Mule Deer Protection Act Funding

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality

Requester Information

Legislator Name: Musselman, Calvin R.

Created Date: December 29th 2025 **Submitted Date:** January 6th 2026

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

The Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has implemented the mule deer protection act (coyote bounty program) since 2012. Recent changes to the program incentivize hunters to better help mule deer by offering $100 for each coyote taken in mule deer habitat and $50 for each coyote taken in non-mule deer habitat. As a result, interest in the program has significantly increased, and it's projected that DWR will be $200,000 short this fiscal year and moving forward.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Justin Shannon

Organization: Division of Wildlife Resources

Position: Deputy Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
In-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Out-of-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Supplies and Equipment	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Technology Purchases	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: 2027:	$200,000.00 $0.00	$200,000.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$200,000.00	**$0.00**	**$200,000.00**

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	$200,000.00
2027 (One-time)	$0.00
2027 (Ongoing)	$200,000.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$200,000.00	**$0.00**	**$200,000.00**

Is this a multi-year project?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

The project is scalable. With limited funding, they will continue making bounty payments until funds are depleted. Scalability in this case means halting payments for the remainder of the year once resources run out.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Economy

01166

Agency:

560 / Natural Resources

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

State Government

Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

DWR administers payments associated with the mule deer protection act.

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

Hunters, ranchers, farmers and mule deer enthusiasts will most benefit from this additional funding.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

This program is intended to increase mule deer populations.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

Increases in coyote take should result in higher fawn production, fawn survival, and adult deer survival and ultimately lead to more mule deer on the landscape.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Provided language attached.

- Mule Deer Protection Act Intent Language.docx

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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