

White Pine County MA 11-12 Project Proposal- Wild Horse Research Attachment

Cell A5: Has this mule deer management area or hunt unit group been identified as a statewide priority for research or investigations? **Yes**

Cell A6: Does this project directly address identifying factors limiting healthy mule deer populations? (10 points possible) **Yes**

Cell A8: Does this project occur in a crucial or priority habitat for mule deer? (10 points possible) (Score using the highest ranking criteria) **This project would occur in Moderate priority habitat.**

Cell A10: Will the research or investigation improve knowledge of habitat and restoration of a long-term or permanent nature? Projects of this nature are known to have long-term benefits with demonstrated history of past successes. **Yes**

Cell A11: Is the sample size (# of marked animals) and project scale (distribution across an entire hunt unit or region) adequate to gain meaningful inference or statistical power for interpreting the relative impact of this investigation? **Yes**

Cell A12: Does the project complement an adjacent project or study, previous project, or help inform future habitat projects? **Yes**

Cell A14: Needed permitting, authority, and mechanisms are completed or in process and does the project have a high probability of being completed on-time:

-NEPA analysis for wilderness permits for capture work

-Permission from private landowners or other government agencies (such as USFWS or D.O.D.)

-Contract mechanisms to support the work are in place or not needed

No. Permitting, research design, and researchers are not in place. This study would take over 1 year to complete.

Cell A15: Is the project urgent due to a narrow biological window that requires immediate investigation and funding to address the problem or lack of knowledge? **Yes**

Cell A17: What is the likelihood of a successful project? High likelihood means a proposal is supported by sound scientific principles, appropriate sample sizes for statistical inference, and comprehensive study design. Low likelihood means a general lack of clear project objectives, or is not supported by scientific principles, or lacks a robust study design and direct application to wildlife management. There is high likelihood of success with this project, but long-term impacts may be moderate due to federal regulations that direct wild horse management.

Cell A19: Does the project leverage funding or in-kind contributions by external partners and by how much? **Yes**

Cell A21: Cost Effectiveness: *Are the expected results worth the cost of the project?* **Moderate cost-effective**

