

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: Pacific Deer Herd (PDH) Survival and Mortality Project

Quarter: (months/FY) 1st & 2nd & 3rd quarter 15/16

Work Performed:

In May 2015, 20 Vectronic collars were purchased with CDA award. Implementation of this project was delayed several months due to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's (CDFW) adjusting big game grant processes and modifying federal and state funding allocations for equipment and personnel. A capture plan was finalized and approved the end of June 2015 and in July capture and collaring efforts began on the free-range female deer of the Pacific Deer Herd (PDH). CDFW personnel and volunteers were utilized over a total period of 18 days from mid July-first week of Sept. An average of two capture teams per 14 hour capture days yielded the results of 14 female deer successfully collared and captured throughout the PDH summer range. On September 9, we responded to a mortality signal on Peavine Ridge. Response and investigation of the mortality determined that the deer had been illegally shot and damage was also done to the collar. On October 20, we received a mortality signal and determined cause of death to be Adenovirus. A full field necropsy was performed and biological samples were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety lab (CAHFS) for further pathology and tests to define cause of illness. On October 23, another doe mortality was investigated and lab necropsy revealed that she had been shot.

2 satellite points per day are being received and close monitoring of their movements will continue throughout their migration. All deer have left their summer home range. Migration information will be detailed in future progress reports. Plans were to try and deploy the remainder of the 20 collars this field season, however, winter storms have hindered this effort. Deer cannot be collared on their winter range for this herd because they mingle with resident deer.

In August of 2015, CDA awarded me \$46,000 to purchase 20 additional collars (Project# 018-15) to augment sampling size. These collars will be ordered and deployed the summer of 2016.

Funds Expended:

	<u>This quarter</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Personnel:		
Operating Expense:		
Total:		

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter:

Capture pack equipment will be ordered. In previous capture season all capture packs were borrowed. Supply requisitions submitted for additional immobilization drugs and capture kits. An additional 20 Vectronic collars will be ordered and tested. A scientific aid will be hired to assist in organizing capture plans, monitor existing collared deer movements, and respond to mortality events.