

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: Migration, Habitat Use, Health and Survival of the Eastern Tehama Deer Herd

Quarter: (April – June 2014)

Project Objective:

The Eastern Tehama deer herd is the largest migratory herd in the State and has experienced population declines in the past several decades. These declines have resulted in the substantial loss of recreational activities, declines in revenues to local economies associated with deer hunting or viewing, and public concerns over the effectiveness of the Department's management strategy for this herd. Contemporary data identifying important habitat use areas (seasonal ranges and migration routes) are lacking and are needed to effectively manage and conserve the Eastern Tehama deer herd. This information will also be used to update the Deer Conservation Unit (DCU) plan for the Klamath Mountains and Cascades Range, which includes the Eastern Tehama deer herd as well as other herds within the C Zones in northern California.

We propose to capture a total of 25 adult female black-tailed deer by free range darting from 2013-2015. All deer will be assessed for physical condition and standard weights and measurements will be taken. Blood will be drawn for disease analysis and collection of ectoparasites will be conducted. Each deer will have a timed release GPS collar affixed. GPS collars will be programmed to record a location every 4 hours and release after one year. Telemetry monitoring will take place to check survival of individuals throughout the year.

Work Performed:

Capture Activities:

Spring migration capture activities took place during the week of May 5-9, 2014. Three does were captured via free range darting and had GPS collars affixed. Two other does were darted but were not found. Capture data sheets and IDS forms were completed and sent to the Wildlife Investigations Laboratory.



A radio collared doe recovering from chemical immobilization, May 8, 2014.

Telemetry Monitoring:

Several telemetry flights were conducted during the quarter to determine migration timing to assist in scheduling future captures. Telemetry monitoring (ground and aerial) of the recently captured deer and deer captured last year was conducted. All of the does marked last year reached their respective summer ranges by mid-May.



Radio collared doe captured last summer was located within 0.6 km of her capture site on May 19, 2014.

One deer captured last May (2013) and 1 deer from this May have not been located despite several extensive aerial telemetry searches. The collar on the doe marked last May should have released. That doe was last located on December 9, 2013 on the winter range near Tehama WA and although several subsequent telemetry flights were conducted (February, April and May) the doe or collar was not found.

Survival:

To date a total of 13 does have been captured and collared during this project (2013 and 2014). Two collared does are known to have died, 1 hunter harvested (October 2013) and 1 from unknown causes (May 2013).

Purchasing:

Capture supplies were purchased during this quarter which included hobbles and a dart gun case.

Funds Expended:

Fiscal Year 13-14 Operating Budget: \$12,000.

Total expended for fiscal year: \$ 11,560.

ETDH Study FY 13-14 Budget	April	May	June	Q Total	FY Total
General Expenses/Per Diem		\$2,220.68		\$2,220.68	\$4,151.09
Other Items/capture supplies	\$282.94			\$282.94	\$3,079.41
Other expenses/vehicle repair	\$65.69			\$65.69	\$1,621.51
Telemetry Flights	\$734.50	\$734.50	\$452.00	\$1,921.00	\$2,708.25
Total per month	\$1,083.13	\$2,955.18	\$452.00		
Total for Fiscal Year	\$8,153.08	\$11,108.26	\$11,560.26		\$11,560.26