

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 18-19, 2018

**23. FIVE-YEAR PLM 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 2018-2023, and seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2018-2023 on 11 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 eleven properties have been reviewed by DFW and found to be in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLMs; applicants have identified location 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 2018-2023, and seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2018-2023 for 11 properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received Mar 20, 2018](#)
2. [PLM proposed five-year area plans](#)
3. [Alphabetical listing of 11 PLM properties](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the consent calendar, items 23-24.

State of California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2018

To: Valerie Termini  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 18-19, 2018 Fish and Game Commission (Commission) Meeting Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area Licenses**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Annual and **5-year renewals** for 53 properties in 15 counties consisting of approximately 583,881 acres.

The PLMs requesting annual renewal were previously licensed under Commission regulations Section 601, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2017, and all habitat work was completed.

**The PLMs requesting their 5-year renewal have provided 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.**

Valerie Termini, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
March 19, 2018  
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The Department recommends that the Commission approve the specified wildlife management plans, applications, and each 2018/19 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached tables.

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

Attachment

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**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
**NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2018-2023**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
3D RANCH  DEER ZONE B5  TEHAMA  1,732 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer forked horn or better and 6 bear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 4 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 6 bear tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018 or when the season closes because the Department has determined that 1,700 bears have been harvested.</li> <li>• Issue 75 quail seals for the period of September 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mechanically crush 15 acres of decadent brush to improve forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain a minimum of 7 acres of forage plots planted with legumes by replanting as necessary and irrigating</li> <li>➤ Manage plots 3 and 4 to promote turkey mullein.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 4 water sources to provide water for wildlife by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Increase holding capacity of current water sources by deepening to a depth of at least 5 feet allowing for longer retention of water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 0.25 mile of unnecessary interior fencing to prevent wildlife entanglement.</li> </ul>
COTTRELL RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  HUMBOLDT  6,500 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 12 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 12 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before October 1, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• Buck deer must be forked horn or better.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of October 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 4 inches diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) from at least 50 acres of oak woodlands.</li> </ul>



**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
DIAMOND C OUTFITTERS  DEER ZONE B1  HUMBOLDT  3,200 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 17 deer (of which no more than 10 may be antlerless deer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 17 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 14, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before October 1, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• Buck deer must be forked horn or better.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 6 inches DBH from at least 20 acres of oak woodlands in Oak Woodland Treatment Units 1 and 2.</li> </ul>
EDEN VALLEY RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  20,879 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 20 buck deer forked horn or better, 5 antlerless deer, 8 bull elk, and 7 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 20 buck deer tags for the period of July 8, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be taken after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 5 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 6 bull elk tags for the period of July 8, 2018 through December 16, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 7 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 15, 2018 through December 16, 2018.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 2 additional bull elk tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 100 acres of planted fields in the Valley to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 23 water sources (including 12 springs) by repairing any damaged parts.</li> <li>➤ Plant and irrigate a 3 acre area with oats, legumes, and grasses outside of the Valley Area and use wildlife friendly fencing to exclude livestock.</li> <li>➤ Treat at least 75 acres of invasive weeds with appropriate herbicides.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock from 10,000 acres on the east side of Eden Valley to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Monitor and maintain the 4 rail-type elk crossings.</li> <li>➤ Construct at least 4 brush piles to provide wildlife cover.</li> <li>➤ To improve wildlife forage, manage livestock grazing in the 4 pastures on a rest-rotation basis, with cattle primarily spending spring/summer in the upland pastures and fall/winter in the lowland pastures.</li> <li>➤ Remove 1 mile of unnecessary fence to reduce the potential for wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Irrigate and fertilize 30 acres of triticale in Toni Field on the eastside of the ranch.</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
HUNTER RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  HUMBOLDT  16,103 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 20 deer (of which no more than 5 may be antlerless deer) and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 20 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 14, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before October 1, 2018.</li> <li>• Buck deer must be forked horn or better.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period September 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 6 inches DBH from at least 40 acres of oak woodlands.</li> </ul>
MILLER-ERIKSEN RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  1,000 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 25 deer (of which no more than 17 may be buck deer forked horn or better) and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 14 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 14, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 9 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> <li>• On or before November 1, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 11 additional either-sex tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Clean and repair 3 spring development water sources to provide additional water for wildlife by replacing floats, rusted and/or cracked pipes, leaking tanks and clogged lines.</li> <li>➤ Plant 100 pounds of commercial pasture seed mix across the small irrigated pastures and in open glade areas to provide food and cover for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Burn 1 acre of decadent chaparral brush to provide forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Treat 0.5 acre of yellow star thistle with an appropriate herbicide.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 0.5 mile of low elk crossing fences.</li> <li>➤ Build 10 brush piles throughout the property to provide wildlife cover.</li> <li>➤ Maintain the reduced number of livestock, not to exceed 25 cow/calf pairs.</li> <li>➤ Maintain at least 0.75 acre of irrigated pastures, within which livestock will be excluded from at least 0.2 acre.</li> </ul>



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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
SPRING VALLEY RANCH  DEER ZONE A  MENDOCINO  4,860 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized harvest:</b> 24 buck deer forked horn or better and 4 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 24 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 8 buck deer may be harvested after September 23, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 4 bull elk tags for the period of August 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) 1 additional bull elk tag to complete the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create 2 10 feet X 6 feet brush piles.</li> <li>➤ Remove and manipulate 0.25 acre of blackberries by tractor, hand, and/or herbicide. Treatment areas will be monitored to determine the most effective method of removal and manipulation.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically remove with a tractor and by hand 0.5 acre of decadent manzanita to improve wildlife forage. Eradicate 0.75 acre of scotch broom and coyote brush.</li> <li>➤ Repair existing elk crossings as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Inspect and if necessary repair the 13 previously improved water development projects.</li> <li>➤ Develop 1 new spring. Dig out spring and use collector boxes. Pipe water to troughs.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 1,000 feet of woven wire cross fencing to reduce wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Maintain a 5 acre pond for use by migratory birds and other wildlife, including large mammals. The pond provides year-round water, as well as roosting, feeding, and nesting habitat.</li> </ul>
TRAVIS RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  TRINITY  11,907 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 15 deer (of which no more than 5 may be antlerless deer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 15 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• Buck deer must be forked horn or better.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2018.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 12 inches DBH from at least 20 acres of oak woodland in Area B.</li> <li>➤ Treat at least 70 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicide and biological controls in Areas K and L.</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
WIGGINS RANCH  HUMBOLDT  16,657 ACRES	<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 for the period of August 15, 2018 through October 31, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of October 1, 2018 through November 15, 2018.</li> <li>• One of the antlerless elk tags will be made available for DFW to distribute to an Apprentice Hunter through the SHARE Program. The SHARE program will reimburse Wiggins Ranch for the tag fee, but Wiggins Ranch will otherwise provide the hunt free of charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 6 inches DBH from at least 40 acres of oak woodlands.</li> </ul>
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		
CHIMNEY ROCK RANCH  DEER ZONE A  SAN LUIS OBISPO  6,500 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 10 buck deer forked horn or better and 3 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 16 buck deer tags to take no more than 10 forked horn or better buck deer for the period beginning with the opening day of archery season 2018 through November 30, 2018.</li> <li>• On or before October 26, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) 4 additional deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Add a water trough to the new "Triangle" pasture solar system to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Defer cattle from the "Lake" pasture from mid-spring through mid-summer to allow cover for ground nesting birds to grow out and in turn enhance forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain existing water sources to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Construct 10 brush piles for use as cover for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Apply fertilizer to stressed pasture areas of the ranch to improve forage quantity and quality for wildlife.</li> </ul>
TEMBLOR RANCH  SAN LUIS OBISPO AND KERN  30,000 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 9 bull elk and 10 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 9 bull elk tags for the period of July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.</li> <li>• Issue 10 antlerless elk tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018.</li> <li>• On or before November 1, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 9 additional bull tags and 10 additional antlerless tags to accomplish the authorized harvest of no more than 19 elk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plant 1 acre of irrigated pasture for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Plant 5 fruit trees and 5 shade trees for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Install 0.5 mile of water line and a new water trough to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain existing water systems and sources for wildlife.</li> </ul>



**California Fish and Game Commission**  
**Alphabetical Listing of PLM Properties for Five-Year Licenses and Area**  
**Plans for April 18-19, 2018 Meeting**

Approve five-year PLM 2018-2023 licenses and area plans for:

- (A) 3D Ranch (Tehama County)
- (B) Chimney Rock Ranch (San Luis Obispo County)
- (C) Cottrel Ranch (Humboldt County)
- (D) Diamond C Outfitters (Humboldt County)
- (E) Eden Valley Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (F) Hunter Ranch (Humboldt County County)
- (G) Miller-Eriksen Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (H) Spring Valley Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (I) Temblor Ranch (San Luis Obispo County)
- (J) Travis Ranch (Trinity County)
- (K) Wiggins Ranch (Humboldt County)