

Project Specifications for Pinedale Anticline Project Office 2010-11 Request for Proposal for Mule Deer Monitoring

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this RFP is to secure a Contractor to facilitate 2010-11 quantitative monitoring of mule deer population parameters and habitat use within the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA) in Pinedale, Wyoming, and compare to reference areas populations and habitat use. Radio telemetry equipment will be provided by the Pinedale Anticline Project Office (PAPO).

Specific level of change to be monitored:

- The data collected for this project will be sufficient to identify changes in deer numbers and avoidance distances. Required monitoring includes determining any changes in mule deer population parameters and habitat use within the PAPA and compare to the Sublette mule deer herd and the Ryegrass/Soapholes (Study area) populations and habitat use.
- The Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation Matrix (Appendix B Record of Decision, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project) specifies that the changes requiring mitigation are as follows:
 - 15% decline in any year, or cumulatively over all years, compared to the Sublette mule deer herd and/or the Ryegrass/Soapholes (Study area).
 - Average of 0.5 km change per year over 2 years, and a concurrent 15% decline in deer numbers in any year compared to the Sublette mule deer herd and/or the Ryegrass/Soapholes (Study area).
- Changes in habitat use will be measured through avoidance distances and home range usage using RSF model.

Objective:

- Monitor mule deer within project and reference areas during winter and report changes in population numbers.
- Monitor female survival (based on collared mule deer mortality).
- Map collared mule deer locations and migration routes.
- Using a Resource Selection Function Model (RSF), identify mule deer distribution and habitat selection.

For each objective, monitoring by contractor will occur within the PAPA (Treatment) and Ryegrass/Soapholes (Study area) see Attachment B, map.

VI. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROPOSER [CONTRACTOR]:

1.1 OBJECTIVES: Monitor change in deer numbers in any year, or a cumulative change over all years. Monitor avoidance distances from well pads and roads. Document long term trends and make year-to-year comparisons.

Methodology

- Contractor will capture and maintain 30 downloadable GPS collars (20 in treatment survey area, 10 in reference area) on adult (>1 yr of age) female mule deer within the PAPA and reference areas (see Appendix A, Project area map).
- Collars will be programmable, downloadable GPS type (i.e. Telonics Inc. Spread Spectrum)
- Programming specifics to be discussed during contract stage.
- Contractor to maintain no less than 15 collars in treatment area and 5 collars in reference area.
- Collaring, as needed is to occur late December 2010.
- One fixed wing flight will be required to download data in early April 2011.

Changes in deer numbers

- Contractor will estimate abundance by conducting one aerial survey using 1-mi² quadrat units following WGFD protocols (Appendix C).

Quadrat Sampling:

- Mule deer will be sampled by helicopter with observer counting all animals observed on 46 quadrats within the treatment survey area and 23 quadrats within the study area in February 2011.

1.2 REQUIREMENTS:

- **Contractor will use Data protocol as provided by the PAPO (Attachment C) for reporting data.**
- **Surveys will be conducted using protocol identified by the WGFD (Attachment D).**
- **Contractor is required to obtain and maintain a Chapter 33 wildlife capture permit with the WGFD.**
- **Contractor will submit all capture and location data to the WGFD Wildlife Observation System the year collected.**
- **Contractor will be responsible for recovery of any dropped collars.**

1.3 DATA SUBMISSION AND REPORTING:

- Contractor will coordinate directly with the PAPO.
- Any equipment purchased from the project fund will be property of the PAPO.
- All raw data will be submitted as collected to the PAPO.

- Data will be submitted electronic and hardcopy using attributes table provided by the PAPO.
- All horizontal position data will be collected and reported in NAD 27, Zone 12, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM).
- Preliminary reports will be submitted 30 days after completion of each objective.
- Invoices will include progress summary describing completed work included in billing.
- Draft Final Report is due May 31, 2011
- Final Report is due June 30, 2011.

1.4 COMMUNICATION AND ON-SITE REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor and Agency Representative may schedule meetings as deemed necessary to review current project status. Phone call and e-mail are the preferred means of communications.

1.5 DOCUMENTATION

The Contractor shall maintain all fiscal records relating to the contract in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall maintain any other records relating to the contract. The State, the Federal government and their duly authorized representatives shall have access to such fiscal records and to all other books, documents, papers, plans and writings of the Contractor which relate to the contract to perform examination and audits and make excerpts and transcripts. The Contractor shall retain and keep accessible all such fiscal records, books, and documents for three (3) years, or such longer period as may be required by applicable law, following final payment and termination of the contract, or until the conclusion of any audit, controversy or litigation arising out of or related to the contract, whichever date is later.