

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Task Agreement #: G20AC00407

Project Title: Investigating Mountain Lion and Wild Horse Ecology Across the West

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Research

Funding Agency: United States Geological Survey

Other Partners/Cooperators: Utah State University

Student Participation: No

Effective Dates: 09/01/2020 to 08/31/2021

Funding Amount: \$48,000.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Project goals: The goal of this project is to evaluate the role of an exotic herbivore in the population dynamics and distribution of a native carnivore. Results of this project will be used to inform management of valued game species in Nevada and other western states.

Project objectives:

1. To determine relative proportion of mountain lion diet consisting of feral horses versus other ungulate prey in two feral horse populations in Nevada.
2. To test whether mountain lions prey-switch to bighorn sheep or increase predation rates on mule deer following removal of feral horses.
3. To determine effect of feral horse removal on mountain lion productivity and kitten survival.
4. To determine effect of feral horse removal on movement and home range of mountain lions.