Grant Opportunity – Morey Peak Mule Deer Research

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has received federal grant funding for mule deer research in the Morey Peak area of the Hot Creek Range in central Nevada. We are seeking a qualified subgrantee to conduct research related to mule deer demography, habitat selection, and migration corridor modeling. Specifically, NDOW is interested in providing an opportunity for a graduate student to conduct field work, analyze results and publish findings. The graduate program must provide remote course work or an on-line degree as a condition of this research collaboration.

Proposals are due no later than Thursday, March 23, 2023 Grant proposals and any questions should be submitted to the Nevada Department of Wildlife Game Division Joe Bennett at jrbennett@ndow.org.

Grant Application Instructions

Please find a Scope of Work below detailing the deliverables for the research and graduate training for mule deer habitat selection in the Hot Creek Range, Nevada. The proposal must include:

- Identification of the project manager and supporting staff (if applicable) along with a brief description of qualifications.
- Description of how the scope of work will be performed.
- An estimated budget for proposed activities.

Grant Eligibility (must meet all of the following criteria)

- Specific experience collecting data and analysis on mule deer ecology including resource selection functions, survival analysis, and demography.
- Specific experience with advanced statistical modeling using remote sensing imagery to obtain habitat covariates
- Ability to provide graduate research opportunity through an on-line degree program
- Subgrantee must have an active DUNS number, or ability to obtain one
- Subgrantee must be registered in the System for Award Management, at www.sam.gov, and be in good standing, OR, have the ability to obtain registration and good standing.

Scope of Work

NDOW is seeking a qualified subgrantee to provide a research opportunity for a graduate student to investigate various aspects of mule deer ecology in the Morey Peak study area including movement ecology, resource selection functions, and demographic analysis. NDOW will provide funding for radio-collaring mule deer, field equipment, and tuition for graduate student to conduct this research.

The objectives of this research project are to analyze mule deer use of crucial winter range, migration corridors and stop-overs in the Management Area 16 study area. Specifically, NDOW is interested in quantifying habitat selection within identified migration corridors and stop-overs. The subgrantee will participate in the collection of field data, remote sensing imagery, and GPS telemetry locations for mule deer in the identified study area. NDOW will capture and radio collar up to 50 mule deer over a two-year period from 2023 through 2025. In addition, the subgrantee will provide or participate in the following:

- Collect body condition scores of mule deer using standard scoring procedures and ultrasonography of rump fat;
- Collect pregnancy status and fetus counts using ultrasonography methods where possible;

- Investigate mortalities of radio-collared animals in a timely manner and determine cause-specific mortality where possible.
- Conduct multi-scale habitat selection analysis using random and used points within corridors;
- Identify key habitat parameters related to mule deer survival
- Publish findings of the research in the form of a graduate thesis and/or peer-reviewed scientific journal

Location and Description:

The study area encompasses the majority of NDOW Management Area 16 and includes the Hot Creek winter range for mule deer.

1. Contractor furnished property and services:
   NDOW will provide all labor, equipment, and supplies necessary to perform all work as set forth in the specification. The subgrantee will provide a graduate training program for selected candidate. The subgrantee may be tasked with acquiring remote sensing imagery at selected sites across mule deer ranges.

2. Government furnished property and services:
   No government furnished property is being provided by NDOW.

3. Selection Process:
   The winning proposal will be selected through the NDOW scoring process, outlined in the NDOW Subgrant Manual at https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NDOW-GRANTS-MANUAL-4.17.17.pdf.

4. Contract Monitor
   A. Contract Monitor:
      Joe Bennett
      Nevada Department of Wildlife
      3373 Pepper Lane
      Las Vegas, NV 89120
      Phone: 702-668-3968
      E-mail: jrbennett@ndow.org

5. Reporting
   The successful subgrantee shall be required to provide NDOW Interim and Final Performance Reports and Interim and Final Financial Reports. Reporting deadlines and content shall be consistent with normal Federal Grant reporting requirements and will be detailed in the subgrant award.

6. Invoicing

   A. All invoices shall be sent to the NDOW subgrant email at NDOWsubgrants@ndow.org.
   B. If the full complement objective is not met, and the vendor deems continued efforts are no longer feasible or worthwhile for the term of the contract then an invoice should be submitted for the work completed up to that point for which NDOW has not already been invoiced.