Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: Central Region Exotic Louse Studies

Quarter: October-December 2014

Work Performed: Monitoring of 44 GPS and 12 functioning VHF collared deer occurred during this quarter. Four mortalities of GPS collared deer were recovered. Capture supplies were purchased and capture packets were prepared. In December, an attempt to recapture treated deer and capture new deer occurred. Locations of the existing collared deer indicated that most of the deer were not on the winter range, and that deer were using locations not previously used. Many of the deer were in inaccessible locations. Therefore, the recapture effort was delayed and test trips were made to check on the location status. Composition counts also showed that deer were not on the winter range, so a recount will occur in January. Two treated deer were recaptured, 1 non-treated collared deer was recaptured, and 1 new deer was captured and a GPS collar applied. During December, the lack of deer and a high number of bucks resulted in most of the does being pushed by bucks, so capture of new deer was postponed as darted deer do not become fully immobilized when bucks harass the darted deer. The goal is 10 recaptures and 10 new deer. Paperwork and interviews occurred to hire new scientific aids to complete data entry in 2015.

Funds Expended:

	This quarter	Total to date
Personnel:	$254.76	$44,163.80
Operating Expense:	$0.00	$82,872.58
Total:	$254.76	$127,323.87

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter:

Monitoring will occur from the ground in areas where access can occur through the transitional range and onto the winter range. Mortalities will be recovered as they occur. Data entry will occur. In January, recapture of 8 treated deer and 9 untreated deer will be attempted to compare louse presence and hair coat condition. The fall deer composition counts will be repeated due to low December sample size. The status of fawns carried to the winter range and hair coat condition will be assessed for all treated deer that can be visually examined.