

Quicksilver Air INC

Wildlife Capture Specialists



We are currently mid-way through our winter capture season, having captured approximately 1,400 animals over the past few months for a variety of research projects throughout Colorado, Wyoming, California, Nevada, South Dakota and Idaho. Throughout most of December Colorado's mule deer survival projects and bighorn sheep monitoring kept both of our capture crews busy. Throughout January Nevada State was active with deploying GPS collars statewide for mule deer, bighorn sheep and elk migration studies and health data collection. Idaho State has continued to monitor wolves, moose, deer and elk statewide. South Dakota have deployed collars on both elk and bighorn sheep. During January we have also been involved in wolf captures around Yellowstone National Park.



*Wolf captured near
Yellowstone National
Park, January 2009*

I had the pleasure of working with Quicksilver Air, Inc. for several days in December 2008 when they captured and collared 88 mule deer for the Middle Park Mule Deer Survival Study. Mark and David were extremely accommodating with respect to capturing deer at the desired random locations. This often meant passing over areas with higher deer densities to search and capture in areas that had lower density all while billing on a per deer basis. Moreover, Mark was proficient doing this with the onboard GPS, which made the whole operation run very smoothly. In addition to deploying radio collars, Mark and David collected biological samples, weights and ages on specified animals, and assessed body condition. I also feel that the crew genuinely had the best interest of the animals in mind. Finally, the crew was always enthusiastic about their work....despite cold weather and weather delays resulting from working between 7,000 and 9,000 feet in winter....I can sincerely recommend their services."

Justin Martens, Terrestrial Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife.



*Mark Shelton & Mark McNay with
black wolf near Yellowstone
National Park, January 2009*



*David letting go mule deer doe, CO,
December 2008*



*Billy Creek near Montrose, CO,
December 2008*

For the rest of the season one crew plans to work their way north with projects planned in Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Saskatchewan while the other crew works on capture projects throughout Colorado and Wyoming.

We have also been kept busy with wildlife surveys in both the MD500 and the Robinson R44 throughout the State of Colorado during December & January with more Robinson R44 survey planned in Nebraska and South Dakota throughout the rest of the season.



Wildlife Survey in R44 for Southern Ute Tribe, CO, January 2009

This was our first year with Quicksilver and our first time using a Robinson R44 for our survey. In 20 years of surveys we have always used a Jet Ranger and so it was a bit of a leap of faith to switch to the piston powered R44, but we were assured by Quicksilver that the ship had the power to fly the survey exactly how we wanted it flown. True to their word, the R44 performed for us. Power was not an issue at all and we were flying at elevations ranging between 6500 – 9000 feet. The R44 proved to be a nimble ship that had no problem making fast turns when needed. Overall it was a really good ship for us and I would recommend it for anyone doing classification surveys like ours. A couple more benefits of the R44 over the Jet Ranger to consider; the R44 is a much quieter ship, you don't smell Jet-A all day when you are flying in an R44 and finally it is a warm ship for those cold winter surveys!
Aran Johnson, Wildlife Biologist, Southern Ute Tribe.



Mark & Jonathon collaring bull elk in the Black Hills, SD, January 2009

Thank you for your business!

Rick & Sharon Swisher

And all the Quicksilver Air team



Both crews starting up at first light in Montrose, CO, December 2008



Rick & Arthur Middleton with wolf captured near Yellowstone National Park, January 2009.

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