

**DESERT WILDLIFE UNLIMITED, INC.**

P.O. Box 1338, Brawley CA 92227

October 26, 2022

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Wildlife Branch  
ATTN: 2022 UGBAGP Proposal  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244

**1. Project Title: IMPERIAL VALLEY DOVE HUNT FIELDS**

Desert Wildlife Unlimited enters into lease agreements with landowners in the northern Imperial Valley to provide public hunting opportunities. A subset of land parcels will be seeded with various upland game bird crops and flailed to liberate food grains for mourning and white-winged doves as well as resident game birds.

**2. Amount Requested:** \$94,956.94

**3. Applicant Contact Information:**

- a. Desert Wildlife Unlimited, inc. 501(c)3) TIN# 95-3639343
- b. Rob Yates, President
- c. 760-455-1772
- d. [Dirtandpipe.rob@gmail.com](mailto:Dirtandpipe.rob@gmail.com)
- e. Taylor Preece, 760-587-6572, [taylor@presurvinc.com](mailto:taylor@presurvinc.com)
- f. P.O. Box 1338 Brawley, CA 92227

**4. Project Priority: #3 Hunting Opportunity and Outreach**

Expand and enhance the hunting opportunity of upland birds to the public, with a special interest in the opportunity for dove.

**5. Introduction:**

- a. Hunters have limited access to public hunting in California. The lands developed through this project in the Imperial Valley provide hunters with opportunities to hunt migratory and resident upland game birds. Specifically, the Imperial Valley provides hunting opportunities for the Los Angeles and San Diego populations, two of the 3 most populated regions in the state. This program will provide public hunting access consistent with the legislative intent

of the Upland Game Bird account. All of the lands that are part of the project are open to the public for hunting opportunities from September 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>.

- b. The objective of this project is to implement upland gamebird food crops on 262 acres that will be planted and available for hunting, an additional approximately 1,600 acres will also be available to access for hunting, providing a total of more than 1800 acres of hunting opportunity. The applicant will coordinate with both the CDFW and the Imperial County Fish and Game Commission to promote the use of these fields by public hunters.

**6. Project Description:**

- a. Northern Imperial Valley of Imperial County, California
- b. D.W.U. volunteers and its partners have implemented this project successfully for more than 20 years. Currently, Rob Yates is the President and oversees this project as he has done for the last decade. Jared Brady and Taylor Preece are executive board officers that play a critical role in the management and execution of our projects.
- c. Brett Lyerly is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer in Imperial Valley, he directly oversees the farming portion of the project to ensure we get the best production possible. He has been doing that for this project for the last 8 years.
- d. D.W.U. will coordinate with Imperial County Fish and Game Commission staff, CDFW staff, and various volunteer organizations to complete the following tasks:
  - d-1. Project Management and Administration:*  
D.W.U. will provide technical and administrative services associated with performing and completing the work for this project, including managing the agreement, maintaining the landowner access agreement, administering subcontracts, invoicing and payments, drafting and finalizing progress and final reports, and data management.
  - d-2. Property Identification and Public Outreach:*  
Identify properties leased by D.W.U. that will be open for public hunting access. Create a map of the fields and post it onto websites and various social media accounts. Paper copies are distributed at local businesses in an effort to make the information readily available to the public.
  - d-3. Field Preparation:*  
Discing and preparing fields, seeding by plugging on leased properties.
  - d-4. Signage:*  
Procure appropriate signs and post fields with signs identifying the property as open to public hunting.
  - d-5. Data Compilation:*  
Survey vehicle numbers on the opening morning dates of dove season for total numbers of vehicles, and provide estimates of hunter use based on an index of 2.8-3.0 hunters per vehicle.
  - d-6. Mowing:*  
Flail mow upland foraging crops before dove season opener dates
- e. We will purchase seed, fertilizer, water, and fuel
- f. This project will benefit upland game bird hunting opportunities by developing food crops on 17 parcels in the Imperial Valley totaling more than 1,800 acres that will be open to public hunting. There are very few if any other opportunities such as this that offer such a

quality experience. The Imperial Valley is known as being a premier location for dove hunting which generation after generation of California hunters have come to enjoy.

- g. The project will be completed in cooperation with California state and federal agencies and private corporations. The activities are not likely to result in disturbance or harassment of any federally-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species. If contact is made with any federally-listed threatened or endangered species, we will seek consultation. The lands involved with this project are agricultural lands that were previously and will continue to be after this project concludes.

**7. Expected Management Benefits:**

As previously stated, the opportunity for public access onto private lands that have been specifically purposed to create a dove hunting opportunity is the main benefit of the project. There are a large number of resident hunters who purchase their hunting license to primarily hunt upland game. By providing a continuing opportunity for old and new hunters alike to have the space and opportunity for success we are doing our part to ensure that our strong hunting heritage in this State will continue to be passed on and recruit new hunters.

**8. SCHEDULE AND LIST OF DELIVERABLES:**

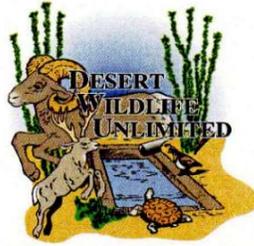
See attached sheet 4.

**9. Budget Narrative:**

D.W.U. has been implementing this project for over 20 years. Through the great partnerships we have built, we can implement this project very efficiently. The budget has been broken down into different categories to show where the expenditures are allocated. The main expenditures are the purchase of seed, fertilizer, water, and fuel.

**10. ITEMIZED BUDGET:**

See attached sheet 5.



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<b>Schedule of Due Dates and Deliverables</b>			
Fiscal Year 2022-2023			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Dates</b>
1	Project Management and Administration	Quarterly Invoices	Due within 30 days following each calendar quarter.
		Draft Final Report	November 30, 2023
		Final Report	December 15, 2023
		Final Invoice	December 30, 2023
2	Property Identification	Identify DWU-leased private properties open for public hunting access.	January 1, 2023
3	Field Preparation	Disking and preparing fields, seeding by plugging on leased properties.	February 1, 2023
4	Map Production and Outreach	Post updated map on DWU website and provide electronic version to both CDFW Project Manager and Imperial County Fish & Game Commission	August 10, 2023
5	Signage	Procure and post appropriate signs on private property.	August 31, 2023
6	Data Compilation	Survey vehicle numbers on the morning of both opening dates of dove season	September 1, 2023 November 11, 2023
		Flail mow of upland foraging crops	September 1 & November 1, 2023



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<b>Line-Item Budget for Imperial Valley Dove Hunt Fields</b>	
Fiscal Year 2022-2023	
<b>A. Personnel Services : NA</b>	<b>Totals</b>
No Direct Personnel	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal Personnel Services: N/A</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>B. Operating Expenses: General</b>	
<b>Materials:</b>	
Wheat Seed (21,200 lbs @ \$0.429/ lb)	\$9,094.80
Fertilizer and application (492.30 tons @ \$28.80/ lb)	\$14,178.24
Irrigation (652 acre feet of water @ \$23.00 /acre foot)	\$14,996.00
Stubble Disc (262 Acres @ \$50.80 / acre)	\$13,309.60
Triplane (262 Acres @ \$28.25 / acre)	\$7,401.50
Seed bed preparation (262 Acres @ \$19.75 / acre)	\$5,174.50
Planting (262 Acres @ \$39.75 / acre)	\$10,414.50
Grading (57 Acres @ \$84.50 / acre)	\$4,816.50
Flailing (262 Acres @ \$28.25 / acre)	\$7,401.50
Diesel Fuel (1041 gallons @ \$6.50 / gallon)	\$6,766.50
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses: General</b>	<b>\$93,553.64</b>
<b>C. Operating Expenses: Subcontractors</b>	
Subcontractors: N/A	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses Subcontractors:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>D. Operating Expenses: Equipment</b>	
Equipment Item: N/A	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses Equipment:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>E. Subtotals &amp; Indirect Costs</b>	
Subtotal Personnel Services & Operating Expenses General:	\$93,553.64
Subtotal Operating Expenses Subcontractors:	\$0.00
Subtotal Operating Expenses Equipment:	\$0.00
Indirect Costs 1.5%	\$1,403.30
<b>F. Grand Total</b>	<b>\$94,956.94</b>