



*U.S. Geological Survey Manual*

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_)

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Potential Survey Participant,

The U.S. Geological Survey requires employees to obtain written permission from landowners in certain cases before entering onto private property to conduct new surveys or scientific sampling. Consequently, we are hereby requesting your approval to enter your land for the purpose described below. The data and/or samples collected will be used for scientific purposes and will be provided to you upon request. We are looking specifically to sample properties within the highlighted region on the attached map at the end of this document.

Specific information regarding this request is as follows:

1. Surveys will take place between August 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup> for no longer than three hours. Dates and times for surveys will be organized with the landowner who will also be notified before arrival.
2. One vehicle will be used to drive to the home but will not be physically on the residential property.
3. 1-2 researchers will be present for each survey.
4. Contact Researcher: Troy M Koser – 2327 University Way, Suite 2, Bozeman, MT 59717. Phone: 5013582807. Email: tkoser@usgs.gov.
5. Surveys will involve researchers conducting tick drags where they drag 1 square meter segments of cloth across vegetation and extract any ticks attached to the cloth.
6. Sampling will take place in the front or back yards where winter ticks would be present.

We will make every effort to minimize disturbance or disruption to your property. However, in the unlikely event that property damage results, you are entitled to file a claim to recover your damages (tort claim).

If you consent to this request, please sign below and return to researchers upon a scheduled visit or mail to Troy Koser at the above address or email a signed copy to the above email address. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Troy Koser

Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Signature

## Winter Tick Sampling Area

The highlighted area shows where researchers would like to sample properties for winter ticks.

Legend



