

Non-Habitat Project Proposal Form	
MDEP Team(s) Submitting Proposal: White Pine Area 11-12	Hunt Unit Group: 111-113
Project Title: Antelope Range Mountain Lion Removal	
1. Limiting Factor Rank Score: 4.1	Needs Assessment Strategy: Mountain Lion Removal 4.3
2. Justification: Downward Population Trend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg low fawn ratios <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg low buck ratio <input type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg low harvest numbers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disease detected <input type="checkbox"/> Anecdotal reports <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Body performing work: Wildlife Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private contractor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NDOW-Wildlife Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Predator Plan Project Category: Implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Experimental Management <input type="checkbox"/> Experimentation <input type="checkbox"/> Data Gathering <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Type of Project: Lethal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Lethal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capture & test <input type="checkbox"/> Collaring effort <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Level of Monitoring: Rigorous <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Project Duration: one year <input type="checkbox"/> two years <input type="checkbox"/> three years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4+ <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Annual Cost: Under \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 – \$25,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$25 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000+ <input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Funding Source: Heritage Fund <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/> Predator Fund <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NDOW <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Services <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is funding source eligible for matching funds? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. Will this project benefit additional wildlife species? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Species Benefit:	
12. Access for public hunting? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Are there other predator projects in area? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14. Will project expand knowledge of the mule deer population, mule deer habitat, or predator-prey relationships? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Probably <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Other MDEP teams involved: White Pine Area 11-12 White Pine Area 11-12	
16. Additional projects approved for this team: None	
17. Measure of success? Upward population trend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg increased fawn ratio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg higher observed buck ratio <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-yr avg increased 4-pts in harvest <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Project Start Date: 12/1/23	Estimated End Date: 3/31/26
Funding Source(s): Predator Fund	Estimated Project Cost: \$ \$75,000
<i>Oversight Committee Use Only</i>	
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Priority #	
Route Project to:	
Comments: See Attached.	

Antelope Range Mountain Lion Removal

The Antelope Range, Hunt Unit 112, is a relatively small, isolated mountain range with a declining mule deer population. In 2016, NDOW surveyed 287 mule deer on the east side of the Antelope Range on spring mule deer surveys. In 2022, NDOW surveyed 35 mule deer in the same area, under similar survey conditions and effort expended. The decline in mule deer population in this area is primarily drought related. However, with the current low mule deer numbers, mountain lions may be suppressing this population. Due to the supplemental prey sources of feral horses and domestic sheep in this area mountain lion populations may not have mimicked the mule deer decline. Due to the remote nature of this area, sport harvest on mountain lions is low. Removing 3-5 mountain lions per year for three years will provide relief to mule deer and allow for faster recovery of mule deer when and if drought and habitat conditions improve. Removal would be targeted on the east side of the Antelope Range between Red Rocks and Stockade Spring, where most mule deer winter in this area. After three years of mountain lion removal, this project would be reevaluated to determine success and/or continuation of the project. Success criteria for this project may include an assessment of drought and habitat conditions over the timeframe, change in mule deer numbers, and change in mountain lion demographics (sex and age of removed mountain lions). To further monitor mountain lion numbers in this area, up to 25 trail cameras would be placed on isolated water sources throughout the mountain range.