

Catch & Relocate Program 2014-2018

In partnership with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Bountiful City participated in a five-year pilot program from 2014 - 2018 to trap and relocate urban mule deer. The program caught deer on select properties within City limits, then transported and relocated deer to a farther location from Bountiful City limits. An independent study monitored the program extensively to determine the survival rates of translocated deer, the cost of operating the program, and public perception of the program. In the five years of the program, a total of 685 deer were caught.

UDWR no longer allows this program, primarily due to excessive cost and inadequate amount of staff and volunteer assistance. Also, the study found that relative to wild mule deer, translocation had much lower survival rates for deer up to one-year post release.

Bountiful Urban Deer Captures

Fiscal Year	Total
2014	36
2015	211
2016	265
2017	98
2018	75
TOTAL	685

The catch and relocate program was not done on private property without the permission of landowners. Property owners with more than a half-acre lot could contact the City to be considered to participate by signing a release form. After a release form was signed and submitted to Bountiful City, DWR reviewed the various available properties and determined where to set up traps, based on migration patterns and other factors.

How Deer Traps Work

The deer traps are simple and humane. The design is similar to a large dog kennel, with a metal-barred frame and netting that surrounds the top and sides. Food, such as apples, are placed in the traps to attract the deer. Once a deer steps into the trap, a latch is released, which drops the netting to the entrance. During daytime hours, the traps are set open to allow deer to move in and out freely. In the evenings, DWR employees set the traps to catch the deer. Doing so allows the deer to become comfortable with the traps during daytime hours and keeps deer more calm in the trap during the nighttime hours.