

The project will involve using a GPS unit to navigate to the plot center of the camera site and then finding a suitable location within a 300 ft radius of the plot center to place a camera. Cameras will be mounted to trees and will be monitored 1-2 times a month to insure that cameras are working properly and to retrieve/download images from the camera card.

We hope to schedule a half-day training session for perspective volunteers in early May 2016 at which point we will try to set up teams. Cameras will be set out between May 1st and mid-September.

**If you are interested in this project, please contact Wildlife Biologist Tom Davis**

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Phone: 540-745-9663**



Centennial Goal: Connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates.

**Blue Ridge Parkway, Division of**



**Resource Management & Science**

**National Park Service  
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**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Blue Ridge Parkway**



## **Cameras “Capture” Wildlife on the Blue Ridge Parkway**



Hands-on learning about the Parkway's Biodiversity

**Division of Resource Management and Science**

**Spring/Summer 2016**



## What stalks the Blue Ridge Parkway?

Through a project funded by the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation the National Park Service is trying to determine just that! Using heat and motion sensor cameras, park biologists, and soon a cadre of “citizen scientists” are setting up “camera traps” at locations throughout the 470-mile route of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The cameras are mounted to trees and capture photos of animals as they walk in front of the camera.

To date, biologists along the Parkway have “captured” more than 25,000 images of 35 species of animals including: black bear, coyote, bobcat, red and gray fox, white-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, wild turkey, red-tailed hawk, barred owls and even a great blue heron! On the southern end of the Parkway near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, we have even captured photos of elk and European wild hogs.

## Why is this study important?

The Blue Ridge Parkway runs for nearly 470 miles and connects Shenandoah National Park with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Blue Ridge Parkway extends almost 4 degrees in longitude and 2 ½ degrees in latitude, giving the Parkway the third largest geographic range of any unit in the National Park System. Further, with an annual visitation of over 15 million people, the Parkway is one of the most visited units of the National Park Service in the country!

The Blue Ridge Parkway travels through the heart of the southern Appalachian Mountains—one of the most biologically diverse regions on the planet! As a result, the Parkway forms a unique transect from which to study biodiversity and the role and impact of people on the regions unique biological diversity.

Through the use of “wildlife cameras” park biologists hope to study not only what animals call the Parkway home, but the role that humans play in influencing wildlife along the Parkway corridor. The cameras will hopefully give us a clearer “picture” of the health of the southern Appalachian ecosystems and habitats along the Parkway.



This Project is funded by the  
Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation



To learn more about this and other Blue Ridge Parkway Partners, please visit:

<http://nps.gov/blrsupportyourpark>

Over the next several years, park staff will be working with a number of our partner organizations including the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway to train volunteer “citizen scientists” on how to set up and monitor cameras. We hope to place cameras at study sites along the entire 470-mile corridor of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

While we consider this a serious scientific endeavor, there’s nothing that says you can’t have fun while carrying out science! One of the best things about this project is that you never know what you’re going to capture on camera!

## We are looking for Citizen Scientists!

The Blue Ridge Parkway is looking for volunteer “Citizen Scientists” to help set out and monitor the wildlife cameras. If you don’t mind getting outside three or four times a month and walking/hiking in the rugged terrain along the Blue Ridge Parkway and are interested in what animals might lurk along the Parkway please consider volunteering for this project. Volunteers will work in groups of 2-3 people to set out and monitor 1-2 cameras each over a month’s time.

