

## Large Mammal Advisory Committee

### Approved Project

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

### **Project Name: Pronghorn Distribution, Movements, and Habitat use in Northeastern California**

**Quarter:** First Quarter 2014

#### **Work Performed:**

Our capture plan was finalized and submitted to the LMAC in late January/early February and the Bureau of Land Management prepared a Categorical Exclusion document that specified areas to avoid during capture operations due to the presence of sensitive resources. This document was attached to the capture plan and was in the field during operations. Permits were also sought to capture pronghorn on U.S. Forest Service lands. Concerns regarding liability led us to cancel planned captures on U.S. Forest Service lands this year. Their permit stipulations will be revisited prior to next year's capture.

Much of February was spent securing access to private lands to capture pronghorn on their lands and preparing maps for the pilot. The capture was rescheduled numerous times due primarily to delays in completing a contract with a helicopter contractor.

On 8 March we conducted our first capture with Leading Edge Aviation on private and BLM lands within Modoc County. Representatives from the Institute for Wildlife Studies (IWS) were present during capture operations. IWS has been notified that we will award them a grant to assist with this project.

We began capture efforts in the Davis Creek area, north of Alturas. In this instance, several animals were netted together.

Six adult doe pronghorn were captured, collared, and biological samples taken in the Davis Creek area. We then moved operations to the Likely Tables, staging on Pine Creek Wildlife Area. The Leading Edge capture crew quickly captured and collared 5 more animals on the south end of the Likely Tables, completing capture operations at about 1220 hours that day.

Since the capture, monitoring has occurred in the field and remotely. All collars are functioning normally, and are providing valuable information. In the days following capture, some of the pronghorn in the Davis Creek area dispersed. Two animals moved north, approximately 30 miles into Oregon. They traveled via the west side of Goose Lake. Another doe, moved south and west, to the north east edge of Big Sage Reservoir.

