

Hi all,

I wanted to give you a quick update on how things are going.

We have had a lot of success with trapping on most of our areas. We have deployed 10 GPS collars and 26 VHF collars so far. All 10 GPS transmitters and 21 VHF collars are on hens. Only 5 VHF collars are on males. We have a few collars we have not deployed yet but we have decided to stop ATV trapping because we found 3 hens on nests on Thursday and we don't want to risk mortalities related to trapping. We will look for other opportunities to get those collars deployed over the next few months.

As many of you know, we have tried cannon net trapping on the Guildersleeve lek. It requires a lot of prep work in order to figure out where hens are hanging out when they visit the lek. We caught one male last week but have not captured any hens on that property. We have tried ATV trapping out there but it has been very difficult and unsuccessful. We are going to try the cannon net on the lek one more time early next week to see if we can get lucky and get a hen or 2 to put GPS transmitters on although I am not very optimistic since it seems most hens have started nesting.

We are starting to get some very cool data back from the GPS transmitters we have deployed. Mostly, the hens are staying pretty close to the lek where they were captured although we have had a few that have moved several miles to other lek locations.

The landowners we are working with have been very gracious. Some have had concerns along the way but I have been able to speak to them in person or on the phone and explain in more detail what we are doing. This has allowed us to maintain working relationships. I am really enjoying working with the landowners. It has been very rewarding to gain their trust.

We are in the process of tracking collared birds and locating nests. That will be our lot for the next several weeks until eggs hatch and then we can begin vegetation surveys at those locations. I'm excited about the progress we've made to this point.

Thank you all for your support and for the time you have dedicated to this project. I will send another update in a month or so. As always, let me know if you have questions.

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