

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
Third Quarter 2015

Project Name: *Effects of livestock grazing and large scale renewable energy developments on tule elk in eastern San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties*

Quarter: Third Quarter 2015

Work Performed:

All 22 of the surviving collared elk were alive and moving throughout the third quarter of 2015. All of the animals appear to be healthy. To date, there have not been any movements detected between the three subherds.

The Lotek collars are still functioning well. However, we continue to have difficulties with one collar which has reported false mortalities on 13 separate occasions when the elk was alive and moving. The elk program coordinator has advised Lotek representatives of this situation.

The goals of the study were to determine how the installation of the solar plants and changes to livestock grazing practices would affect elk habitat use patterns (Figure 1). Data gathered during this study will be compared to similar data collected from elk collared prior to these landscape level changes. Tule elk subherds and their associated land use variables are listed below:

Subherd

Land Use Change

American
California Valley
Carneros Rocks

Livestock grazing practices
Solar plant construction, livestock grazing practices
Solar plant construction, livestock grazing practices

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter:

Remote monitoring of elk locations will continue in the fourth quarter of 2015. Project staff will retrieve the collar and try to determine cause of death if a mortality occurs

Project Contacts and Collaborators:

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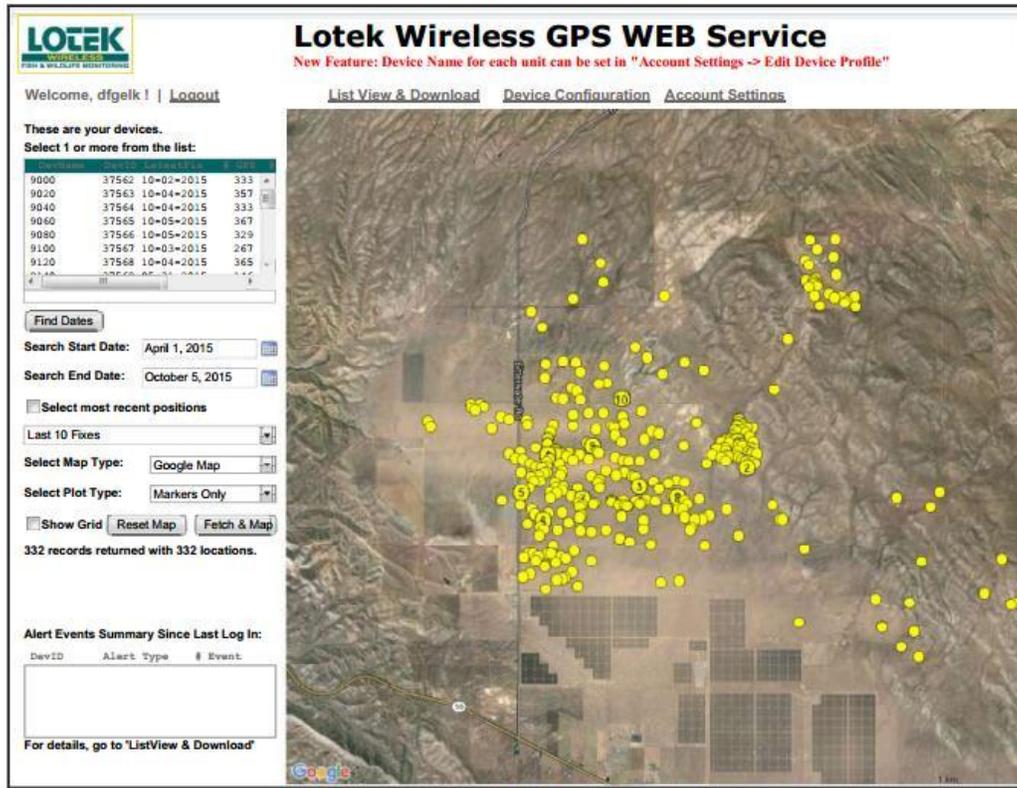


Figure 1. Proximity of female elk 0200 to solar facility.