

The *Odocoileus* Report

*-A Quarterly Report of Ungulate Research Activities in Eastern Washington-
Conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

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MULE DEER PROJECT UP-DATE

The latest news is that the contract between WDFW and Chelan County PUD was signed the first week of February, allowing Chelan County PUD funds to be spent on the Mule Deer Project. Although the Colville Tribal Council has agreed to provide funding to the Mule Deer Project, an official contract has yet to be finalized.

Currently, two employees from the U.S. Forest Service, one on the Tonasket District of the Okanogan National Forest and one from the Republic District of the Colville National Forest, have time allocated to the Mule Deer Project. Their activities have centered around mapping deer capture areas and preparing for deer trapping.

Field activities of the Eastern Washington mule deer project will begin the last week of February with mule deer being captured and instrumented with radio-collars. The goal this spring is to capture and mark 60 adult does by mid March on at least three of the major study sites within Chelan County, the Colville Reservation, and the North Half (Colville and Okanogan National Forests). This project has been in the planning stage for over a year and is a cooperative effort between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Colville Confederate Tribe, the Colville National Forest (Republic, Kettle Falls, and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts), the Okanogan National Forest (Tonasket District), Chelan County Public Utility District, the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council, and the Inland Empire Chapter of Safari Club International. The study area covers a large geographic area of north-central and northeastern Washington, providing an opportunity to observe and measure mule deer habitat use, population dynamics, movements, and survival rates at a landscape level and multiple cover types. The project is expected to be at full operation by Spring 2001 and include five years of field data collection. If you are interested in participating in deer capture operations or reviewing the complete project proposal, please contact Woody Myers at 509-456-4082 or Myerswlm@dfw.wa.gov.