NWP uses the best scientific research and conservation planning to find ways to conserve linked—or physically connected—wild areas, benefiting plants and animals that need connected landscapes for migration and population health. We call this programmatic area Linking Landscapes for Wildlife.

One way we do this is by using motion-sensitive cameras to learn more about the wildlife movements and activities in key linkages. NWP has been taking photographs of wildlife in southern Nevada with these cameras for more than a year. So far we have "captured" bobcats , coyotes , lizards, bighorn sheep, the occasional bird and humans. We check cameras monthly and download the photos for documenting wildlife activities in key areas.

Last week, NWP staff went to recover photographs and found that humans had vandalized two cameras! Someone, and were not saying who (although we have a photo that might "show who"), had taken the memory cards from our two most productive locations. Fortunately, they left the pricey cameras behind, but the loss of a month of photographs puts a hole in our data collection.

Here are a couple of photos we were able to recover on the built-in memory of the cameras. The photo of the bighorn sheep is a great example of what we want to gather with these cameras. The other is a shot of someone looking under the camera… not that we're jumping to any conclusions.

Tip for card-thieves: the cameras revert to built-in memory when the data card is removed from the device.

12/06/2010 7:17 PM

12/04/2010 12:18 AM