From:	Chris_Perez@fws.gov
To:	Darrel VanderZee
Cc:	Bryan_Winton@fws.gov; Mitch_Sternberg@fws.gov
Subject:	Re: Camera Design Question
Date:	Friday, June 03, 2011 9:00:04 AM

Dear Mr. VanderZee:

The answer to your question is that it all depends:

1. My first concern would be how it would affect battery performance? Would it take a single GPS reading and then "geotag" each image or would it be constantly recording locations the whole time the camera is in operation, even if the camera is stationary for weeks or months at a time? Right now, I really love the new PC900s because with lithium batteries I no longer worry about battery changing or charging! However, If this feature steals too much power, it probably would not be a good idea; especially since, we usually carry a GPS unit with us anyway.

2. Would GPS data also be stored on the SD card and if so, would it take up alot of space?

3. If it prints the location on each pic, that might be nice but some camera placements (at least most of the locations where we place cameras) are in really dense, heavy brush; sometimes against a tree trunk. Would this feature work in those situations? I think rarely, you would have a camera out in the open where you might obtain the best satellite signals!

4. I'm wondering if it did have a GPS feature, could you then track it down in the event it is stolen? This would be similar to cell phones with a GPS feature that, as long as the phone is on, you can track the location online...

In general, although it wouldn't hurt to have it store locations on each pic, from my experience I don't think it's a very necessary option. Nonetheless, if it is decided to add this feature, I think the user must be able to turn the geotag feature on or off and also have the option to "geotag this location for all images until cam is reset." Perhaps, this feature would only take a new GPS reading if the unit is moved (and not if the signal is weak or interrupted). Otherwise, it will take a GPS reading once and "geotag" each image with that location until the unit is moved or turned off to reset (e.g., to change the SD card, batteries, or move to a new location).

Some additional comments based on field deployments of the PC900Hyperfire:

1. It would be nice if it was also available in camo green.

2. The back could use some more "spikes" so it will better grab a wooden stake mount or a thin tree trunk.

3. I would like to see an "adapter" plate that you could screw onto the back of the unit but slightly wider that would add some better attachment points (like the wings on the old PC90s); perhaps with some curve to it to fit a small tree trunk!!

4. Sometimes the morning dew will blur pictures taken in the morning but I'm not

sure what could be done about it, perhaps a certain lens coating?

Hope this helps...

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Darrel VanderZee <darrel@reconyx.com>

Darrel VanderZee <darrel@reconyx.com>

06/02/2011 03:34 PM

To darrel <darrel@reconyx.com>
cc
Subject Camera Design Question

We greatly value your input regarding the features that we build into our products. That being said, we are considering adding a GPS module to our Professional Series Cameras sometime in the future. This would allow the camera to automatically GeoTag images with GPS coordinates (assuming good GPS satellite signal strength where the camera is mounted).

In your opinion, would it be worth $50 per camera in additional cost for this feature? If we do this, it will be a standard feature on all professional cameras - it will not be an optional upgrade. So the question is, would you like to see us add GPS capability to all of our Professional Series Cameras?

Thanks for taking the time to help us with our future product planning.

Darrel VanderZee
General Manager
RECONYX, Inc.