

Project Specifications for Pinedale Anticline Project Office 2010-11 Request For Proposal for Pronghorn Monitoring

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this RFP is to secure a Contractor to facilitate 2011-12 quantitative monitoring of pronghorn 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 pronghorn populations and avoidance distances. Required monitoring includes determining any changes in pronghorn population parameters and habitat use within the PAPA and compare to the Sublette pronghorn herd and the Bench Corral (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 pronghorn herd and/or the agreed upon Bench Corral (Study area).
 - Average of 0.5 km change per year over 2 years, and a concurrent 15% decline in pronghorn numbers in any year compared to the Sublette mule deer herd and/or the agreed upon Bench Corral (Study area).
- Changes in habitat use will be measured through avoidance distances and home range usage using RSF model.

Objective:

- Census pronghorn within project area during winter and report changes in population numbers.
- Monitor female survival (based on collared pronghorn mortality)
- Monitor pronghorn distribution and group size (monthly winter flights)
- Map collared pronghorn locations and migration routes
- Using a Resource Selection Function Model (RSF), identify pronghorn distribution and habitat selection.

For each objective, monitoring by contractor will occur within the PAPA (treatment) and Bench Corral (Study area, see Attachment B, Project area map).

VI. PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROPOSER [CONTRACTOR]:

1.1 OBJECTIVES: Monitor change in pronghorn 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 Global Positioning System (GPS) collars (15 per survey area) on adult (>1 yr of age) female pronghorn within the PAPA and Bench Corral Study area (Attachment B, Project area map). Collaring is to occur late December 2010.
- Collars will be programmed to drop off in November 2011. Contractor will be required to recover collars and download data to be included in final report.
- Contractor will conduct monthly (January, February and March, 2011) aerial fixed wing flights of the PAPA and reference areas, (see Attachment B, Project area map) using approximately ½ mile interval transects.
 - We estimate 8-10 hours flight time per survey area (one day for treatment, one day for reference area). Flights are to be completed for each area within one day and consecutive days are preferred for surveying both areas.
 - Flights should be conducted at an elevation high enough to avoid excessive disturbance or movement of animals.
 - Flights should be conducted once monthly during January through March with a minimum of 20 days between flights.
- Contractor will map locations of groups and accurately count group sizes without double counting.

It is recommended that flights include two observers to include: 1 observer counting numbers of individuals and the second observer utilizing high definition digital photography or digital video to capture images of groups. Images can be used to crosscheck counts made by observer 1.
- Contractor will relocate all GPS collared animals within the project areas identified on the Project area map (see Attachment B, Project area map) during aerial surveys.
- Contractor will use a receiver with scanning capability during aerial surveys to identify GPS collared animals in treatment and study areas.
- Where GPS collared animals are not found during treatment and study area surveys an additional aerial investigation may be necessary in March to locate these animals.
- Contractor will recover all collars on mortality, avoiding unnecessary disturbance to pronghorn and other big game on winter ranges.

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.
- Summary Report will be submitted within 1 month of each survey.
- 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 Report is due March 1, 2012
- Final Report is due April 15, 2012.

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.