Dogs possess a superb sense of smell. They have roughly 125-220 million olfactory sensory cells. We have about 5 million.
WDC is based in Montana, USA with a satellite office in California.
What we look for

• Animal fecal matter (scat): for DNA, diet and contaminants analyses
• Live animals (e.g., tortoises, snakes)
• Invasive plants and insects
• Threatened plants and, sometimes indirectly, the species that depend on them
• Snares, bushmeat, contraband
Monitoring environmental contaminants in freshwater sentinel species

Photo: ThomasLeePhoto.com
This is how a dog-handler team thoroughly covers their search area.
Refined detail searches are also conducted. Here, Alice and Tsavo are looking for invasive rosy wolf snail in Hawaii.
Only a select number of dogs possess the traits needed for this type of detection work.
Conservation dogs are in a class of their own...

- Non-instinctual targets
- Low prey-drive, moderate nerve strength
- Long duty cycles
- Simultaneously search for multiple targets
- Variable reward opportunity
- Seek many targets over career
They are all toy-obsessed and work for their reward.
The dogs indicate a find by passively alerting = sitting (somewhat) quietly

Photo: Nancie Battaglia

Moose scat

Gorilla dung

Mink scat (behind him)
We never seem to get the toy out quickly enough for them!
It’s rewarding for us too.
Our work takes us to truly beautiful places...

...all over the world
Many where few have ventured before

Photo: Bryan Peterson
Dogs provide a unique context for engaging about conservation. Sometimes ours are the first ones people have ever touched or interacted with. They always leave a lasting impression!
All our dogs live with us, their handlers

...they are an essential part of our lives
We are proud to partner with these exuberant dogs to efficiently and noninvasively address the most pressing conservation issues today.

www.workingdogsforconservation.org
info@workingdogsforconservation.org