



The old adage "you can't judge a book by its cover" holds true for the value of desert habitats to mule deer. While deer densities are low in the Southern Desert bioregion, some of the largest bucks in the state are taken each year in these arid environments.

Photo by Mark Hoshovsky

H. Southern Desert

1. Deer Habitats and Ecology

The Mojave and Sonoran deserts of California support some of our driest and hottest habitats in the state. It comes as no surprise, then, that these areas support some of our lowest deer densities. The deer that inhabit our southern deserts are also the least understood ecologically in California. These animals, while not migratory like those in the Sierra Nevada, do move long distances in response to changes in the availability of water and forage. Summer rains in the desert cause the germination of annual grasses and forbs, and deer will move to take advantage of this forage. Desert washes and the vegetation in them are especially important for providing cover and food, and free-standing water in the summer seems to be essential for maintaining burro mule deer.

2. Limiting or Important Habitat Factors

The availability of free-standing water in the summer in areas with otherwise appropriate vegetation is thought to be the most important habitat factor for mule deer in most of our southern deserts.

3. Major Land Practices

Mining and livestock grazing are the most important land-management activities in the southern deserts; most land is managed by BLM (Figure 5 on page 30). Modern mining, with its intensive impacts to hundreds of acres of desert lands, can destroy important islands of burro mule deer habitat. With the establishment of numerous national parks in the desert, off-road vehicle use has become more concentrated and a cause of concern for deer.

4. Habitat Improvement Practices

The most common habitat improvement practice in desert areas is developing water. However, water alone will not provide habitat for mule deer if other habitat components such as appropriate forage is not present. The goal

Water can be the most important limiting factor for deer in the Southern Desert bioregion. Therefore, establishing big game guzzlers at strategic locations can provide significant benefits to deer.

Photo by Leon Lesicka



of a water development is to open an area of otherwise appropriate habitat to mule deer by providing year-round standing water. Controlling or limiting off-road vehicle use on open public lands can also benefit deer.

There are a variety of designs for water developments in desert areas. If you are interested in promoting water developments to benefit mule deer and other wildlife in the desert, contact the CDFG and BLM biologists in your area of interest to see how you can be of assistance. Donations of labor and funds will be welcome.



VII. Acknowledgments



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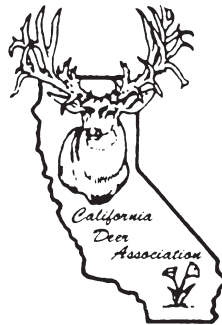
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Appendix I.

Addresses of U.S. Forest Service Offices in California

Angeles National Forest

Forest Supervisor
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 574-1613

Arroyo Seco Ranger District
4600 Oak Grove Drive
Flintridge, CA 91011
(818) 790-1151

Mount Baldy Ranger
District
110 N. Wabash Ave.
Glendora, CA 91741
(626) 335-1251

Saugus Ranger District
30600 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Saugus, CA 91350
(805) 296-9710

Tujunga Ranger District
12371 N. Little Tujunga
Canyon Rd.
San Fernando, CA 91342
(818) 899-1900

Valyermo Ranger District
29835 Valyermo Rd.
Valyermo, CA 93563
(805) 944-2187

Cleveland National Forest

Forest Supervisor
10845 Rancho Bernardo
Rd. Suite 200
Rancho Bernardo, CA
92127
(619) 673-6180

Descanso Ranger District
3348 Alpine Blvd.
Alpine, CA 91901
(619) 445-6235

Palomar Ranger District
1634 Black Canyon Rd.
Ramona, CA 92065
(760) 788-0250

Trabuco Ranger District
1147 E. Sixth St.
Corona, CA 91719
(909) 736-1811

Eldorado National Forest

Forest Supervisor
100 Forni Rd.
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 622-5061

Amador Ranger District
28820 Silver Dr.
Pioneer, CA 95666
(209) 295-4251

Pacific Ranger District
Pacific Ranger Station
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 644-2349

Georgetown Ranger District
7600 Wentworth Springs Rd.
Georgetown, CA 95634
(530) 333-4312

Placerville Ranger District
4260 Eight Mile Rd.
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 644-2324

Inyo National Forest

Forest Supervisor
873 North Main St.
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2400

Mammoth/Mono Lake
Ranger District
P.O. Box 148
Mammoth Lakes, CA
93546
(760) 924-5500

White Mtn/Mt. Whitney
Ranger District
798 North Main St.
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2500

Klamath National Forest

Forest Supervisor
1312 Fairlane Rd.
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-6131

Goosenest Ranger District
37805 Hwy 97
Macdoel, CA 96058
(530) 398-4391

Happy Camp Ranger
District
P.O. Box 377
Happy Camp, CA 96039
(530) 493-2243

Salmpn/Scott River Ranger
District
11263 North Hwy 3
Fort Jones, CA 96032
(530) 468-5351

Ukonom Ranger District
P.O. Drawer 410
Orlean, CA 95556
(530) 627-3291

Lake Tahoe Basin

Forest Supervisor
870 Emerald Bay Rd., Ste. 1
South Lake Tahoe, CA
96150
(530) 573-2600

Lassen National Forest

Forest Supervisor
55 S. Sacramento St.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-2151

Almanor Ranger District
P.O. Box 767
Chester, CA 96020
(530) 258-2141

Hat Creek Ranger District
P.O. Box 220
Fall River Mills, CA 96028
(530) 336-5521

Eagle Lake Ranger District
477-050 Eagle Lake Rd.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-4188

Los Padres National Forest

Forest Supervisor
6144 Calle Real
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 683-6711

Monterey Ranger District
406 South Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(408) 385-5434

Ojai Ranger District
1190 East Ojai Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348

Mount Pinos Ranger
District
34580 Lockwood Valley Rd.
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(805) 245-3731

Santa Barbara Ranger
District
3505 Paradise Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481

Santa Lucia Ranger District
1616 North Carlotti Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538

Mendocino National Forest

Forest Supervisor
825 N. Humboldt Ave.
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-3316

Corning Ranger District
22000 Corning Rd., P.O.
Box 1019
Corning, CA 96021
(530) 824-5196

Stonyford Ranger District
5171 Stonyford-Elk Creek Rd.
P.O. Box 160
Stonyford, CA 95979
(530) 963-3128

Covelo Ranger District
78150 Covelo Rd.
Covelo, CA 95428
(707) 983-6118

Upper Lake Ranger District
10025 Elk Mountain Rd.,
P.O. Box 96
Upper Lake, CA 5485
(707) 275-2361

Modoc National Forest

Forest Supervisor
800 W. 12th St.
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-5811

Big Valley Ranger District
P.O. Box 159
Adin, CA 96006
(530) 299-3210

Devils Garden Ranger
District
800 W. 12th St.
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-5811

Doublehead Ranger
District
P.O. Box 369
Tulelake, CA 96134
(530) 667-2246

Warner Mountain Ranger
District
P.O. Box 220
Cedarville, CA 96104
(530) 279-6116

Plumas National Forest

Forest Supervisor
159 Lawrence St., P.O. Box
11500
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-2050

Beckwourth Ranger
District
P.O. Box 7
Blairsden, CA 96103
(530) 836-2575

Feather River Ranger
District
875 Mitchell Ave.
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 534-6500

Mt. Hough Ranger District
39696 Hwy 70
Quincy, CA 95971
(530) 283-0555

Regional Office, Region 5

Regional Forester
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737

San Bernardino National Forest

Forest Supervisor
1824 South Commercenter
Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 383-5588

Arrowhead Ranger District
28104 Hwy 18, P.O. Box 7
Skyforest, CA 92385
(909) 337-2444

Big Bear Ranger District
P.O. Box 290
Fawnskin, CA 92333
(909) 866-3437

Cajon Ranger District
1209 Lytle Creek Rd.
Lytle Creek, CA 92358
(909) 887-2576

San Gorgonio Ranger
District
34701 Mill Creek Rd.
Mentone, CA 92359
(909) 794-1123

San Jacinto Ranger
District
P.O. Box 518
Idyllwild, CA 92549
(909) 659-2117

Sequoia National Forest

Forest Supervisor
900 West Grand Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257
(209) 784-1500

Cannell Meadow Ranger
District
P.O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
(760) 376-3781

Greenhorn Ranger District
P.O. Box 3810
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
(760) 379-5646

Tule River Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93267
(209) 539-2607

Hot Springs Ranger District
Route 4, Box 546
Hot Springs, CA 93207
(805) 548-6503

Hume Lake Ranger District
35860 East Kings Canyon Rd.
Dunlap, CA 93621
(209) 338-2251

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Forest Supervisor
2400 Washington Ave.
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 246-5222

Big Bar Ranger District
Star Route 1, Box 10
Big Bar, CA 96010
(530) 623-6106

Hayfork Ranger District
P.O. Box 159
Hayfork, CA 96041
(530) 628-5227

McCloud Ranger District
P.O. Box 1620
McCloud, CA 96057
(530) 964-2184

Mount Shasta Ranger
District
204 West Alma
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
(530) 926-4511

Shasta Lake Ranger
District
14225 Holiday Rd.
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 275-1587

Weaverville Ranger
District
P.O. Box 1190
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-2121

Sierra National Forest

Forest Supervisor
1600 Tollhouse Rd.
Clovis, CA 93612
(209) 297-0706

Kings River Ranger District
34849 Maxon Rd.
Sanger, CA 93657
(209) 855-8321

Mariposa-Minarets Ranger
District
57003 Road 225, P.O. Box 10
North Fork, CA 93643
(209) 877-2218

Pineridge Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
(209) 855-5360

Six Rivers National Forest

Forest Supervisor
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721

Smith River National
Recreation Area
P.O. Box 228
Gasquet, CA 95543
(707) 457-3131

Lower Trinity Ranger
District
P.O. Box 68
Willow Creek, CA 95573
(530) 629-2118

Mad River Ranger District
Star Route Box 300
Bridgeville, CA 95526
(707) 574-6233

Orleans Ranger District
P.O. Box 410
Orleans, CA 95556
(530) 627-3291

Stanislaus National Forest

Forest Supervisor
19777 Greenley Rd.
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671

Calaveras Ranger District
P.O. Box 500 Hwy 4
Hathaway Pines, CA
95233
(209) 795-1381

Groveland Ranger District
24545 Old Hwy 120
Groveland, CA 95321
(209) 962-7825

Miwuk Ranger District
P.O. Box 100, 24695 Hwy
108
Miwuk Village, CA 95346
(209) 586-3234

Summit Ranger District
No. 1 Pinecrest Lake Rd.
Pinecrest, CA 95364
(209) 965-3434

Tahoe National Forest

Forest Supervisor
Hwy 49 and Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-4531

Downieville Ranger
District
15924 Hwy 49
Camptonville, CA 95922
(530) 288-3231

Foresthill Ranger District
22830 Foresthill Rd.
Foresthill, CA 95631
(530) 367-2224

Nevada City Ranger
District
631 Coyote St.
Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 265-4531

Sierraville Ranger District
P.O. Box 95
Sierraville, CA 96126
(530) 994-3401

Truckee Ranger District
10342 Hwy 89 North
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-3558

Appendix II.

Addresses of Bureau of Land Management offices in California

California State Office
2135 Butano Drive
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-4400

Alturas Field Office
708 West 12th St.
Alturas, CA 96101
(530) 233-4666

Arcata Field Office
1695 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 825-2300

Bakersfield Field Station
3801 Pegasus Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(805) 391-6000

Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Rd.
Barstow, CA 92311
(760) 252-6000

Bishop Field Office
785 N. Main St. Suite E
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-4881

California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Rd.
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 697-5200

Clear Lake Field Office
2550 N. State St.
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 468-4000

Eagle Lake Field Station
2950 Riverside Dr.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 257-0456

El Centro Field Office
1661 S. Fourth St.
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-4400

Folsom Field Office
63 Natoma St.
Folsom, CA 95630
(916) 985-4474

Hollister Field Office
20 Hamilton Court
Hollister, CA 95023
(408) 630-5000

Needles Field Office
101 West Spikes Rd.
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-7000

Palm Springs/ South Coast Field Office
690 West Garnet Ave.
N. Palm Springs, CA 92258
(760) 251-4800

Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Dr.
Redding, CA 96002
(530) 224-2100

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 South Richmond Rd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 384-5400

Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler St.
Cedarville, CA 96104
(530) 279-6101

Appendix III.

Addresses of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) offices.

CDF Offices

Headquarters
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-5121

Coast-Cascade Region
135 Ridgeway Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 576-2275

Sierra-South Region
1234 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710
(209) 222-3714

CDFG Offices

Headquarters
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7664

Wildlife Programs Branch
1416 Ninth St. Rm 1270
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7203

Northwest
619 Second St.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-6493

Northern California-North Coast
601 Locust St.
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra
1701 Nimbus Rd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 358-2900

Central Coast
7329 Siverado Trail
Yountville, CA 94558
(707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra
1234 E. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93710
(209) 243-4005

Central Coast
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr.
#100
Monterey, CA 93940
(408) 649-2870

Eastern Sierra Nevada
407 W. Line St. Rm. 8
Bishop, CA 93515
(760) 872-1171

South Coast
4949 View Ridge Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123
(619) 467-4201

San Francisco Bay Area
411 Burgess Dr.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(415) 688-6340

Long Beach Area
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 590-5132

Appendix IV.

List of Plant and Animal Scientific Names

Trees

Alder	<i>Alnus spp.</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus spp.</i>
Chinquapin	<i>Castanopsis spp.</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus spp.</i>
Douglas-Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Fir, Red	<i>Abies magnifica</i>
Fir, White	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Joshua Tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus spp.</i>
Oak, Blue	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>
Oak, California Black	<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>
Oak, Canyon Live	<i>Quercus chrysolepis</i>
Oak, California Scrub	<i>Quercus dumosa</i>
Oak, Interior Live	<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>
Oak, Oregon White	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
Oak, Valley White	<i>Quercus lobata</i>
Pine, Lodgepole	<i>Pinus contorta</i>
Pine, Ponderosa	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Pine, Yellow	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Pinyon	<i>Pinus edulis</i>
Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>

Shrubs

Bitterbrush	<i>Purshia spp.</i>
Buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>
Cactus	<i>Opuntia spp.</i>
Ceanothus, Blue blossom	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>
Chamise	<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>
Cherry, Bitter	<i>Prunus emarginata</i>
Cherry, Hollyleaf	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>
Cherry, Wild	<i>Prunus spp.</i>
Clover, Bear	<i>Chamaebatia foliosa</i>
Creosote	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>
Deerbrush	<i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i>
Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos spp.</i>
Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i>
Mountain Mahogany, Birchleaf	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i>
Oak, Scrub	<i>Quercus dumosa</i>
Redberry	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron macrophyllum</i>
Rose, Wild	<i>Rosa californica</i>
Sage, Coastal	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia spp.</i>
Sagebrush, Big	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos spp.</i>
Tobaccobrush	<i>Ceanothus velutinus</i>
Whitethorn, Mountain	<i>Ceanothus cordulatus</i>

Grasses/Forbs

Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
Clover	<i>Trifolium spp.</i>
Filaree	<i>Erodium spp.</i>
Lotus	<i>Lotus spp.</i>
Lupine	<i>Lupinus spp.</i>
Oats, Wild	<i>Avena fatua</i>

Mammals

Burro	<i>Equus asinus</i>
Caribou	<i>Caribou spp.</i>
Cattle	<i>Bos spp.</i>
Deer, Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>
Deer, Axis	<i>Cervus axis</i>
Deer, Burro Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus eremicus</i>
Deer, California Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus californicus</i>
Deer, Columbian Black-tailed	<i>Odocoileus hemionus columbianus</i>
Deer, Fallow	<i>Cervus dama</i>
Deer, Inyo Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus inyoensis</i>
Deer, Rocky Mountain Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus hemionus</i>
Deer, Southern Mule	<i>Odocoileus hemionus fuliginatus</i>
Deer, White-tailed	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Donkey	<i>Equus spp.</i>
Elk	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Horse	<i>Equus spp.</i>
Moose	<i>Alces alces</i>
Mule	<i>Equus spp.</i>

Fish

Steelhead	<i>Salmo gairdnerii</i>
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