

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 10-11, 2015

27. 5-YEAR PLM LICENSE AND PLAN (CONSENT)**Today's Item**Information Action

Approve the new 5-year Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area management plans for 12 properties.

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

DFW has reviewed the renewal applications and 5-year management plans for these properties and found that they are in compliance with FGC policies for private lands management. (Exhibit1).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

FGC staff: Recommends approval under a motion adopting the consent calendar.

DFW: Recommends approving the specified 2015-2020 wildlife management plans, applications, and the 2015 harvest programs under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. DFW Memo
2. PLM 5-year plan details, 2015-2020

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the Consent Calendar, items 24-27.

2015 MAY 13 PM 1:34

Memorandum

Date: *May 13,*
~~April 21,~~ 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: Agenda Item for the June 10 - 11, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting 5-year Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area License

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the 5-year management plans and renewal applications for 12 properties in 7 counties consisting of 82,355 acres.

The new 5-year management plans for these areas are in compliance with Commission policy requirements for private lands management. The applicants have identified the location where records will be kept and made available for inspection. Habitat improvements accomplished under these plans will enhance and maintain wildlife resources on and around the PLM areas. The goals and objectives stated in the management plans are compatible with Department management plans for appropriate species in these areas. In addition, access to public lands will not be diminished under implementation of these management plans.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the specified wildlife management plans, applications, and the 2015 harvest programs under the 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.

Attachment

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Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
April 21, 2015
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cc: Craig Stowers, Environmental Program
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PLM AREA LICENSE
NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2015-2020
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
BIG BLUFF RANCH DEER ZONE B5 TEHAMA 3,736 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 9 deer of which no more than 5 may be forked horn or better buck deer and 4 may be antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 9 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain the Red Bank Restoration Project which restored the riparian corridor on 3 miles of the creek by installing livestock control fencing, and re-vegetating 6 blocks totaling 30 acres to native vegetation. ➤ Mechanically treat at least 20 acres of decadent brush to improve wildlife forage. ➤ Maintain the water development at Miller Place as needed to provide water for wildlife. ➤ Irrigate 35 acres of permanent pasture for wildlife use. ➤ Maintain the fence below Sunflower Dam to control livestock and allow wildlife access to wetlands. ➤ Maintain a 500 gallon water trough and 3,000 gallon storage tank as needed to provide water for livestock and wildlife away from riparian areas. ➤ Continue to participate in the Sunflower Conservation Resource Management Plan which is creating additional wildlife habitat on the surrounding 40,000 acres.
BURROWS RANCH DEER ZONE B5 TEHAMA 3,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 18 deer of which no more than 13 may be forked horn or better buck deer and 5 may be antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 18 either-sex tags for the period of August 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • No more than 9 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove livestock from and delay haying an 18-acre cereal grains field until after reproduction season to increase fawn survival, waterfowl and turkey nesting. ➤ Use low wildlife impact electric fence to control livestock grazing. Modifications may be made to limit wild pig access to grain fields. ➤ Burn at least 50 acres of decadent brush to rejuvenate shrubs for wildlife forage. If burn does not occur, then 20 acres of decadent brush will be mechanically crushed. ➤ Maintain 10 acres of dryland alfalfa, 35 acres of cereal grain, and 15 acres of safflower for wildlife. ➤ Plant at least 15 acres of safflower for wildlife forage. ➤ Plant 18 acres of cereal grains. ➤ Inspect 24 waterfowl nesting structures, replace nesting material, and check for use.

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BURROWS RANCH CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain livestock exclosures on 6 reservoirs. ➤ Reduce irrigation water use as needed to maintain 11 small ponds for waterfowl. ➤ Continue Holistic Management practices to improve overall health of the area. ➤ Continue involvement in the Sunflower CRMP to benefit 40,000 acres of habitat.
FIVE DOT RANCH - HORSE LAKE DEER ZONE X5A LASSEN 8,025 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of September 19, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 8, 2015 through September 20, 2015. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehabilitate a spring and riparian vegetation on 20 acres by excluding cattle, installing a water storage tank and troughs, and clear 80 acres of juniper surrounding the spring. ➤ Livestock grazing of the Coon Camp Field shall not exceed 100 head for 6 days to retain forage and cover for wildlife. ➤ Maintain 5 goose nesting platforms at Packard Reservoir and Coon Camp Reservoir as needed. ➤ Defer livestock grazing in the 300-acre Packard Field until after July 15 to enhance duck nest survival. ➤ Maintain willow plantings along Pine Creek and Coon Camp Creek. Replant new willows if survival of previous year's plantings is less than 80 percent. ➤ Disperse bitter brush seeds in the fall to recruit young plants.
FIVE DOT RANCH - TUNNEL SPRINGS DEER ZONE X5A LASSEN 2,600 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 buck deer forked horn or better and 2 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of September 19, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of August 8, 2015 through September 20, 2015. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain the 2-acre livestock exclusion fence at Tunnel Springs as needed. ➤ Provide mineral supplements containing selenium at 15 sites to improve wildlife health. ➤ Maintain at least 50 percent of the current year's water capacity in 2 reservoirs for wildlife. ➤ Remove at least 100 junipers from around Tunnel Springs and the reservoirs. ➤ Disperse bitter brush seeds in the fall to recruit young plants.

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<p>FIVE DOT RANCH - WILLOW CREEK</p> <p>DEER ZONE X4</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>7,200 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 7 buck deer forked horn or better and 2 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of September 19, 2015 through November 30, 2015. Of those tags, 1 shall be provided to an apprentice hunter. • Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of August 8, 2015 through September 20, 2015. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain 4 aspen and willow enclosures for deer fawning areas and repair any damaged fencing. ➤ Crush at least 25 acres of snowbrush to provide new forage at different sites in Sections 21, 22, 27, or 28. ➤ Exclude livestock grazing on 50 acres of native sage vegetation in the Triangle Field for sage-grouse and other sage dependent species. ➤ Retain water in reservoirs and ponds as water sources for wildlife use by not using all of the water for irrigation. ➤ Leave the third cutting of alfalfa on 100 acres for deer and pronghorn antelope use. ➤ Retain a 50 acre alfalfa field to preempt deer crossing the highway along the west side of Highway 139 in order to reduce deer/vehicle collisions. ➤ Provide mineral supplements with selenium at a minimum of 10 sites to improve wildlife health. ➤ Maintain 4 goose nesting platforms at Round Valley Reservoir. ➤ Thin conifers at different sites in Sections 21, 22, 27, and 28 to increase bitterbrush browse for deer.
<p>JS RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE C3</p> <p>SHASTA</p> <p>6,500 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 bull elk and 12 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • No more than 6 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain ½ mile of riparian livestock exclusion fencing. ➤ Maintain water in irrigation canals year round. ➤ Mechanically control the spread of blackberry thickets on 650 acres to provide more forage for wildlife. ➤ Install water bars on dirt roads adjacent to Cow Creek to prevent sediment erosion. ➤ Exclude livestock on 1,000 acres from June 1 through October 31. ➤ Irrigate at least 650 acres to provide forage for wildlife during late summer and early fall. ➤ Irrigate an additional 5 acres to provide forage for wildlife during late summer and early fall. ➤ Irrigate at least 50 acres of pasture on the Rock Garden Flats to provide elk forage, and exclude cattle from June 8 to October 1.

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JS RANCH CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove a minimum of ½ mile of interior fencing to enhance wildlife movement. ➤ Add 20 new wood duck boxes and maintain 30 existing wood duck boxes, and check for use annually on Old Cow Creek and Clover Creek. ➤ Retain wildlife cover along irrigation canal banks provided it does not interfere with ditch maintenance. ➤ Prohibit commercial firewood cutting on the property. ➤ Maintain a 200 acre area with no human disturbance for wildlife use. ➤ Maintain and repair as needed 2 existing ponds by enlarging and repairing spillways and dams.
MENDIBOURE RANCH DEER ZONE X5B LASSEN 8,840 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 6 buck deer tags to take 3 buck deer for the period of September 19, 2015 through October 18, 2015. • Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 22, 2015 through September 13, 2015. • No person may take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. • In no case, shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain 3 aspen and willow livestock exclosures. ➤ Exclude livestock in the Van Loan and Big Springs area. ➤ Create a 15 acre dryland alfalfa plot and construct a fence to exclude cattle. ➤ Maintain Etchecopar Springs, Big Springs, and Deer Springs. ➤ Cut 150 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds to recruit young plants. ➤ Remove at least 5 acres of junipers to improve shrub and forb recruitment.
ROBERTS RANCH DEER ZONE X1 MODOC 2,313 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 buck antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of October 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • Issue 1 buck antelope tag for the period of August 20, 2015 through September 20, 2015. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Removal of at least 100 western junipers less than 6 inches diameter at breast height to create more forage for wildlife. ➤ Remove at least 3 acres of western juniper near Spring #1. ➤ Maintain all previously developed springs, levees, and ponds. ➤ Reduce livestock levels to no more than 50 cow/calf pairs.

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STEWART RANCH DEER ZONE B1 TRINITY 11,006 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 36 buck deer forked horn or better and 20 antlerless deer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 36 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015. Of those tags, 10 shall be provided to apprentice hunters. • Issue 20 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 15, 2015 through November 30, 2015. • No more than 18 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2015. • On or before October 15, 2015, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 5 buck tags to accomplish the authorized harvest. • In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove encroaching conifers from at least 20 acres of oak woodland. ➤ Reconstruct the irrigation system for 1 of the 4 irrigated food plots and replant. ➤ Replant 31 acres of dry land forage plots in grain and forbs for wildlife forage. ➤ Maintain livestock exclusion fencing around all fenced food plots and ponds. ➤ Check use and replace nesting material in 15 wood duck nest boxes. ➤ Maintain all water sources (ponds and springs). ➤ Maintain ½ mile of livestock exclusion fencing along Kekawaka Creek to improve riparian vegetation.
NORTH CENTRAL REGION		
LLANO SECO RANCHO DEER ZONE C4 BUTTE 14,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 25 buck deer forked horn or better and 10 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 25 deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer and 10 tags to take antlerless deer for the period of September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treat 400 acres of Yellow Star and Bull Thistle. ➤ Fall seeding of vetch and wheat in thistle treatment areas. ➤ Grow 100 acres of alfalfa, and 1,000 acres of dryland grains. ➤ Maintain or replace 25 existing wood duck and barn owl nest boxes. ➤ Install 2 pond turtle basking structures in ponds or backwater areas near river. ➤ Perform annual fall deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Herd Survey data.
CENTRAL REGION		
CARNAZA RANCH SAN LUIS OBISPO 8,475 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 bull elk and 3 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period of July 15, 2015 through December 31, 2015. • Issue 3 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant 100 acres of barley at 100 lbs. /acre for tule elk, quail and other wildlife. ➤ Build 3 brush piles to provide cover for upland game. ➤ Plant 10 5-gallon trees for use by wildlife. ➤ Provide year round water in existing livestock troughs for wildlife.

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CLARK AND WHITE RANCHES SAN LUIS OBISPO 5,660 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period July 15, 2015 through December 15, 2015. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period August 15, 2015 through December 15, 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant 1,000 acres of barley for use by elk. ➤ Repair 1 dam to increase standing water and enhance riparian/marsh habitats. ➤ Plant 100 willow stalks around dam to enhance riparian habitat for use by wildlife. ➤ Install 6 bird nest boxes.