

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 21-22, 2017

**7. FIVE-YEAR PLM PLANS AND HARVEST PROGRAMS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Approve the five-year renewal of Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area licenses for 2017-2022, and seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2017-2018 on seven properties.

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

Fish and Game Code sections 3400-3409, and Title 14 Section 601 prescribe conditions for a PLM program that provides incentives for landholders to manage their property for the benefit of fish and wildlife in exchange for access to increased recreational opportunities, such as hunting tags or extended seasons ("harvest program"). In return for a harvest program, the landholder must prepare a biologically-sound wildlife management plan and complete specific wildlife habitat improvements on the PLM property.

There are three types of actions associated with the PLM program: an initial five-year PLM license; an annual list of PLM seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements; and a five-year PLM license renewal, with conditions unique to each participant's property.

Proposed wildlife management plans and annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for the seven properties have been reviewed by DFW and found to be in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLMs; applicants have identified the locations where records will be kept and made available for inspection (Exhibit 1).

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

**FGC staff:** Approve five-year renewal of PLM licenses, and annual seasons, harvests and habitat improvements as recommended by DFW, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

**DFW:** Approve the specified wildlife management plans, five-year PLM license renewals for 2017-2022, and seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2017-2018 for seven properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received May 22, 2017](#)
2. [PLM proposed five-year details](#)
3. [Alphabetical listing of seven properties](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the consent calendar, items 3-7.

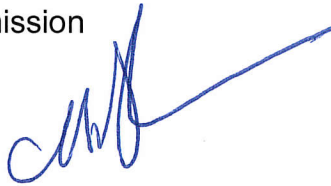
State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Memorandum

Date: May <sup>18</sup>4, 2017

To: Valerie Termini  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 21-22, 2017 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area Licenses**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the Annual renewals, 5-year renewals and an Initial Management Plan for 53 properties in 15 counties consisting of approximately 652,304 acres.

The Annual renewal PLM areas were previously licensed under Commission regulations Section 601, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2016, and all habitat work was completed.

The 5-year renewal management plans are in compliance with Commission policy for private lands management. The applicants have identified the location where records will be kept and made available for inspection. Public notices were published in local newspapers, and certified letters were mailed to adjacent landowners with notification of each Initial applicant's intent to enter into the program. No letters of concern were received by the Department.

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 each 2017/18 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached table.

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Valerie Termini, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
May 4, 2017  
Page 2

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

cc: Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director  
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**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
**NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2017-2022**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
<p>ASH VALLEY RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE X3A</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>8,736 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 4 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 buck deer tags for the period October 7, 2017 through November 30, 2017.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.</li> <li>• Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 5, 2017 through September 30, 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove at least 20 acres of noxious weeds by grubbing and/or chemical application.</li> <li>➤ Through the use of rotational grazing prescriptions, maintain previously completed habitat restoration work.</li> <li>➤ Replace 0.5 mile of perimeter fence with wildlife-friendly fence.</li> </ul>
<p>EL RANCHO RIO FRIO</p> <p>DEER ZONE B5</p> <p>TEHAMA</p> <p>12,682 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 24 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 24 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2017 through November 30, 2017.</li> <li>• No more than 12 deer may be harvested after October 22, 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Install 2 10,000-gallon guzzlers to provide additional water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Burn 300-500 acres of decadent shrubs (mostly chamise) to enhance deer habitat.</li> <li>➤ Develop a 3-acre irrigated forage plot by first ripping to dislodge brush and then spraying brush sprouts with herbicide. Seed any mechanically disturbed areas with a mix of perennial grasses and annual clovers.</li> </ul>
<p>JERUSALEM CREEK RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B5</p> <p>SHASTA</p> <p>726 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 4 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 4 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 2 water sources that provide water for wildlife by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Thin at least 5 acres of dense thickets of stunted interior live oak trees by, on average, cutting 1-2 weaker, branching trunks from multi-trunk trees. The new shoots provide high-quality forage for wildlife.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>LOOKOUT RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE X1</p> <p>MODOC</p> <p>6,880 ACRES</p>	<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, 2017 through November 30, 2017.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Renovate and re-level at least 80 acres of wild rice to improve water storage for waterfowl.</li> <li>➤ Thin western juniper from 3 acres at Moon Pasture.</li> <li>➤ Plant 250 willows in the Buck Pasture draw below the 3<sup>rd</sup> pond and 250 willows in the southwest corner of the marsh.</li> <li>➤ Plant 30 acres of millet, chufa, and dwarf corn on the eastside marsh to be left unharvested and ungrazed, 12 acres of wild rice to be left unharvested in Buck Pasture, 10 acres of barley to be left unharvested in Bass Pond, and 15 acres in the pivot corners to provide forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Rotate 200 head of cattle through all of deeded ground. During summer, graze 75% of cattle on private lease ground, then bring cattle back to the ranch in fall to manage crop residue that restricts plant growth and development. Gather cattle and ship to winter pasture.</li> <li>➤ Build at least 5 brush piles (average size of 12 x 8 ft.) in the Moon Pasture to provide escape cover for wildlife.</li> </ul>
<p>WALTON HOMESTEAD FAMILY, LLC</p> <p>DEER ZONE X3A</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>5,980 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 5 either-sex deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 5 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 19, 2017 through October 29, 2017.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2017 through August 27, 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Thin or remove juniper (200-500 acres/yr.) and seed with native grasses and wildflowers. Use residual slash to create wildlife brush piles.</li> <li>➤ Enlarge and deepen the containment basin for Hanna's Spring from the current 3-5 ft. to 5-10 ft. Install water trough downhill from the spring with piping to fill as necessary. Build livestock enclosure around spring and basin with wildlife-friendly fencing, and use solar pumping or gravity flow to give cattle and wildlife water access outside the fence.</li> <li>➤ Enlarge and deepen the containment basin for Horse Meadows Spring from the current 5-10 ft. to 12-15 ft. Install water trough downhill from the spring with piping or solar pumping to fill as necessary. Build an enclosure around the spring and basin with wildlife-friendly fencing.</li> <li>➤ Replace perimeter fencing with wildlife-friendly fencing (200-500 yards/yr.).</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTH CENTRAL REGION</b>		
<p>DESERET FARMS-BALLARD UNIT</p> <p>DEER ZONE C-4</p> <p>BUTTE</p> <p>2,948 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 buck deer forked horn or better and 10 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 buck deer tags and 10 antlerless tags for the period of November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. 1 of the antlerless tags must be a Junior tag.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhance existing brush piles in upland areas at south end of lake and in island area toward north end of south portion of lake. Five brush piles on the island area, three at northwest portion of lake, and eight at the south end of the lake.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically control star thistle areas.</li> <li>➤ Fix blown out levees from 2017 storm events.</li> <li>➤ Build and install 10 owl boxes.</li> <li>➤ Monitor and replace any plantings that may have died and keep a record of plant survival.</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>➤ If new orchards are installed construct fencing to reduce depredation.</li> </ul>
<p>DESERET FARMS-WILSON UNIT</p> <p>DEER ZONE C-4</p> <p>BUTTE</p> <p>7,989 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better and 15 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 15 antlerless tags and 6 buck deer tags for the period of November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. 1 of the antlerless tags must be a Junior tag.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Place fallen tree in pond for western pond turtle basking.</li> <li>➤ Enhance 3 brush piles on the west end of the Gianella Pond and 4 in the open area of the riparian area.</li> <li>➤ Begin removing salt cedar and Himalayan Blackberry in the Gianella Pond.</li> <li>➤ Build and install 8 wood duck boxes</li> <li>➤ Monitor plantings and replace any that may have died and keep a record of plant survival.</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>➤ If new orchards are installed construct fencing to reduce depredation.</li> </ul>

Alphabetical listing of five-year PLM plans and 2017-2022 licenses for approval:  
(Pursuant to Section 601, Title 14, CCR)

- Ash Valley Ranch (Lassen County)
- Deseret Farms – Ballard Unit (Butte County)
- Deseret Farms – Wilson Unit (Butte County)
- El Rancho Rio Frio (Tehama County)
- Jerusalem Creek Ranch (Shasta County)
- Lookout Ranch (Modoc County)
- Walton Homestead Family, LLC (Lassen County)