

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: East Tehama Deer Abundance (ETDA)

Quarter: (July-September 2015 / FY1516)

Work Performed:

We implemented and completed surveys at 30 survey sites. A 1.2-km deer fecal DNA transect was resurveyed weekly up to 4 occasions at each survey site. At most sites camera traps were placed concurrently at each end of the transect. An average of 7 pellet group samples were collected during each transect visit. Preliminary assessment of the unbaited camera traps placed along paths indicates frequent and regular detections of deer. We consulted with laboratories at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and Oregon State University on determining where to send the fecal DNA specimens for genetic analysis. We selected Ben Sachs at UC Davis and partnered with the California Deer Association on funding of this work. We coordinated with NR staff on plans for placement of additional GPS collars on bucks and does in the study area. Data from these collars will be essential to convert local abundance estimates from transects and camera traps into density and population size. We arranged purchase of these collars

Funds Expended:

	<u>This quarter</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Personnel:	\$17,424.00	\$17,424.00
Operating Expense:	\$10,441.98	\$10,441.98
Total:	\$27,865.98	\$27,865.98

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter:

Transfer of deer pellet specimens to a laboratory for genetic analysis. Interpretation of camera traps images to create a detection history of deer for use in abundance modeling. Placement of GPS collars on male deer.