

MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT: AREA 15

Proposed project inception: 2009 (July 1, 2010)

Budget: \$162,000/year for 5 years

Project Description: A predation management project for the enhancement of mule deer fawn survival and recruitment in Management Area 15 in central Nevada is proposed. Two identified mule deer predator species (coyote and mountain lion) are to be targeted for lethal control where they occur relative to a non-migratory mule deer herd in Unit 155 (Simpson Park Mountains). This particular herd is recommended by NDOW biologists and most closely fits recommendations by Warren B. Ballard et al (“Deer-predator relationships: a review of recent North American studies with emphasis on mule and black-tailed deer”) for prospectively selecting study areas where predation management is most likely to provide positive results. Unit 155 meets the criteria for selection of a suitable study site (< 259 mi², excellent road access, below functional carrying capacity) and NDOW biologists consider predation one of the possible limiting factors affecting this relatively small deer herd.

Predation management activities will be performed by contracted personnel (USDA APHIS – WS) using currently approved techniques, under the direction of and in cooperation with, the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Project Area: Unit 155 (Lander and Eureka Counties, Central Nevada)

Targeted Species: Coyote and Mountain Lion

Control Period: July 1, 2009 – March 2011 (*Note: this will require Commission approval of project extension request into following fiscal year so that fawn cohort can be adequately followed and monitored through second spring*)

	Estimated expenditure
Projected Expenditures: Category	
APHIS – Wildlife Services	113,500.00
Aerial survey (NDOW)	8,500.00
Satellite collars/body condition/monitoring (NDOW)	40,000.00
Total	162,000.00