

Large Mammal Advisory Committee

Approved Project

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Project Name: Monitoring Desert Mule Deer Using DNA-Based Capture-Recapture (Riverside County, CA)

Quarter: Time Period: January – March 2015; FY2014/15

Work Performed: Obtained better GIS information regarding artificial drinker sites and classified study area drinkers by amount of wildlife use and sample management at each sites – both based on the local Biologist’s expertise. Study site protocol is in the process of being refined. As this project has a short summer field season, during the hottest time in the desert, this season’s field crew for summer work will be staff from the Bishop office, and two groups of two will rotate for the duration of the sampling season (about 6 weeks). These Scientific Aids have been hired. CDA proposal to fund DNA analyses was submitted in late March. We’ve decided to contract DNA analyses with UC Davis, and coordinate our efforts with the DFW Deer Program, as needed. WIL may be able to provide some sampling items.

Funds Expended: There has been no cost during this time period.

Work Anticipated for Next Quarter: Drinker locations and selections need to be further mapped. Project Lead, local Biologist, and Dr. Mary Conner plan to meet for a two-day site visit April 13 – 14. At this time, drinker locations and route to drinkers will be collected using GPS. Sampling protocol and design for the summer work will be established. Sampling items will be purchased, coordinating with WIL’s knowledge on ordering laboratory items, if possible. In late May and early June, we’ve scheduled meetings, field work, and staff training at sampling sites. It’s anticipated that field season will begin in mid-late June 2015.