



MENDOCINO COUNTY BLACKTAIL DEER ASSOCIATION

Announces New Stakeholder Initiative

FOREST AND WILDLIFE HEALTH INITIATIVE AGENDA 23

The Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association (MCBA) is excited to announce we are launching the Forest and Wildlife Health Initiative Agenda 23, with the mission of fostering a collaborative effort between land managers, wildlife managers, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders, to create a balanced agronomic approach to the maintenance of our public lands in northwestern California that restores and maintains healthy forest ecosystems and wildlife populations. To accomplish this mission, the MCBA is taking a comprehensive balanced view of our public lands and wildlife resources and then launching cooperative projects to tackle specific conservation challenges as they arise. We believe that for far too long non-profit groups and the public have been polarized and not working together to effectively address pressing conservation challenges. We will accomplish our projects through grassroot stakeholder meetings, town halls, securing funding, and building workforces.

Our strategy is to inventory the current conditions of the wildlife and habitat, that is, collect immediate data, in order to directly inform decisions about where to focus conservation efforts, including habitat enhancements and monitoring. Once areas of need are identified, we will develop strategies and implement collaborative projects based on an ecosystem management approach to tackle the problems. Finally, we will evaluate the outcomes of our projects to measure success and guide refinements moving forward. We believe that a program that addresses all of these aspects is the best approach and represents the entire public interest.

The Mendocino Blacktail Deer Association was formed in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit California Public Benefit Corporation with the specific purposes of improving the conditions of black-tailed deer populations and other wildlife through financial support for habitat improvement, education, and research projects. In order to fulfill its mission, the MCBA works cooperatively with Federal and State natural resource management agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, and other stakeholders to support and conduct projects to directly enhance black-tailed deer populations, their habitats, the vital relationships of their predators, and the greater ecological community.

We are asking for your support on this critical mission to restore and maintain our public lands and wildlife in northwestern California. Together with commitment we can achieve this mission.

For more information on current projects and to get involved please contact

Paul Trouette, President, Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association
707 - 489 – 9663 mendodeer@yahoo.com.

**MENDOCINO COUNTY BLACKTAIL DEER ASSOCIATION - NEW PROJECT
LONG TERM MONITORING PROJECT 2024**

THE PROBLEM

With the increasing decline of deer on northern California public lands, MCBA has developed a new project that follows the commonsense approach to problem solving. First, figure out where we are, then figure out why we are there, and then fix it. As a crucial first step to address the declining black-tailed deer populations in northwestern California, the MCBA and other deer conservation non-profit organizations requested that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) conduct a scientific field investigation to determine the rate and causes of the decline and provide recommendations to reverse the trend. As a result, CDFW made the investigation a priority and partnered with researchers from the University of California Davis to conduct the field study. The final report, "Black-tailed Deer Population Assessment in the Mendocino National Forest," was completed in December 2014. Results indicated that deer were indeed declining at a high rate, primarily due to predation and poor habitat conditions. Recommendations from the study included continued monitoring of the deer population annually and enhancing habitat conditions on seasonal ranges and fawning areas.

Based on these findings and recommendations, the current challenge is to determine how to best use our limited resources to effectively reverse the downward trend and maintain healthy black-tailed deer populations on our public lands over the long term. This new project will build off the previous work to evaluate the current conditions in order to guide effective habitat enhancement work and inform regulatory changes.

THE SOLUTION

The "LONG TERM MONITORING" project is designed to initially estimate the abundance and distribution of black-tailed deer, black bears, mountain lions, and coyotes in the Mendocino National Forest first, and then move to the Trinity, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Klamath Forests, covering the B-Deer Hunt Zones. The information gained from this project will provide us with the current conditions and relationships between habitats and predator and prey, in very specific geographical areas, which, in turn, give us specific change goals. This project, once implemented, will produce information that will tell us what is going on in our lands and peer reviewed scientific documents that will be key to introducing regulatory recommendations to the CDFW and US Forest Service.

THE CHALLENGE

We believe that most of the public will get behind a broader message of a balanced approach to National Forest and wildlife conservation that is not species specific but public use specific. If we address all negative impacts that affect all wildlife and forest challenges, the public will benefit in all multiple use applications. Please join our cause to restore and maintain our public lands and wildlife by donating your time or funding to the project.