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August 29, 2006

MEMO

TO: Bill Collins
Placer Moose Project Personnel

FROM: Don Spalinger

SUBJECT: Placer Valley Field Work, Fall 2006: Project timetable

Bill,

I thought a memo would be the best way to document and keep track of the various projects to be done this semester. This is already turning out to be a lot of work, just figuring out how to schedule it all! Anyway, here is the schedule as we discussed earlier (at least what I recall we agreed on). Make sure I understood it correctly!

I have about 10 students in the class, and 1-2 who will probably join the class in independent studies. I have tentatively grouped the class into 7 teams of 2 people each, and one of these teams will be responsible for the tame/wild moose diet determinations. This crew will work with the Alkane crew to determine how similar the tame moose diet is to the wild moose diet in Placer Valley. They will be responsible for helping set up the tame moose pens, helping transport the moose to Placer Valley, and help tear down the pens, the field camp, and then help transport the moose back to Palmer when the experiment is over. Their main duties, however, will be to conduct the 48 hr feeding observations on the tame moose, collect fresh fecals from the wild moose, and collect the forage samples to be returned to the lab for analyses. Here is the schedule as we discussed (I think):

Sept 29, 30, Oct 1: Moose transported out to Placer Valley for trials. Friday, the crew (and additional students from the Habitat crew, etc.) will help set up the foraging pens for the tame moose, and get the moose into the pens. They will help sample vegetation on Saturday and Sunday (see the schedule documented in HabitatWork.doc for habitat crew's schedule).

Oct. 6, 7, 8: Moose crew air boats out to Spencer Lake on Friday at 1:00 PM. Start around-the-clock observations of moose at 12 midnight on Friday, finishing at 12 midnight on Sunday (if the moose come back on Monday, the 9th). Part of the crew (along with at least one member from the alkane crew, and one habitat crew) will sample wild moose locations on Saturday and Sunday, floating back on Sunday to collect moose locations down the valley. I and one remaining crew member (and possibly one of the FS biologists) will stay out with you to finish data collections on the tame moose on Sunday, and help return the moose to Palmer on Monday.



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The tame moose crew will be responsible for deciphering the tape recordings of the moose, and for computing the activity budgets of the tame moose (along with an accurate assessment of actual foraging time).

Question: Do you feel it will be necessary to get the students out to Palmer prior to moving the moose to the field, in order for them to get some practice recording behaviors and feeding observations, and getting to know the moose? If so, should I give the students your email address, and have them contact you and set up a time to come out and work with you? Since I will be working with different groups each Friday in the lab, perhaps they could come out one or more of the following Fridays: Sept. 8, 15, or 22, to work with you and the moose? Let me know if this sounds good to you, or if there are any changes that need to be made to the schedule. Thanks.