

## **Grant Opportunity - Assessment of Mule Deer Survey Techniques, Population Estimates, and Harvest Recommendations for the Nevada Department of Wildlife**

Proposals are due no later than close of business Friday, November 18, 2016. Grant proposals and any questions should be directed to: Cody Schroeder at [cschroeder@ndow.org](mailto:cschroeder@ndow.org) or (775) 688-1659.

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to provide an independent assessment of the techniques currently being used by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to survey, analyze, and develop quota recommendations for mule deer in Nevada. The intent is to provide a scientific review of current methods being used to survey and analyze population data and to provide recommendations on how to improve the scientific rigor and efficiency of these methods. This review will provide direction and insight for future strategic planning efforts on behalf of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

### Grant Application Instructions

Please refer to the scope of work below for details regarding the Mule Deer Survey Techniques and Assessment project. Proposals should include the following minimum:

- Brief description of how the scope of work will be performed along with a schedule of activities;
- Identification of the agency, university, or research organization on official letterhead;
- Identification of the project manager and any supporting staff along with a brief description of their qualifications (biographical sketch or CV format);
- A proposed cost estimate with detail to include: salary, travel, per diem or any specialized software requirements and other anticipated expenses;
- Please note: The Nevada Department of Wildlife will not pay overhead charges in excess of 18% to any college university or independent research group for this grant opportunity.

### Grant Eligibility (must meet all of the following criteria)

This project is designed for a university researcher or qualified independent contractor with experience in modern methods for data analysis of wildlife survey techniques, population estimation, and harvest management guidelines for big game species including mule deer. Thus, to be eligible individuals must have:

- Experience with modern techniques for surveying wildlife populations;
- Experience with robust statistical methods for analyzing wildlife population data;
- Access to a university based library or online journal access;
- Experience evaluating current management practices and providing comprehensive reviews for state fish and wildlife agencies in the western United States;

- Ability to enter into a Subgrant Agreement with the State of Nevada and abide by and assure to operate in complying with all Federal requirements.

### Scope of Work

Duties will include writing a comprehensive review of the current techniques being used by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to survey and inventory mule deer in Nevada. Conduct interviews with Game Division staff biologists, regional supervisors, and field biologists to determine consistency of methodology throughout the agency and amongst regions. Assess current techniques being used to survey mule deer populations including allocation of staff resources, helicopter or other equipment, timing of surveys, and observer training protocols used by the Department. Additionally, review and assess harvest reporting mechanism, harvest guidelines for mule deer, and database systems or software that are currently in use. Identify strengths and weaknesses in both survey methods and analysis of current population models and make recommendations on ways to improve, update, or streamline survey efforts and modeling procedures. Provide a brief synopsis of research that has been conducted during the last decade that may help the Department more precisely, efficiently, and safely analyze mule deer populations and make prudent harvest recommendations.

### Schedule of Activities

- Upon award of the subgrant contract, develop a timeline for gathering documentation and data available from NDOW (December 2016)
- Schedule dates and interview times to conduct evaluations (mid-February 2017)
- Provide interim report on comprehensive review process and identify any potential areas that need follow-up information (May 15, 2017)
- Provide final comprehensive review of current methods, database structure, and final recommendations to NDOW no later than June 30, 2017

### REPORTING

Provide invoice(s) showing hours billed, per diem, or software purchases to NDOW (electronic format) within 30 days of project completion but no later than June 30, 2017.