

STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 15-16, 2020

15. INITIAL PLM LICENSES AND PLANS (CONSENT)**Today's Item**Information Action

Consider approving initial private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) plans and 2020-2024 licenses for three 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 annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for three PLM properties — Antler Hill Ranch in Mendocino County, Bridges Ranch in Mendocino County, and San Bartolome Ranch in Monterey County — have been reviewed by DFW and found to be in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLMs; the applicants have identified the location where records will be kept and made available for inspection (Exhibit 1).

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

FGC staff: Approve initial license and seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for three PLM properties as recommended by DFW, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

DFW: Approve three initial PLM properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. [DFW memo](#), received Apr 13, 2020
2. [PLM Area License: Initial 5-Year Management Plans, 2019-2023, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements](#), received Apr 13, 2020

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts items 15-22 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: March 23, 2020

To: Melissa Miller- Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 15-16, 2020 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 Initial PLM Management Plans for 58 properties in 16 counties consisting of approximately 904,954 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 2019, and all habitat work was completed.

The Initial and 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 the Initial applicant 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 2020/21 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached table.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
March 23, 2020
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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 371-3466 or by email at Victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

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**PLM AREA LICENSE
INITIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2020-2024
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
ANTLER HILL RANCH DEER ZONE A MENDOCINO 930 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue 3 buck tags for the period of July 11, 2020 through August 2, 2020 and August 8, 2020 through September 20, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove at least 5 acres of coyote brush that is encroaching into grasslands. ➤ Repair 1 spring to maintain functioning water tank. ➤ Removal of woven wire from at least 200 ft. of fencing in deer travel corridors. ➤ Clear at least 1.5 acres of chamise by hand or mechanically. ➤ Remove at least 75% of the overstory on 1.5 acres of timberland, to encourage the growth of new browse.
BRIDGES RANCH DEER ZONE A MENDOCINO 1,144 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue 10 buck tags for the period of July 11, 2020 through August 2, 2020 and August 8, 2020 through September 20, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Burn 40 acres of decadent brush under the CalFire VMP or manipulate 5 acres through mechanical means (i.e., hand cutting or equipment) in a mosaic pattern. ➤ Remove 3 acres of conifer trees 12 inches diameter at breast height or less in oak woodland areas. ➤ Remove 30 yards of woven wire fencing surrounding the orchard area. ➤ Create at least 5 brush piles measuring at least 15 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. ➤ Install 1 wood duck nesting box near the lake. ➤ Remove at least 1 dilapidated structure (at least 150 square feet) to reduce hazards to wildlife.
CENTRAL REGION		
SAN BARTOLOME RANCH DEER ZONE A MONTEREY 3,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 bull elk, 1 antlerless elk, 3 forked horn or better buck deer and 3 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 2, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of August 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Issue 3 buck deer and 3 either sex deer tags, to take no more than 3 forked horn or better bucks and 3 antlerless deer for the period of July 11, 2020 through September 20, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Install 1 elk crossing. ➤ Make 1 existing water source wildlife friendly. ➤ Plant 50 acres of cover/grain exclusively for wildlife use. ➤ Construct 1 brush pile (10 feet X 10feet) to enhance wildlife escape cover. ➤ Provide a special hunt opportunity for a youth hunter. ➤ Install 1 mile of water line to the east side of Middle pasture.