

Quarterly Project Report

Project Name: Determining the habitat connectivity of tule elk in the Northern San Joaquin Valley, California

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The helicopter capture was conducted on November 14-15, 2015. The Leading Edge Aviation capture crew deployed a total of 16 cow, 6 spike, and 10 bull collars on elk in various groups around the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County.

Capture operations began on Saturday at 0700 and ended at 1430. The weather was clear with a slight breeze. Capture operations began on Sunday at 0700 and ended at 1100. The weather on Sunday started with rain but it only lasted an hour and the winds were moderate to gusty. Twenty-one collars were deployed on Saturday and 11 collars were deployed on Sunday. There were no direct capture mortalities and no incidents with the operation, everything went very smoothly. All but one of the collars that were scheduled to go out was deployed and the one that did not go out was because the target animals were not present at Lower Cottonwood Creek during operations.

Other activities during the fourth quarter included:

- Purchased remote oxygen delivery system
- Turned the ground darting capture plan in for signature

Spending to-date	FY 14/15	Fund Source: LMAC	\$152,900.00
Item	Qty (If applicable)	Cost	Balance
Remote Trail Cameras	20	(\$4,404.32)	\$148,495.68
Biological Sampling Supplies		(\$435.72)	\$148,059.96
GPS Collars	40	(\$121,930.00)	\$26,129.96
	FY 15/16	Fund Source: LMAC	\$61,200
Item	Qty (If applicable)	Cost	Balance
Oxygen delivery system	1	(\$327.86)	\$61,527.86
Spending to-date		Fund Source: RMEF	\$20,000.00
Item	Qty (If applicable)	Cost	Balance
GPS Collars (Projected)	5	(\$16,969.00)	\$3,031.00
Capture drugs	3 kits	(\$816.00)	\$2,215.00