

## BLM STUDY REVIEW of HELLS CANYON COMPLEX STUDIES

### Mule Deer Population Survey in Hells Canyon

3.2-30

Jack Melland  
Wildlife Biologist  
Baker Resource Area

September 25, 2002

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This studies objectives were to estimate deer population levels, age composition, population trends, distribution and spatial distribution of age and sex ratios during late fall.

#### 2. CONCLUSION

*"Wintering deer numbers increased from 1998 to 2000 with fawn ratios also increasing in 2001. All three years had mild winters and deer didn't reach the winter range until late December."*

This is good inventory data, useful for state herd management.

#### 3. STUDY ADEQUACY

This information could be useful to state agencies, but distribution by habitats monthly would be helpful. As no severe weather occurred deer were not forced to the lowest elevations. Deer were found at 4700 feet elevation. Deer concentration areas are well mapped.

#### 4. BLM CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

##### CONCLUSIONS

Deer concentration areas are well mapped with the maps being useful to delineate habitat types and their condition. The deer numbers are more useful for state agencies.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

Data is deer numbers and not habitat. The deer concentration areas should draw special habitat management. Any developments such as recreation should be restricted in these areas.