

## Wildlife Monitoring Results

Staff completed the second year of a three-year tule elk population monitoring project, a cooperative venture with University of California, Berkeley and USGS. Four tule elk cows were captured via anesthetic dart for radio collaring and sampling, bringing the total number of radio-instrumented animals in the study to 41. Study animals were monitored year-round at Limantour, D Ranch and Tomales Point, and tested for pregnancy and disease. Thirty-four elk calves were captured, by hand in the spring, and monitored intensively for 6-9 months to collect important survival and recruitment data. During the calving season, intensive monitoring of cows and calves for mortalities resulting in new information on the incidence of dystocia (difficult calving) and mineral deficiencies on the Tomales Point elk range. Population censusing of Tomales Point indicated that elk currently number approximately 480 parkwide.

Wildlife staff, along with Law Enforcement staff and volunteers, also intensively monitored the Tomales Point reserve for antler poaching during the antler drop season, from January through April. A one-day “antler round-up”, involving 15 volunteers and staff, resulted in collection of a total of 93 antlers (50% of the estimated 2006 production) which were subsequently chipped and redistributed on the various elk ranges. It is

thought that the high visibility of the monitoring, as well as the round-up, will serve to discourage repeat poachers in the coming season.

The Non-Native Deer Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in August 2006, the culmination of 5 years of consultation with experts and the public, research and population modeling. Assisted by the Denver Service Center (Environmental Quality Division) 1,900 pieces of correspondence received during the public comment period in 2005 were catalogued and all substantive comments responded to in the EIS.

Wild turkey numbers and range within the Seashore were monitored by PRBO Science, resulting in monitoring protocols that can be used yearly by NPS staff to assess turkey populations. Wildlife staff cooperated with other state and county agency personnel in managing turkeys inside and outside NPS boundaries.

Wildlife staff participated in West Nile Virus and Avian Influenza planning, participating in interagency response planning at the state, county and local levels.



Park biologist redistributing elk antlers to the tule elk range

