



News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More Funding for Deer Habitat Improvement

A key wildlife conservation partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and the Mule Deer Foundation will help fund more local deer habitat enhancement projects. “We are very thankful and proud that the Foundation has chosen to partner with us,” said Plumas National Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton. She noted that local partnership project work in black oak and aspen tree stands has resulted in more summer and fall forage for mule and black-tailed deer in addition to providing improved fawning conditions for both species.

The U.S. Forest Service and The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the North American Wildlife Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona in late March, renewing the original MOU signed by both parties in 2002.

The MOU establishes a formal framework of cooperation and coordination between MDF and the Forest Service, including forests like the Plumas. Specifically, the MOU calls for joint planning and implementation of projects, programs, and activities that maintain and enhance the productivity of mule and black-tailed deer populations and their habitats. Foundation chapters, in partnership with local Forest Service biologists, work together to develop projects, secure funding, and in some cases, implement projects. The assistance of MDF volunteers can help to keep project costs down and allow more acres of deer habitat to be improved.

The Forest Service manages 193 million acres across the United States that provide significant amounts of habitat for mule and black-tailed deer. The Plumas National Forest manages just over 1.1 million acres incorporating portions of six deer herd units including Bucks, Sloat, Mooretown, and Doyle. Local partnership work includes the Oak Flat, Genesee, and Yuba County Black Oak Enhancement Projects and the Basin-Aspen Habitat Enhancement Project.

If you are interested in local projects or volunteer opportunities, please contact George Garcia, Plumas National Forest Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants Program Manager at (530) 283-7828. More information about the Mule Deer Foundation can be found at <http://www.muledeer.org>.

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Key Points:

- 1) Forest Service and Mule Deer Foundation partnership will provide for more local projects improving mule and black-tailed deer habitat in black oak and aspen groves.**
- 2) For local project information and volunteer opportunities, contact George Garcia, Plumas National Forest Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants Program Manager at (530) 283-7828.**
- 3) More information about the Mule Deer Foundation can be found at <http://www.muledeer.org>.**