

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 4-5, 2015

**36. ANNUAL PLM HARVEST PROGRAMS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Approve the annual Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area 2015 harvest programs on 20 properties, and amend annual harvest programs for two properties that were approved in Jun 2015.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

DFW has reviewed the renewal applications and management plans for these properties and found that they are in compliance with FGC policies for private lands management. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2014, and all habitat work was completed. (Exhibit 1).

For Bird Haven Ranch in Glenn County (agenda item 36(C)), DFW staff is working with the PLM operator and neighboring Schohr Ranch in an effort to resolve their differences over the harvest end date for deer (see Exhibit 3 for concerns).

For Cottrell Ranch in Humboldt County (agenda item 36(E)), at the Jun 11, 2015 FGC meeting an error occurred in the type of elk that may be harvested and the correction has been made to the table (Exhibit 5).

For Redwood House Ranch in Humboldt County (agenda item 36(Q)), at the Jun 11, 2015 FGC meeting an incorrect season date was listed for the elk season. The correction has been made (Exhibit 6).

**Significant Public Comments**

1. Schohr Ranch is opposed to extending the deer season on Bird Haven Ranch past Nov 1, 2015 (Exhibit 3).

**Recommendation**

**FGC staff:** Supports DFW recommendation under a motion adopting the consent calendar; staff also supports any successful date negotiations agreed upon by Bird Haven Ranch and Schohr Ranch.

**DFW:** Approve the specified 2015 harvest programs under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2 and the amendments to Cottrell Ranch and Redwood House Ranch. At the Aug meeting, DFW may recommend amending Bird Haven Ranch specifics based on the outcome of negotiations.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received Jun 30, 2015](#)
2. [PLM annual details](#)
3. [Letter from Schohr Ranch, received Jul 23, 2015](#)
4. [DFW correction memo, received Jul 22, 2015](#)

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5. Table for Cottrell Ranch showing correction
6. Corrected table for Redwood House Ranch

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the Consent Calendar, items 33-37.

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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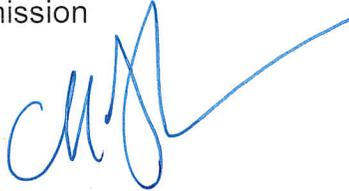
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## Memorandum

Date: June <sup>29</sup>17, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the August 4-5, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Annual Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area License**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the annual reports and annual renewal applications for 20 properties in 10 counties consisting of 109,371 acres.

These PLM areas were previously licensed under Commission regulations under Section 601, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2014, and all habitat work was completed.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the 2015/16 harvest programs under conditions specified in the attached table.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 445-4034 or by email at [victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment

ec: Eric Loft, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Branch  
[eric.loft@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:eric.loft@wildlife.ca.gov)

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
June 17, 2015  
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cc: Craig Stowers, Environmental  
Program Manager  
Wildlife Branch  
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Stuart Itoga, Senior Environmental  
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**PLM AREA LICENSE  
ANNUAL RENEWALS, 2015/2016  
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
BASIN VIEW RANCH  DEER ZONE X2  MODOC  8,500 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of October 3, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove 200 acres of western juniper in Unit 6 to encourage shrub and forb recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Develop a gravity fed spring in Unit 8 and install exclusion fencing and tank to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 10 miles of interior fencing to control livestock grazing.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from one of the management units.</li> <li>➤ Maintain ponds and fencing around the ponds to exclude livestock.</li> </ul>
BELL RANCH  DEER ZONE C4  TEHAMA  15,000 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 19 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 22 buck deer tags to take 19 buck deer for the period October 24, 2015 through December 7, 2015.</li> <li>• No more than 3 buck deer may be harvested after November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 15 previously developed springs and 6 reservoirs.</li> <li>➤ Develop a water source at Whistler's Gate.</li> <li>➤ Provide at least 2 tons of mineral supplements distributed across the ranch which includes selenium to improve wildlife health.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat at least 15 acres of decadent brush.</li> <li>➤ Remove ¼ mile of woven wire fence to reduce wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Restrict off-road vehicle use to avoid damage to new habitat areas and disturbance to wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 4 wood duck boxes around Rattlesnake Pond.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing on the ranch between May 15 and December 1.</li> </ul>
CLARKS VALLEY RANCH  DEER ZONE X3B  LASSEN  2,793 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of September 19, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove 40 acres of western juniper in Sections 27 or 23 in Clarks Valley.</li> <li>➤ Maintain the springs that have been previously developed.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 2 fenced aspen and willow enclosures.</li> <li>➤ Construct an aspen enclosure in Section 12.</li> <li>➤ Continue rotational grazing to protect critical wildlife habitat areas and aspen.</li> <li>➤ Remove 2 acres of western juniper adjacent to springs to enhance wildlife value.</li> </ul>

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ANNUAL RENEWALS, 2015/2016  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
DUNCAN CREEK RANCH  DEER ZONE B5  SHASTA  1,366 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 8 buck deer tags for the period September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Burn at least 50 acres of decadent brush to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Place at least 150 pounds of mineral supplement containing selenium to improve wildlife health.</li> </ul>
FULTON RANCH  HUMBOLDT  2,844 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 1, 2015 through November 1, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All habitat projects have been completed under the Fulton Ranch 5-year management plan. Therefore, no habitat work is required during this license year.</li> </ul>
HATHAWAY OAK RUN RANCH  DEER ZONE C3  SHASTA  6,640 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 12 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period September 19, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• No more than 9 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain the 20 acre riparian livestock exclusion on Swede Creek.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 7 springs that provide year-round water.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 10 wood duck boxes along Oak Run Creek.</li> <li>➤ Construct one owl box and place along Oak Run Creek.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 4 wildlife forage plots.</li> <li>➤ Modify at least ½ mile of fence to make it wildlife friendly.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 2 vernal pools in Section 9 and 18.</li> </ul>
LITTLE DRY CREEK RANCH  DEER ZONE C4  TEHAMA  2,000 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period October 20, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 3 springs.</li> <li>➤ Treat 2-5 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicides.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 2 miles of unnecessary or downed fencing to improve wildlife access and movement.</li> <li>➤ Prohibit the harvest of oak trees.</li> <li>➤ Continue to exclude livestock grazing to benefit wildlife.</li> </ul>

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ANNUAL RENEWALS, 2015/2016  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>PBM FARMS</p> <p>DEER ZONE C1</p> <p>SISKIYOU</p> <p>3,000 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 1 bull elk and 5 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period September 10, 2015 through December 30, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period September 20, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• No more than 2 buck deer may be harvested after October 18, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create a 5-acre irrigated food plot with perennial grasses and legumes on the western portion of Mud Lake Ridge.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 316 acres of wetlands to benefit wildlife, a portion of which must have water supplied by pumping in late August or September.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least ½ mile of unnecessary fencing to reduce wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Pump water to a 2,500-gallon storage tank and water trough to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 20 acres of western juniper to improve shrub recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock from the entire ranch to benefit wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Farm 490 acres of alfalfa which provides wildlife forage and cover.</li> <li>➤ Farm 800 acres of cereal rye which provides wildlife forage and cover.</li> <li>➤ Produce and retain 200 acres of dryland legume food plots for wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Farm 100 acres of barley which once harvested will provide waste grain forage for waterfowl.</li> <li>➤ Manage 80 acres of thermal cover for use by wildlife by not removing trees and shrubs.</li> <li>➤ Retain wildlife nesting areas on 4 acres by not mowing or converting to agriculture.</li> <li>➤ Retain and establish brush piles for wildlife use by not burning.</li> </ul>
<p>R WILD HORSE RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B5</p> <p>TEHAMA</p> <p>4,000 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of November 17, 2015 through November 19, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mechanically treat at least 10 acres of decadent brush to promote new growth and create travel corridors.</li> <li>➤ Plant 10 acres of brush treatment areas with legumes and grasses.</li> <li>➤ Build a ½-acre pond to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Build at least 10 brush piles to provide escape cover for wildlife.</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>RED ROCK RANCH DEER ZONE X3B LASSEN 6,887 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer forked horn or better and 2 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of September 26, 2015 through November 29, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of August 13, 2015 through September 24, 2015.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 2 springs near Windy Flat and the exclusion fencing that surrounds them.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 2 aspen and willow enclosures for deer fawning areas.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 15 acres of western juniper in Red Rock Valley and Neuland area to enhance shrub recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Construct a new aspen enclosure in Neuland area to increase fawning habitat.</li> <li>➤ Continue to use rotational grazing to rest at least 1 meadow annually for wildlife cover and forage.</li> </ul>
<p>ROARING RIVER RANCH DEER ZONE B5 SHASTA 472 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period August 13, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 2 small ponds by adding water when levels are low to provide additional water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain fencing around grain fields to exclude livestock.</li> <li>➤ Spray up to 5 acres of yellow star thistle infested areas.</li> <li>➤ Prohibit commercial firewood cutting to retain oaks.</li> <li>➤ Check 10 wood duck nest boxes for use and replace nesting material if needed.</li> <li>➤ Leave all foothill pine snags standing for wildlife habitat.</li> <li>➤ Maintain a 2-acre food plot to provide forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 2 water troughs to provide water for wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p>ROSEBURG RESOURCES – PONDOSA SISKIYOU 27,734 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tags and 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 20 acres of aspen and meadow restoration areas by removing encroaching conifer seedlings and saplings.</li> <li>➤ Retain 10 acres of late seral conifers in the Whitlow area and on the northern boundary of the property.</li> </ul>
<p>SALT CREEK RANCH DEER ZONE B5 TEHAMA</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mechanically treat at least 5 acres of decadent brush to promote new growth.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat at least 3 acres of decadent brush and plant with rye, oats, and clover.</li> <li>➤ Maintain previously treated areas.</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
640 ACRES		
<b>NORTHERN CENTRAL REGION</b>		
BIRD HAVEN RANCH  DEER ZONE D3  GLENN  2,500 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain current conditions.</li> <li>➤ Plant 10 valley oak trees.</li> <li>➤ Install and monitor 5 wood duck boxes.</li> <li>➤ Install 5 bat boxes.</li> <li>➤ Create 5 brush piles for escape cover.</li> <li>➤ Plant 3-4 acres of safflower.</li> <li>➤ Spot spray 150 acres for noxious weeds.</li> </ul>
DESERET FARMS – BALLARD UNIT  DEER ZONE C4  BUTTE  2,948 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 buck deer forked horn or better and 9 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 9 tags to take antlerless deer for the period of November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor new plantings and replace any that may have died and keep a record of plant survival.</li> <li>➤ Install 4 raptor perches (one perch may be in Wilson unit).</li> <li>➤ Continue star thistle control.</li> <li>➤ Place 3 additional owl boxes.</li> <li>➤ Maintain current conditions in riparian areas.</li> <li>➤ Continue feral pig eradication.</li> <li>➤ Monitor wood duck and owl box occupancy.</li> <li>➤ Investigate the feasibility of providing a subset of the deer tags received to only juniors.</li> <li>➤ Perform body condition survey on all deer taken on the farm.</li> <li>➤ If new orchards are installed construct fencing to reduce depredation.</li> </ul>
DESERET FARMS – WILSON UNIT  DEER ZONE C4  BUTTE	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 5 buck deer forked horn or better and 13 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 13 tags to take antlerless deer for the period of November 1, 2015 through</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor new plantings and replace any that may have died and keep a record of plant survival.</li> <li>➤ Plant native/beneficial non-native grasses in star thistle control areas</li> <li>➤ Continue star thistle control</li> <li>➤ Place 3 additional owl boxes</li> <li>➤ Maintain current conditions in riparian areas</li> <li>➤ Continue feral pig eradication</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
7,989 ACRES	December 31, 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor wood duck and owl box occupancy</li> <li>➤ Remove fallen oak that impedes water flow in riparian area and replace with a cottonwood</li> <li>➤ Investigate the feasibility of providing a subset of the deer tags received to only juniors</li> <li>➤ Perform body condition survey on all deer taken on the farm.</li> <li>➤ If new orchards are installed construct fencing to reduce depredation.</li> </ul>
M&T CHICO RANCH  DEER ZONE C4  BUTTE  5,332 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better and 17 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 deer tags and 17 antlerless deer tags for the period of November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain cattle grazing levels at approximately 100 head or less.</li> <li>➤ Treat 40 acres of yellow starthistle, with herbicide.</li> <li>➤ Maintain or repair eight existing pond turtle basking structures.</li> <li>➤ Maintain or replace existing 10 barn owl and 30 wood duck nest boxes.</li> <li>➤ Remove trash from Little Chico Creek. Perform annual Fall deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Herd Survey data.</li> </ul>
ORDWAY RANCH  DEER ZONE D5  CALAVERAS  850 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 5 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of September 26, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No cattle grazing in Pastures C &amp; D.</li> <li>➤ Light cattle grazing in Pastures A &amp; B.</li> <li>➤ Maintain three water sources for wildlife (including two solar-powered wells).</li> <li>➤ Maintain fencing around two natural springs and creek to exclude from cattle.</li> <li>➤ Supply mineral blocks for deer outside of hunting season.</li> </ul>
SUGARLOAF-BANGOR RANCH  DEER ZONE D-3  YUBA  2,626 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 12 buck deer forked horn or better, 50 turkey, and 200 quail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of September 26, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 50 turkey tags for the periods of October 1, 2015 through January 15, 2016 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 1, 2016 through May 15, 2016 (spring season, gobbler-only harvest).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Moderate livestock grazing program.</li> <li>➤ Maintain hot line around Round Lake to keep livestock from riparian plantings (willows and cottonwoods).</li> <li>➤ Maintain solar-operated well that is water source for Round Lake.</li> <li>➤ Crush brush to improve deer browse; pile brush for quail habitat.</li> <li>➤ Maintain ditch and pipe that supplies water to Wood Duck Lake.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 40 bluebird nest boxes.</li> <li>➤ Provide mineral blocks for wildlife use.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE  
ANNUAL RENEWALS, 2015/2016  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 200 upland game seals for the period of September 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016. Additional orders are approved in 100 seal increments up to the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	
<p>SOPER-WHEELER RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE D-3</p> <p>BUTTE</p> <p>5,250 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 18 buck deer forked horn or better, 26 turkey, and 200 quail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 18 buck deer tags for the period of October 1, 2015 through December 10, 2015. 1-3 tags to be donated to California Deer Association for auction.</li> <li>• Issue 26 turkey tags for the periods of October 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 10, 2016 through May 15, 2016 (spring season, bearded turkey only harvest). Two tags to be donated to the Hunter Education Instructor Tag Incentive Program (HEI).</li> <li>• Issue 200 upland game seals for the periods of October 1, 2015 through February 28, 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create more permanent wire welded escape ramps for wildlife in all water troughs</li> <li>➤ Dig up and investigate spring box water source on SE side of ranch to determine best repair option</li> <li>➤ Investigate/research pond that will not retain water</li> <li>➤ Dig up seep on the west side of the large meadow and investigate best option for water catchment equipment</li> <li>➤ Increase brush pile size</li> <li>➤ Maintain and provide maintenance on all wells, water sources, and guzzlers</li> <li>➤ Continue planting turkey mullein</li> <li>➤ Maintain restrictions on grazing</li> <li>➤ Continue wood duck program</li> </ul>

**From:** tracy@schohr.com

**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2015 2:34 PM

**To:** FGC

**Cc:** Bartlett, Tina@Wildlife; Mastrup, Sonke@FGC; Barr, Victoria@Wildlife; Miller-Henson, Melissa@FGC

**Subject:** Opposition - Bird Haven Ranch PLM Annual Plan

Please find attached comments outlining Schohr Ranch, Inc (neighboring landowner) opposition to the Bird Haven Ranch PLM annual plan as presented for consideration at your August Commission Meeting.

Sincerely,

Tracy Schohr  
Secretary  
Schohr Ranch, Inc.



Schohr Ranch, Inc • P.O. Box 785 • Gridley, CA 95948

June 22, 2015

Sent via email: [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Commissioners -

**This letter is in opposition Item 36 - Annual reports and 2015-2016 PLM plans for (C) Bird Have Ranch (Glenn County) – (incorrectly printed on the Agenda – should be Bird Haven Ranch).** The Bird Haven Ranch PLM targets the east side of the property that is adjacent to the Schohr Ranch, Inc. Hoo Doo Island that is a production agricultural field. This specific piece of ground has been continuously farmed to cereal grain production. As proposed, the Bird Haven Ranch PLM annual plan promotes pressure for the deer herd to move on to our private land where fresh forage will be growing, thus serving as the primary basis for opposition from Schohr Ranch Inc. for the PLM.

Representatives of Schohr Ranch Inc. met last year with Bird Haven Ranch PLM cooperators and Department of Fish and Wildlife PLM program staff, in addition to providing written comments. On May 1, 2014 we shared comments with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife stating “our proposal to have the deer hunting season not continue past November 1. This date would elevate concerns with agricultural depredation. The November 1 cutoff date for deer hunting was proposed because our grain field is typically planted the last week in October to the first part of November.”

It is disheartening that the Bird Haven Ranch PLM is before the commission with NO communication to the adjacent landowner, who has requested to be notified and updated on this PLM. Furthermore, the proposed plan completely disregards our original request to not have the hunting season extended beyond November 1.

The plan that went before the Commission last year had a hunting season that ended on November 2. Schohr Ranch, Inc. did not oppose this plan because of the collaborative attitude brought forth by the Bird Haven Ranch PLM managers to be respectful of the adjacent landowner. Schohr Ranch, Inc. asks the commission to NOT ALLOW HUNTING past the November 2 deadline. This proposed date would be consistent with the hunting dates approved for the PLM last year (2014).

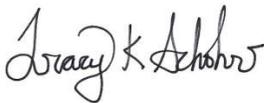
As agricultural producers we have a narrow window to plant the winter crop before the winter rains commence and typically first rains will germinate the grains. Once germination occurs, the Schohr Ranch, Inc property has a lush green carpet of forage, unlike forage provided in the region. By allowing the adjacent landowner to have a longer hunting season, creating undue

pressure on the deer, the deer will migrate to safe ground. The migration of deer to the Schohr Ranch, Inc adjacent property has the potential to cause severe harm to our crop. Once the deer arrive we have no mechanism to legally deter a deer herd that is estimated to be over 100, according to the original Bird Haven PLM plan. As you can imagine, if the deer are pushed off the Bird Haven Ranch to the adjacent private land it would cause irreplaceable damage to our cereal grain production.

In Conclusion, we ask the commission to respect the original hunting time frame that was approved and not cause undue harm to the adjacent landowner and allow us to farm without impact. **Therefore, we urge the Commission to only accept the Bird Haven Management Plan if amended to a hunting season not to extend past November 2, 2015.**

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, or would like additional information please contact me at (916) 716-2643 or [tracy@schohr.com](mailto:tracy@schohr.com). Also, we would again ask to be kept apprised of all actions concerning this PLM by the Commission and Department.

Sincerely,



Tracy Schohr  
Secretary  
Schohr Ranch, Inc.

cc: Melissa Miller-Henson, Fish and Game Commission  
Victoria Barr, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Tina Bartlett, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Memorandum

Date: July 14, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the August 4-5 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Regarding the Correction of the Season Dates for the Big Lagoon PLM and Redwood House Ranch PLM**

Two Private Lands Management (PLM) areas, Big Lagoon PLM and Redwood House Ranch, were approved at the June 11, 2015 Fish and Game Commission meeting with incorrect season dates. The purpose of this memo is to correct those dates and the Department of Fish and Wildlife is requesting the following changes be made:

**Big Lagoon PLM** - Change the season dates for elk from September 2, 2015 through September 13, 2015 to September 2, 2015 through September 24, 2015.

**Redwood House Ranch**- Change the season dates for elk from September 19, 2015 through October 10, 2015 to September 19, 2015 through October 11, 2015.

We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 445-4034 or by email at [victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment

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Stuart Itoga, Senior Environmental  
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Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
July 14, 2015  
Page 2

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**Cottrell Ranch PLM: Corrected version of the annual renewal request, consistent with the approved management plan. The requested change (in ~~strike through~~) would allow for the harvest of any bull elk versus limiting the harvest to a spiked bull only.**

<i><b>PLM AREA LICENSE</b></i>		
<i><b>ANNUAL RENEWAL, 2015/2016 – Corrected for Approval August 5, 2015</b></i>		
<i><b>PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS</b></i>		
<b>PLM AREA</b>	<b>Proposed Season and Harvest</b>	<b>Habitat Improvement Program</b>
COTTRELL RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  HUMBOLDT  6,500 ACRES	<p><i><b>Authorized Harvest:</b></i> 15 deer of which no more than 10 may be antlerless deer, 1 bull elk, and 1 antlerless elk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 15 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 15, 2015 through December 15, 2015.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2015.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015.</li> <li>• Buck deer must be forked horn or better.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2015 through December 15, 2015.</li> <li>• <del>Bull elk must be a spike.</del></li> <li>• Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of September 15, 2015 through December 15, 2015.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove at least 40 acres of conifers which are encroaching into oak woodlands in sections 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, or 36.</li> </ul>

**Corrected table**

<p align="center"><b>PLM AREA LICENSE</b>  <b>PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS</b></p>		
<b>PLM Area</b>	<b>Proposed Season and Harvest</b>	<b>Habitat Improvement Program</b>
<p align="center"><b>NORTHERN REGION Annual Renewals 2015/2016</b></p>		
<p>REDWOOD HOUSE RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B1</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>8,419 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 20 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 bull elk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 20 buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period of August 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 19, 2015 through <b>October 11, 2015.</b></li> </ul>	<p>➤ Remove at least 40 acres of conifers which are encroaching into oak woodlands.</p>