

Upper San Joaquin River Watershed Telemetry Study Winter 2014 Update

Thirteen deer have been collared for this study since captures begin in April of 2013. Four of these deer were captured on the summer range of the San Joaquin herd. Combining summer range captures with winter range captures give us a more balanced view of how deer in the San Joaquin River watershed use their habitat. All of the deer captured on the summer range migrated to inaccessible wintering areas illustrating the value of this strategy.

Non-migratory deer are known to use habitats adjacent to and intermingling with migratory deer in this watershed. A second strategy of this project is to capture deer in mixing areas to learn more about the ratio and habitats of deer in those areas. To date, seven deer were captured in these mixing areas and two migrated there from summer range capture locations. All of the collared animals captured for this project use summer range attributed to the San Joaquin Deer Herd, although many of them winter well to the west of the range generally attributed to that herd. Early results from this study have identified new wintering areas and emphasize the need to conserve and enhance areas used by the two distinct deer groups.

The winter capture season for the San Joaquin Deer Herd Telemetry Study is just getting started and we hope to place an additional twenty five telemetry collars during 2014.