



Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association's *Blacktail News* Magazine

April 2019

In this Issue:

- Big Green Declines
- Taxidermy Awards
- BLM & USFS
- Bill Mayfield Tribute
- MCBA Project Update
- Ukiah Banquet Recap
- Lake County Banquet
- CDFW Update

Ukiah Banquet ~ April 20, 2019

Jere Melo Foundation

PO Box 118, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 | Phone: 707 813-6928



Printed by:
The UPS Store
916-714-8000

RAINBOW



America's Country Store™

UKIAH - 707 462 2404
235 E. Perkins St, Ukiah
LAKEPORT - 707 279 0550
1975 Argonaut Rd, Lakeport

Pacific Outfitters

1600 5TH STREET, EUREKA, CA 95501 (707) 443-6328
955 N STATE STREET, UKIAH, CA 95482 (707) 468-6474

6700 Highway 36 West, Platina, CA 96076



R-WILD HORSE RANCH

Platina, California

Phone 530-352-4222



TRAILER & RV

707.459.2423 - 1471 South Main St - Willits - Toll Free 1.877.444.4101



Auto Mart Auto Repair

Bill Carter
Owner
707.459.1344
101 N. Lenore Ave.
Willits, CA 95490



Special Financing Available OAC
APPROVED AUTO REPAIR



Keith's Family Food Center



76201 Covelo Rd, Covelo, CA 95428
(707) 983-6633 www.keithsmarket.iga.com

KITTLE'S

EST. 1999

Outdoor & Sport Co.

888 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-4868 (HUNT)

The Bottle Shop Deli



152 Talmage Road, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 462-8849

707-462-1492
www.farm-supply.com
300 Talmage Rd. Ukiah, CA 95482



Grundman's Sporting Goods

Hunting, Fishing, Archery, Gunsmithing



75 Wildwood Ave Rio Dell, CA 95562 (707) 764-5744



WESTSIDE OUTDOORSMAN

323 N. Tehama St, Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-2638

President's Message

BY PAUL J. TROUETTE

"KEEPING OUR PROMISE"

It has never seemed so difficult in California to maintain hope and optimism about hunting. With a serious decline in deer numbers that is obvious to most avid deer hunters and coupled with the strangling new regulations imposed on hunters, it is hard to maintain confidence. But this concern is what drove me to create Mendocino County Blacktail Deer County Association 13 years ago.

However, I can say with excitement that MCBA has never been in a better place with our commitment to our members and California's B-Zone deer herds. We have been keeping our promise to improve deer education to our members and to improve habitat on public lands for our deer herds. MCBA has been working, funding, soliciting and collaborating on projects that help improve the conditions of local B-Zone public lands and our sporting way of life.

In this issue, you will see and read more about our projects and collaborations, both past and present, with our public land hunting partners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS). In addition, our hard work and efforts have grown our capacity to become an involved partner supporting other entities that can affect us as hunters and sportsmen. Over the past year and a half, MCBA has invested your hard-earned dollars in Paradise Ridge (Humboldt County — BLM) and in the Mendocino National Forest (Black Butte — USFS).

We are working to utilize more than \$200,000 dollars in the Covelo area in 2018 and 2019 by

masticating old, decadent chaparral habitat so the local deer in these areas can enjoy improved habitat, full of nutritious vegetation once again. MCBA has the B-Zones in our crosshairs for projects now and in the future. This is why we exist as an entity!

Thinking back to my family deer hunting trips and recalling those great experiences we created in the field with each trip taken and each buck harvested — I am hopeful. I'm hopeful that our work will allow our kids to create similar experiences with their children as well.

I am also very grateful to our members entrusting us with this mission, as this dream of mine began 13 years ago and I am even more committed to our cause. As always, we will remain true to raising local funds and spending them on local projects protecting our local public lands.

Paul Trouette

Paul is a longtime resident of Mendocino County and lifelong hunter. He can be reached at (707) 489-9663 or at mendodeer@yahoo.com



Lake County Annual Banquet - 2019



MENDOCINO COUNTY BLACKTAIL ASSOCIATION BEGINS HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON BLM MANAGED PUBLIC LANDS

Editor's Note: *This press release was issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in support and acknowledgment of the work of your Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association.*

COVELO, Calif. – The Mendocino County Blacktail Association, a wildlife habitat conservation group, has begun work to improve conditions for blacktail deer on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management near Covelo, in Mendocino County.

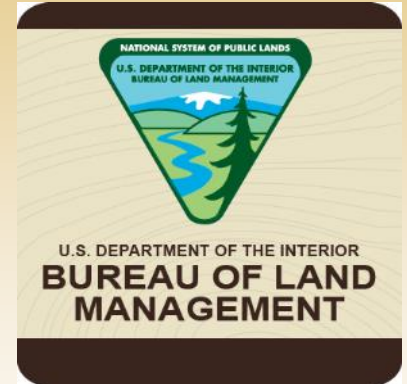
The Mendocino County work is an expansion of an ongoing project involving MCBA and the BLM Arcata Field Office. The project began in the King Range National Conservation Area and is now moving onto Eel River watershed public lands where deer forage quality has declined and is less palatable for deer.

Project workers will “top,” or cut off the upper portions of chemise, manzanita and other shrubs to stimulate new growth more beneficial to deer. The project aims to complete work on 200 acres by the end of this year and up to 500 acres per year for the duration of the 10-year project.

“We are proud that this partnership is contributing to the improvement and sustainability of the Eel River Watershed and habitat improvement,” said BLM Arcata Field Manager Molly Brown. “It is great to work with partners that are so enthusiastic about restoration of wildlife habitat.”

Chamise Knob, a Middle Fork Eel River access point off state Route 162, is the first Mendocino County treatment area. Future project sites are known locally at Willis Ridge, Brushy Mountain Timbered Ridge and Dingman Ridge.

The BLM analyzed the project in an environmental assessment completed earlier this year. The MCBA is a citizen group dedicated to improving the habitat for blacktail deer. They hold fundraising events and apply for grants to complete projects on publicly accessible land where its membership enjoys the great outdoors.



Here is feature the US Forest Service has written about one of MCBA's projects. Visit their website for the [complete story](#).

How the Mendocino NF Baseball Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction project will ensure that Nature's Benefits such as clean water, recreation, and more are available now and for generations to come



The Baseball Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction project otherwise known as "Baseball" is a partnership with the Mendocino County Blacktail Association (MCBA) and the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) located on a 600-acre site east of Covelo, California on the Mendocino National Forest. The project also happens to be in the headwaters of the Black Butte Wild and Scenic River, and adjacent to Atchison Campground. Unique characteristics of the geographic area include historic and cultural resources, geologic resources, and Congressionally-designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Black Butte River is important habitat for salmon; a staple in the diet of the area's Native American population. The landscape hosts deer populations that include numerous large bucks, with the Covelo District earning the name "The Big Buck Capital". In addition, Mendocino County is the number-one county for Boone & Crockett Club entries into the record books for blacktail deer.



What's at Risk?: Oak woodlands were being encroached upon by conifers leading to crowded conditions which resulted in hardwood tree becoming more susceptible to insects, disease and severe wildfire occurrence. With Covelo only 14 miles away, Covelo and the Round Valley Indian Reservation communities are threatened by the risk of severe wildfire. Also threatened are large portions of key winter and summer deer habitat, where oaks play an important part in deer grazing by providing acorns in late summer, fall and early winter. Browsing or feeding on oak leaves and twigs is also very important for deer in early spring when the new growth emerges. Large scale, high-severity, fires can reduce the amount and quality of deer cover and forage habitat for several years. Post-fire erosion could also have significant downstream effects on water quality and fish habitat in the Black Butte and Middle Fork Eel Rivers.

Restoration Plan: The Mendocino National Forest is reducing hazardous fuels such as trees, grass, and shrublands, and is enhancing wildlife habitat in this area as funds become available, and well as seeking outside funding through partnerships. At least 300 acres have been thinned, with 170 of these having been funded through the partnership with MCBA and MDF. An additional 80 acres is under contract now, funded in part by the Glenn County RAC. The next step on these acres will be a prescribed burn when the conditions are appropriate.

Partners and Funding: The Baseball project has received funding from several partners: Ninety-five thousand dollars was received in grant funds which was divided between the Mendocino County



Blacktail Association (\$85,000) and the Mule Deer Foundation (\$10,000). The Glenn County RAC funded an additional \$35,000 in FY18 which is currently being implemented. Post-thinning prescribed burns are being planned and can be an avenue to increase local understanding of prescribed fire through on-going engagement efforts with the Covelo community via the FIRESCAPE Mendocino collaborative.

Nature’s Benefits that will be positively impacted from the restoration activities

Local Economy: Reducing the threat of severe wildfire to this critical corridor will ensure that population centers, jobs and recreation will be protected. Local communities, such as Covelo to the east and Upper Lake to the south, rely on the economic boost from visitors buying supplies and staying in towns close to the forest during their trips. For public deer hunting, which makes up the majority of the recreational use of the Covelo Ranger District, the estimated annual expense each season per hunter is estimated by the Mendocino Blacktail Deer Association to be approximately \$650. California Department of Fish and Wildlife harvest reports show 631 deer were harvested in 2017 in three zones within the deer areas of the project. This is a total of \$410,150 per season for public hunting in and around the Covelo area. Much of this money is spent in local communities and communities along the way to the Covelo Ranger District. In addition to this, private hunts are run on several nearby properties by the Golden Ram Sportsman Club which also hosts hunters from the Fregoso Foundation, a non-profit 501 (C) 3 organization that focuses on thanking our Armed Forces and their families, especially the combat wounded, for their service and sacrifice. One of the Foundation goals is to provide first-class outdoor sporting and recreation activities to the combat wounded. One of the private-land hunting areas the Foundation uses is immediately adjacent to the Baseball project area.

Recreation: Maintaining and improving wildlife habitat enhances hunting and recreation opportunities in the area. Annually, 3,275 visitors come to the Mendocino to hunt, and 13,000 to fish, as their primary activity with the biggest recreational activity taking place on the Baseball project area being deer hunting. This project will enhance deer habitat quality as well as protect the hunting grounds and the Atchison Campground, which is highly utilized during deer hunting, from severe wildfire threat.

Before Treatment



After Treatment



California Deer Factory *on the Decline*

By Paul Trouette, MCBA President

Editor's note: This article was published in [Outdoor Wire](#) in June 2018.

There are three major species of deer in North America – whitetails, mule, and blacktail. Anyone living east of the Rockies knows that the recovery of whitetails from half a million a century ago to around 30 million today is one of the great conservationist stories of the 20th century.



Whitetail Deer

Mule deer are found in the West from the Arctic Circle to northern Mexico. It's estimated that there are as many as three million of them, living primarily in higher elevations.

An estimated 445,000 deer live in California, which is about equal to the city of Sacramento's human population. This may sound like a lot, until you realize the deer are spread over the entire state's 99 million acres and most of California's deer are found in the Sierras, and they are mule deer.

There is another species of deer in California, Columbian blacktailed deer (blacktail). Blacktail deer are found in forests along the Pacific Coast, with the Sitka subspecies in British Columbia and Alaska, and the Columbian subspecies found in Washington, Oregon and California as far south

as Monterey Bay. According to zoologist Dr. Valerius Geist, DNA research finds that mule deer are a hybrid of blacktail bucks, and whitetail does, but clearly mule deer and blacktails are very different.

Blacktails are called the "Ghost of the Pacific," for they live in areas with dense vegetation and do not have white showy tails when they bound away. Instead they sneak away through heavy brush, with blacktails hard to see. This makes them the most challenging deer of all for hunters.

In contrast to whitetails and mule deer, blacktails aren't flourishing. In fact, their populations are declining. We know this only too well in the "Emerald Triangle" of northwestern California – Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity Counties -- which historically has the reputation of being California's "Deer Factory."

Anybody worth their salt in modern day deer



Mule Deer

management circles would concede that the term "Deer factory" is a by-gone term for the northern remote mountains of California, called the

B-Zones. Fifty years ago, it was normal on a walk through the woods to see 40-50 deer in a day in this area, despite the fact that it's heavily vegetated thanks to the annual rains and coastal fog. In the good old days of the Emerald Triangle it used to produce a robust harvest of Columbian



Blacktail Deer

Black-tailed bucks. In Mendocino County alone, in 1954 an astounding 5,232 bucks were harvested. In 2016, 6,573 bucks total in all the 6 B-Zones combined were harvested. Today, few bucks are seen and the greater numbers of deer we once saw regularly have vanished largely in northwestern California.

Thanks to renown past deer biologists, Dale R. McCullough, Richard D. Taber, Raymond F. Dasmann, William Longhurst, and A. Starker Leopold, these researchers created for us the most comprehensive, yet readable and detailed analysis of blacktailed deer management ever written, but that guide has slipped away, being replaced by a substandard political model, which has helped destroy this resource in less than 40 years.

We must ask ourselves this question? Are these creatures worth saving? I believe the answer is yes. It certainly is for the Mendocino County Blacktail Association.

So, to dive right in we ask, "Where are all the blacktail deer in the Deer Factory?" In days gone by, deer were more relevant to the general culture of Californians. They hunted, and they loved deer. In 1980 there were 608,000 hunters in California when the population was 21.5 million people, and the deer population was about two million. Today, there were 272,229 licensed hunters in California in 2017, with a human population that's now 39 million, and a state-wide population of about 445,000 deer.

The California deer population has plummeted over the past two decades by 46% - if the yearly count of bucks killed by hunters is a proper measure.

The statewide hunter success ratio for deer hunters in California in 2010 was 15%, according to Fish and Game data. That means about four out of five hunters who purchased a license and deer tag from the state and attempted to harvest venison for their family failed to bring any home. In Colorado, by comparison, the hunter success rate for deer in 2011 was 43%.

What about the culture of the modern wildlife managers in 2018? What do they have to say about this? The last plan was 1978-83. We don't have a deer plan yet for the deer, but there is some movement.

In 2008, I was contacted by Craig Stowers, wildlife program managers of the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Craig asked me where I would consider to be a good area to conduct a deer study to find out what limiting factors could be suspect for the continued decline of blacktail deer in Mendocino County. I said to Craig, whom I consider one of the last premier Mohicans of Deer authorities, "Why don't we study the Mendocino National Forest?"

It was suggested that UC Davis's Hopland Research Station should be the study area. I said, "The forest would be a better study, that way we can provide the public with a real time analysis of what is going on in public lands, not a private site." Thus, the Mendocino Deer study was born.

When all the smoke cleared from the study by 2013, we determined many interesting things in the environment of the Mendocino National Forest. In a nutshell, without citing the numerous yet thorough 62 pages of the entire scientific analysis of the Mendocino National Forest, we have a handful of biological reasons why the deer have all but disappeared in comparison to the 1970's. I quote several key statements from the study.

"Our results show that deer in the Mendocino National Forest are currently declining in abundance. We found evidence that the decline is caused by high mortalities due to predation in all age classes.... Predation was the primary cause of fawn mortality, and black bear predation was the largest single source of mortality... Mountain lion predation was the primary cause of mortality of adult females equal to or greater than 1 year old."

And, "deer with larger amounts of forage within their identified home ranges were less likely to die of any cause, including predation."

I should also add that coyotes prey on blacktail fawns, and the local coyote population is robust. So far, we only have a handful of wolves in the area, but that may increase also, although their numbers may be limited by the declining number of blacktails.

That's some of the biology. But, the human side is at least as important, and it really boils down to

this. In the Emerald Triangle, where we live, we all know why the deer are gone. They can't eat fir trees, they don't eat noxious weeds, predators are given carte blanche access to them, logging is gone, fire suppression is very popular now in drought conditions. So, habitat is part of the problem. The harvest success rate for the California hunter is 15.6%. The Mendocino Study proved everything we savvy conservation NGO's



have been saying all along and we spent close to a million dollars to prove to ourselves that we were right.

A decadent old growth habitat will kill off all the early successional wildlife given enough time. Unfettered predation is tantamount to the death sentence for deer.

In the study, we determined that the available food quality for the deer in our public lands is old and non-nutritious as a whole. As forestry has declined, deer are in search daily for palatable nutritious food which is in serious short supply. In their efforts to feed themselves the blacktails move about their home ranges and beyond, so they are discovered more easily moving about by high densities of predators, thus the decline. Managing this problem is our challenge for working with federal and state regulatory agencies. The answer? Like always, it's the

sensible honest approach to the problem. Good science, coupled with common sense management, for the benefit of the public who pay for it.

Oh yes. Let's not forget that there is one other human factor to consider with regards to the decline of blacktails in California. The Emerald Triangle is also known to be the cannabis-growing capital of North America. In January of this year, in California recreational marijuana became legal, along with medical marijuana. When this was voted in, some people said it would do away with illegal marijuana growers, which we also hold the record for. Actually, this has not been the case.

According to Stacey Montgomery, District Attorney of Lassen County, California, international drug cartels are setting up armed camps in California forests and growing massive crops of marijuana, and "because of the legalization of marijuana in California, now we're seeing those same individuals working with other criminal groups—the Asian groups, the Russian groups, the motorcycle groups—all kinds of organized crime....They are killing wildlife. They're diverting streams. The damage that they're causing, both to the economy and to our public lands, is going to be generational." Actually by opening up sales and ownership of



recreational marijuana illegal timberland conversion to cannabis violations have skyrocketed 200% since the passage of the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act in 2015.

Authorities find hundreds of pounds of garbage and dangerous pesticides at illegal grow sites.

The reality is that less than 1% of the estimated 69,000 growers statewide have received a permit to farm marijuana since the beginning of the year. And, according to the sheriff of Humboldt county, there are at least 10,000 illegal grows in his county alone.

Montgomery blames both the legalization of marijuana and the state's sanctuary policies that shield illegal immigrants, including many convicted criminals, from federal immigration authorities.

Recently California Gov. Jerry Brown proposed to increase funding for combating illegal marijuana growers in the state. Sounds like a good idea, except that none of the money is earmarked for the Emerald Triangle, which is the epicenter of illegal grows.

So, the blacktail deer are trying. And the declining number of hunters in pursuit of the deer has made repopulation easier. However, as long as deer habitat is disappearing, and the woods are being taken over by armed criminals (who enjoy dining on venison) and whose crops mature as hunters enter the woods, the future of the California deer factory remains uncertain. Now, more than ever, wildlife management is as much people management as wildlife management.

Paul Trouette — June 2018



Benbow Historic Inn

445 Lake Benbow Drive
Garberville, CA 95542
(707) 923-2124



BARRA of Mendocino Winery
7051 North State Street
PO Box 196 (Mailing address)
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
Winery Phone: (707) 485-0322

Welcome To Anchor Charter Boats And The Trek II



- Salmon Fishing
- Rockfishing
- Crabbing
- Tuna Fishing
- Whale Watching
- Bird Watching
- Eco Tours



FORT BRAGG, CA

707-964-4550

Black Butte River Ranch – RV Park, Camping and Country Store

34985 Etsel Ridge Road
Covelo, CA 95428

707-983-9438 tom@blackbutteriverranch.com

FREY VINEYARDS

America's first organic and Biodynamic winery

14000 Tomki Rd, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

707-485-5177

*Biodynamic
Field Blend,
Mendocino,
California, 2014*



Mendocino Redwood Company and Humboldt Redwood Company

32600 Holquist Ln, Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 962-2800



**Humboldt
Redwood™**
NATURALLY STRONG. NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL.

Managing the Forest



Little River Inn

7901 N. Highway One
Little River, CA 95456
(Two miles south of Mendocino village)

Info@LittleRiverInn.com

1-707-937-5942

1-888-INN-LOVE (Toll Free)

1-707-937-5667 (Pro Shop/Golf Course)

1-707-962-2240 (Spa)

1-707-937-3944 (Fax)

Lodging

Dining

Golf

Weddings

Meetings



Parducci Vineyards



Deep Roots, Legendary Wines

501 Parducci Rd, Ukiah, CA 95482

(800) 362-9463

CRAFTING SMALL LOT ARTISAN WINES FOR OVER 80 YEARS.

Silver's at the Wharf



Silver's at The Wharf Restaurant, Lounge and Lodging. Located in on the scenic Noyo Harbor Fishing Village in beautiful Fort Bragg California.

For Reservations call (707) 964-4283.



Come visit MCBA on [Facebook!](#)



MCBA Presents Awards at Taxidermy Show

On March 7, 8 and 9, the California Association of Taxidermists (CAT) held its 33rd Annual Wildlife Art & Taxidermy Competition Show at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Woodland, California. The CAT are consistent supporters of Mendocino County Blacktail Deer Association (MCBA) and other wildlife conservation organizations.

This year, MCBA's Oscar Ramirez represented at the award show and presented two awards. The award for Superior Wildlife Taxidermy Art (Masters) and was presented to Tom Weatherson of Almanor Taxidermy from Chester, California. Tom mounted a very impressive Boone and Crockett-class blacktail on a creative

pedestal mount. Beyond designing a great mount, Oscar found quality throughout the work, including excellent detail in eye structure, skin folds, symmetry and creativeness.

Monument Taxidermy's Justin Jones received the Superior Wildlife Taxidermy Art (Professional) award for his beautiful Roosevelt elk mount.

Showing no imperfections and excellent realism, Oscar felt compelled to award Mr. Jones' elk over many other highly -skilled works that included mammals, blacktails, mule deer, whitetails and other big game mounts.



Courtesy CAT



Courtesy CAT





“It looked lifelike, and for lack of a better word, it just looked real,” said Oscar, a director on MCBA’s Board.

Oscar spent more than 3 hours scrutinizing the various works in both classes and went to a multiple-round elimination process that finally led

to the recognized awardees.



Congratulations to all the taxidermists that participated this year, they are true artists and great ambassadors of their profession. The CAT puts on a great show and you will be

astounded at the level of craftsmanship in the individual mounts, whether upland game birds, waterfowl, big game, African game, fish or even reptiles — there is something for everyone to enjoy.



Next year’s show is scheduled for April 2-4, 2020 in Woodland once again.

For more information contact Gary McDaniel at (707) 337-3053 or macnsons55@gmail.com or visit <http://caltaxidermy.com> or CAT’s [Facebook](#) page.



Fish and Wildlife Hires New “Deer Man”

Region 4 Hire Is Big Game Program Supervisor

By Oscar Ramirez

A little over a month ago, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) finally filled the vacant Deer Program Coordinator position that had been unfilled for over one year. The position, now known as the Big Game Program Supervisor, is now filled by Nathan Graveline, recently of Region 4 (Central Region – Fresno).



Nathan is in Sacramento trying to catch up with all things big game, including overseeing the recruitment of candidates for the vacant pronghorn/elk coordinator position.

During my conversation with the interim coordinator last year, the first new deer plan in 40 years was to be finalized and released in 2018. That did not occur. So, my first question to Nathan was the status of the deer plan.

“Getting the deer plan out is my first priority,” said Nathan. “I can’t put a specific date on it, but I fully intend to see that it goes out this year.”

Fair enough, not a promise — but his number

one priority. Since Californian’s last plan was in 1976, I guess one more year will not hurt in the grand scheme of things.

I then moved onto updates from other issues covered last year, such as habitat or other field work that is occurring in California, especially in the B-Zones. Nathan shared that some interesting projects are occurring this year, such as the expansion of fecal DNA studies, which will be moving forward this year in the B-Zones. Originally slated to begin last year, unfortunately, this too did not occur. With the Deer Program Coordinator position unfilled for a year, one can assume they didn’t receive the level of attention necessary to fully support these projects to implementation.

Nathan anticipates staff will be hired and go into the field this year to begin fecal DNA transects involving almost all B-Zones in order to develop a population study, which can include collaring deer to establish home ranges.

With fecal DNA studies becoming the “go-to” as a population tool, Nathan was excited to share that this work will provide scientific staff with a higher level of confidence and a fuller picture in establishing populations for the management of wildlife.

Nathan points out that existing models utilize harvest counts and composition models to establish baseline populations and while they faithfully accomplished the task, CDFW now has more effective tools at their disposal.

California began utilizing mandatory electronic reporting option a couple of years ago, which provides great information to the deer program personnel, such as take, level of effort (days in the field) and location.

Mandatory reporting started off with a bang, but has started to drop. With as much promise as it showed initially, mandatory reporting is down to about 75%.

For hunters going into the field again this year who did not report their harvest, a \$21.60 addition to your hunting license bill will occur. Regardless of the reduced trend, it is still far greater than the prior hard-copy reporting, which was about 30%.

Fecal DNA can be used for more than just modeling of deer populations and has shown effective in developing baselines populations of predators as well. A big plus is that fecal DNA work does not necessitate having to physically encounter the animals, which is less intrusive.

Due to the different types of terrain around the state, there are different types of science gathering methods used to develop the populations and many will still require collaring and the use of helicopters to do good ol' fashion animal counts.



I asked Nathan about the outlook for deer this year and Nathan believes the amount of moisture we are receiving is a bonus for deer, which is always a factor in carryover and general health. In addition, the wildfires from last year, while devastating to people, can be very productive for deer, especially in the short-term.

“Getting the deer plan out is my number one priority.”

— Nathan Graveline, CDFW

The first 3-5 years following a wildfire deliver the best feed for deer and other wildlife. However, if wildfires burn too hot, they can change the composition of the landscape, and not always for the positive. For example, timbered areas can develop into brush conversion if attention and resources are not applied to these burns.

Nathan is optimistic in his new job and believes that there is a need to work together gathering the best science and data to support our species plans. He intends to put these efforts into finalizing the deer plan.

In addition, Nathan shares that there are no recommended changes to deer tag proposals this year. However, the Fish and Game Commission has the last say.

Nathan is a hunter and seems genuinely excited to be in his new role. We wish him the best in helping California get good science in place that will benefit deer.

We hope that next year will provide us with a final deer management plan, updates to the scientific work in the B-Zones and just maybe we can have new species coordinators in place too.

The Good Ol' Days: Bill Mayfield, Big Blacktail Bucks and Hunting in Mendocino County

By Paul Trouette

Anyone who has lived in Mendocino County California has heard the name Mayfield. The Mayfield's are synonymous with excellence in business, hard work and a signature foundation of pride in Mendocino County.

In the 70's, the town of Ukiah was very strong in economy, growth and small business. The other thing that was big in Mendocino County — deer hunting! In hunting circles, the Mayfield name was well-known for being avid deer hunters and killing big bucks.

Around the same time, there was a ranch that was a source of premier genetics in Mendocino County that was world renowned for monster blacktail bucks.

How did I know this? My dad, Paul Trouette, Jr., used to tell me the stories of the big bucks that he saw roaming Eden Valley Ranch. While I was never fortunate enough to hunt Eden Valley Ranch, Bill Mayfield and my dad were fortunate enough to have been invited to the ranch during its heyday.

Steve Watson, who was the manager of the ranch in the 70's, can tell you all about it. As a matter a fact, we highlighted some of his bucks in last year's **Blacktail News** in the "Days Gone Past" page.

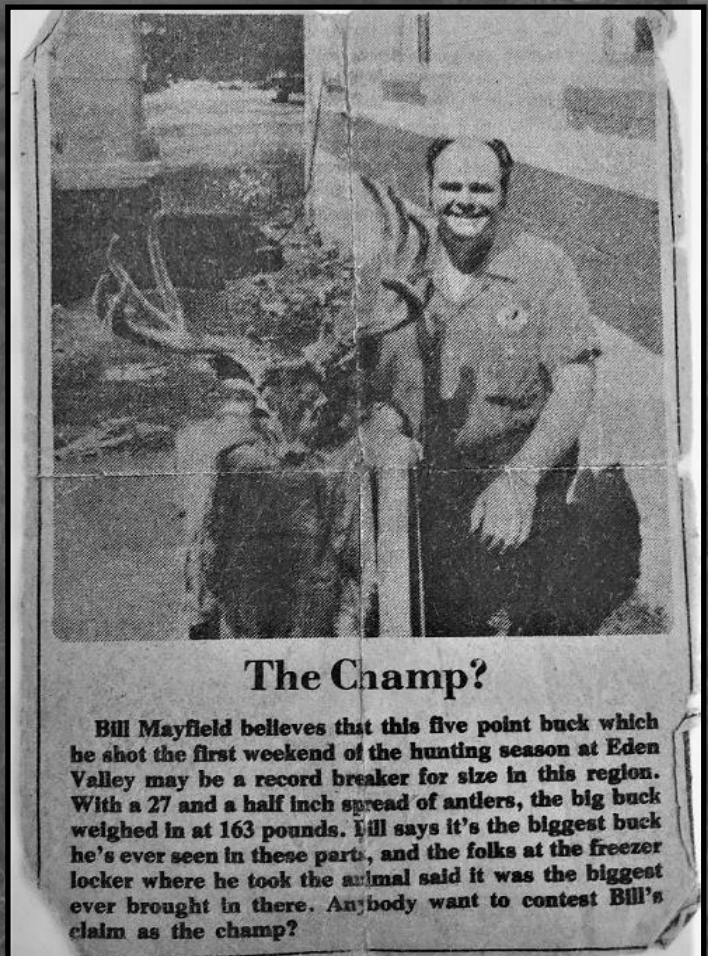
Over the last 50 years, the bucks that have been seen and killed in the mountains of Mendocino County are a tribute to the world-class genetics in area and are the inspiration that drives our love of the hunt. Chasing big blacktail deer and seeing these magnificent specimens, year after year, are

a joy to behold and always a thrill.

Below is a picture of Bill Mayfield from a story that ran in a now-defunct local paper. It is of Bill with a huge buck taken in the 1970's after a hunt on Eden Valley.

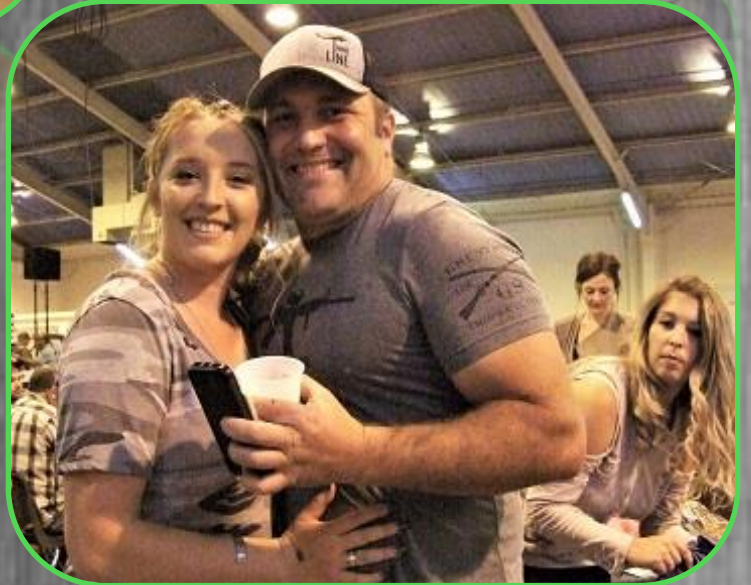
Sadly, Bill's huge buck was lost in a fire at the Mayfield's home. Thank goodness there are records that allow us to still enjoy these precious memories from long ago...and God bless the "the good ol' days!"

Bill Mayfield poses with his 27.5" wide, 163lb buck taken in Eden Valley. The local paper proclaimed it the "Champ."



ukiah banquet *2018*

fun, friends and good times



Photos courtesy of Hal & Rosie Wagenet

MCBA Banquet - Ukiah 2018



MCBA's 2018 Banquet Carl Purdy Hall, Ukiah



Forkies and 3 points and 4 by's, oh my!

Big Blacktails Taken in California's A- and B-Zones





2019 Banquet Prices and Registration

When: *April 20, 2019* Where: Carl Purdy Hall,
1055 North State St, Ukiah Time: 5:00, Dinner 7:00, Auction 8:00

\$1100 Gun Table - Ruger American Standard or Compact Rifle (blued finish) - listed calibers - .243 Win 6.5 Creedmoor, .270 Win 7mm-08, 30-06 and 308



\$1250 Gun Table - Weatherby S2 (blued) - listed calibers - .223, 22-250, 240 Wby, .243 Win, 25-06, 6.5 Creedmoor, 270 Win, 7mm-08, 308, 30-06, 257 Wby, 7mm Rem Mag, 300 Win Mag, 300 Wby Mag



\$1450 Gun Table - Tikka T3X (blued finish) - listed calibers 204 Ruger, .223, 22-250, .243 Win, 7mm-08, 308, 25-06, .270 Win, 30-06, 7mm Rem Mag, 300 Win Mag, .270 WSM, 300 WSM



() \$75 SINGLE () \$110 MARRIED COUPLE () \$45 YOUTH DINNER

- () \$575 Friends Table - Eight people sit together at reserved spot
- () \$1100 Gun Table - Sign at your table, someone wins a Ruger American (*1 in 8 odds*).
- () \$1250 Gun Table - Sign at your table, someone wins a Weatherby S2 (*1 in 8 odds*).
- () \$1350 Gun Table - Sign at your table, someone wins a Tikka T3X Lite (*1 in 8 odds*).

Gun Table Rifle Caliber (pick from available): _____

() \$100 TICKET PACKAGE () \$300 TICKET PACKAGE () \$500 TICKET PACKAGE

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Credit Card Type: *Circle One* [Visa - Master Card - American Express]

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

3-digit code _____

For tickets, call Rick Bulloch at (707) 782-8211 or Paul Trouette at (707) 489-9663.

2019 UKIAH BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

The MCBA Committee has a great selection of prizes and auction items including: firearms, hunts, fishing trips, artwork, sports memorabilia, outdoor products, jewelry and much more!

- Autographed Sports Memorabilia – Golden State Warriors, SF 49ers **Joe Montana** & **Jerry Rice**, SF Giants Pitcher **Madison Bumgarner**
- African hunts in **South Africa** or **Namibia**
- HIGH BIDDERS CHOICE of **Mexico** and **Caribbean** trip staying in a nice lodging, **Vegas** trip
- Local hunts & trips
- Lucky 7 Auction for the Grand Prizes
- Dove Hunt in **Argentina** for 2 -donated by **Sporting Adventures International, LLC**
- Quigley Custom Ballistic Scope Certificate set up for your rifle and caliber

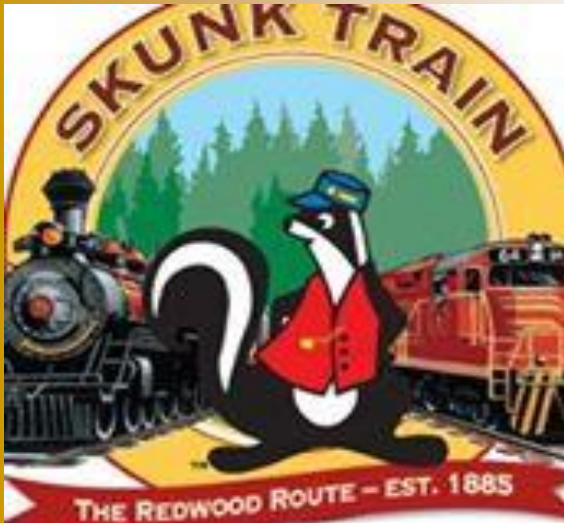
Free youth giveaways, ladies prizes, fun games, an open bar, delicious food, and some great blacktail deer mounts on display.



GOLDEN STATE OUTFITTERS

- Premier Hunting in the State of California -

CONAN EGAN
119 NORTH JEFFERSON ST.
CLOVERDALE, CA 95425
707.695.8880



For Reservations call
1 707-964-6371

100 W Laurel St
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-3410

Ross Ranch

Beach & Redwood Forest Horseback Tours

16401 South Highway One, Manchester, CA 95459
(707) 877 1834 or cells (707) 489-8579, (707) 489-7303



1870 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 – Phone (707) 462-8806



Geiger's Long Valley Meat Market

44951 U.S. 101, Laytonville, CA 95454
(707) 984-6912

Arrow Five Outfitters

98% SUCCESS ON ARCHERY BLACKTAIL HUNTS!!
99% SUCCESS ON RIFLE BLACKTAIL HUNTS!!

Jim and TinaMarie Schaafsma, HC 62, Box 64A Zenia, California 95595, (707) 923-9633 phone (707) 923-7863 fax
Specializing in Guided Hunts for California's Trophy Class Columbian Blacktail