

Progress Report
Loyalton-Truckee Deer Herd Capture, Collars and Telemetry Flights
(Funded by DHMPIP 2008-2011; BGMA 7/1/13 and on)

Project Summary-

This DHMPIP project was part of a larger study that began in 2009. CDFG partnered with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and Save Open Space around Glenshire, with funding support from The Martis Fund, the Truckee-Tahoe Airport and the Mule Deer Foundation to evaluate the migration of mule deer in the Verdi sub-unit (VSU) of the Loyalton-Truckee Deer Herd. This funding purchased seven GPS collars, which were deployed via ground darting in fall of 2009.

To date, twenty-seven mule deer have been collared from the VSU. Seven collars are Sirtrack satellite collars, the other nineteen are ATS GPS. One deer died early on and the collar was re-deployed resulting in two datasets for that frequency. Over 50,700 data points have been collected. Two satellite collars remain active until spring of 2013, one satellite collar is lost and one GPS collar failed to drop and the must be found visually and re-darted. A concurrent trail camera study is being conducted on land surrounding the proposed Canyon Springs Development in the heart of deer winter range.

In March 2012 nine collars will be refurbished through LMAC, 5-10 others will be paid for through grant money and all redeployed in spring/summer. Collars will drop in fall of 2013.

Budget Summary-

2008-Received DHMPIP funding in amount of \$70,860, no DHMPIP money spent.

2009- ATS collar purchase \$13,975. Switched from old model to GS2110, which did not require command unit rental to retrieve and lasted for longer period of time.

2010-No DHMPIP money spent, collars deployed throughout summer.

2011-No DHMPIP money spent, collars retrieved throughout fall.

2012-9 collars being refurbished, Pneu-Dart equipment being ordered.

ATS refurb-\$625/collar x 9 = \$5,625 + \$10 shipping Total = \$5,635

Pneu-Dart-Darts- \$16/pack x 20 = \$320 + Practice Darts \$5 x 25 = \$125 + dart tube \$17.95 + charges \$9.50/pack x 2 = \$19 + estimated tax/shipping \$85 Total = \$570

Proposal originally included \$37,800 for contract telemetry flights. A suitable contract was searched for but never found so we continued using CDFG pilots to conduct the monthly monitoring.

Future Work and Final Report-

Within the 2011-2012 fiscal year the \$6,200 that the Large Mammal Advisory Committee allocated in 2012 will be spent and this portion of the project completed. Outside grants are being used to refurbish other collars and it is unknown at this time how many will be deployed in the upcoming year. CDFG will be collaborating with NDOW to determine the data gaps and is currently working on data analysis. This data will be formatted for presentation to local planning committees, Fish and Game Commissions, other resource agencies, and the public with the goal of providing outreach and education on the importance and viability of the VSU. Data is intended to inform interstate management, land acquisition and ecologically sound development guidelines. A final report is anticipated in 2014 after the next round of collaring is complete.

Through this project we have already provided an update to the Loyalton-Truckee Deer Herd Management Plan as well as run an Adopt-A-Deer Herd program in two sister schools from Nevada and California that culminated in a field trip. I obtained an additional grant to contract the creation of a National curriculum following the model we used in the VSU that will allow students to learn about biology, movement, barriers and tracking of deer and other wildlife.

Data-

Shapefiles of deer movement as well as telemetry data will be available to LMAC and the Deer Shop. A collection of trail station photos and the associated database will also be available at the end of the study.