

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: Marin County Deer Abundance

Quarter: 2 (months/FY) October-December 2015/FY15-16

Work Performed:

We implemented and completed deer surveys at 21 sites, including 6 new sites established during the quarter. At each site we installed a camera station and a 1.2 km deer fecal DNA transect. We resurveyed each site up to 4 times for a total of 78 transect runs and collected an average of 15 deer pellet samples per transect run. At the conclusion of sampling, we removed all camera stations and transects. Each sample was divided into one wet-storage and one dry-storage sample. We developed an extended pellet condition rating system to evaluate our pellet collection protocol with the goal of maximizing sample size. We catalogued all pellet samples using this rating system, then sent an initial set of 133 samples to Ben Sachs at UC Davis for genetic analysis. Results confirmed the effectiveness of our pellet collection protocol. We interpreted all camera image data to minimum count histories for use in an N-mixture deer abundance model. We wrote detailed data collection reports for four public agencies under whose permits we completed work during the season.

Funds Expended:

	<u>This quarter</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Personnel:	\$17,877.52	\$35,755.04
Operating Expense:	\$3200.00	\$5,550.00
Total:	\$21,077.52	\$41,305.04

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter:

Transfer wet-storage pellet samples to the UC Davis lab for genetic analysis. Construction and installation of clover traps for capturing and fitting deer with GPS collars. Begin planning process for 2016 field season.