbers and corresponding Genbank numbers should be sent to the Division of Mammals along with copies of any resulting publications. Loans of samples will remain "OPEN" until these conditions are met.

Details:

#### SECTION IV - METHODS

**Sampling methods.** Discuss the tissue type desired (bone, hair, dried skin, etc.), your reasons for requesting this type of tissue, your methods for extracting the sample (drill, punch biopsy, etc.), and some measure of the size of sample desired and justification for the number and quantities requested. A photograph of previous sampling with scale is very useful to the collections management staff for evaluation of requests. Please also include the name(s) of the person(s) who will actually perform the destructive sampling.

**Lab Protocols.** Discuss your lab protocols giving specific justification for the number of samples and the quantities of tissue desired. Please elaborate on your experience and competence with these protocols. Include any publications that demonstrate successful extractions using the same techniques, sample types and quantities.