

FY 14/15 Request for Proposals for BGMA Funding  
California Deer Association

**Statewide survey, maintenance and reconstruction of man-made watering devices for wildlife support**

**Applicant Contact Information**

California Deer Association

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**Summary**

In response to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW, or "department") solicitation for grant proposals (RFP) funded through the Big Game Management Account, the California Deer Association (CDA) is proposing to conduct a multi-year statewide survey of man-made watering devices (guzzlers) designed to provide water sources for California's wildlife, and where needed to perform repairs or reconstruction to these critical sources of water for wildlife.

Throughout many decades, local, state and federal governments, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have established water guzzlers to provide a watering source for wildlife and many have fallen into a state disrepair. Multiple years of persistent drought conditions throughout the state have resulted in natural water sources drying-up sooner than in previous years, and in some instances drought conditions are so severe that natural water sources are not adequately replenished, resulting in increased wildlife mortality and/or reduced birthing weights or fewer births.

The data obtained as a result of the completed survey will assist the department in identifying the location and condition of guzzlers throughout the state and help to appropriately direct future conservation water projects to those areas most in need as determined by the number and condition of guzzlers in a particular geographic region.

Performing repairs and reconstruction of guzzlers in tandem with the survey will ensure water is provided to wildlife sooner, rather than later. This approach is preferable to first conducting a statewide survey of the location and condition of guzzlers and then a year or later, making a priority list of repairs and ultimately repairing guzzlers.

The California Deer Association is uniquely positioned to oversee and implement this grant. As a non-profit conservation organization operating solely within California for the past 18 years, CDA and our members have either directly repaired hundreds of guzzlers throughout the state, or managed the repair performed by others.

This proposal furthers the purposes of Fish and Game Code Section 3953, by conducting a habitat conservation project benefitting big-game species throughout

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California. Additionally, this proposal meets the objectives of the current RFP funding cycle by attempting to alleviate current and future drought impacts to California's big-game species.

**Issue/Problem Statement**

Throughout many decades, man-made water devices (guzzlers) have been established in California by many different government agencies and by NGOs to assist wildlife. There are a variety of estimates of the number of guzzlers in the state and due to the many different entities involved—and guzzlers being located on public and private land—there is no accurate determination of the numbers in existence. As a result, there is no centralized database identifying the location and condition of these guzzlers that likely number into the many thousands. Without a database, governments and NGOs are repairing or replacing guzzlers absent a regional or statewide perspective and may be allocating funds and labor in disproportionate or a less effective manner. Multiple years of persistent drought conditions throughout California is having a negative, compounding effect on California's big-game species and a focused approach to solving this problem by creating such a resource will provide DFW with data that will help inform-decision makers as they allocate scarce resources to current and future wildlife water projects.

**Project Description**

This multi-year proposal intends to conduct a location and condition survey of guzzlers by having paid individuals(staff) first establish a list of likely locations by utilizing written records or first-person interviews that detail location descriptions. Once this data is compiled for a given geographic area, staff will go into the field to verify the location of the guzzlers.

Once identified, staff will record the GPS coordinates of each guzzler, take pictures of the guzzler and the surrounding habitat, and complete a questionnaire regarding the condition of the guzzler. If the guzzler's condition is in need of minor repairs, staff can perform them at this point. If more significant repairs are needed, the guzzler will be added to a prioritization list as others within this geographic area are assessed with repairs to be completed before moving on to another geographic area.

Prior to entering the field, staff will be trained on the proper documentation and maintenance techniques needed to ensure robust data collection and proper repairs.

At the conclusion of location verification, condition documentation, and repairs of guzzlers in each geographic location, CDA will submit a report to the department.

**Expected Benefits**

Data derived from this study will help DFW identify the location and condition of guzzlers throughout the state and use this information to better inform decision making. Repairs to guzzlers will provide immediate and long-term benefits to California's big-game and other wildlife by creating additional watering sources during the worst drought conditions in the state's history.

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**Itemized Budget**

Description	Cost
Staff 3@ \$14/hr x 2080 hrs (+WC, tax, ins)	97,843
Reimbursements	
Mileage 3,000 miles/mo @ 0.56/mile	20,160
Meals/exp. avg. 1 day/wk/worker	7,176
Total staff costs	125,179
Equipment (Cameras/GPS/Personal Protective Equip.)	4,500
Data collation and report production	2,000
*Guzzler repair (no more than \$750 per guzzler)	50,000
Sub-total	181,679
Overhead and Expenses	18,168
<b>Total Grant Request</b>	<b>199,847</b>

\*CDA will organize volunteer labor to assist staff with guzzler repairs beyond simple maintenance that can be performed at the time of surveying their location and condition.