

WILDLIFE DNA PROGRAM

Solid scientific data is one of the foundations for wildlife management under the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. Since guide outfitters reside in their territory the “majority of the time,” they are in a unique position to gather information on wildlife. To capitalize on guide outfitters knowledge and fill the need for quality information, the GOABC was prompted by Dr. Marco Marra, of the Genome Sciences Centre, to initiate its own scientific data collection program. The GOABC funded DNA program provides a meaningful opportunity for outfitters to get involved in wildlife management and participate in citizen science by having them collect DNA samples from the animals they have harvested.

DNA sequencing can provide insight into landscape genetics, wildlife demographics and evolutionary processes. It can help to monitor population health, size, and identify important environmental factors which can affect management and conservation plans for the wildlife species.

GOABC members have been supplied with DNA Collection Kits to use for collecting blood samples from the animals they harvest since the program began in 2012. It is a relatively simple but important step of putting two drops of blood on a FTA (sample) card. The resulting samples have been cataloged and properly stored at GOABC until the next phase of DNA sequencing can begin. By contributing to the collection of wildlife DNA samples, guide outfitters are able to add valuable resources and data to aid in the development of regulations and allocations.

Technology is continuously evolving, allowing us to refine our understanding of wildlife and the habitat they rely on. By learning how to use these new technologies, and working with professional biologists and wildlife managers, the GOABC is embracing a long-term vision for how we manage wildlife.

TO DATE: 1,700 FTA cards purchased since 2012



