

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16-17, 2021

**3. FIVE-YEAR PRIVATE LANDS WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider approving five-year renewals for private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) plans and 2021-2025 licenses for six properties.

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

California 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 and plan; annual PLM seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements; and a five-year PLM license renewal. Conditions for the PLMs are unique to each participant's property.

Proposed five-year wildlife management plan renewals and annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for six properties have been reviewed by DFW and found to be in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLMs; 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 five-year PLM license renewals for 2021-2025, and annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2021-2025 as recommended by DFW for six properties, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

**DFW:** Approve five-year PLM license renewals for six properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received Jun 1, 2021](#)
2. [PLM Area License 5-Year Renewals, 2021-2025, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements, received Jun 1, 2021](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 3-7 on the consent calendar.

Received June 1, 2021.  
Original signed copy on file.

## Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2021

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 16-17, 2021 Fish and Game Commission Meeting  
Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area  
Licenses**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Annual renewals, 5-year renewals, and Initial Management Plans for 45 properties in 15 counties consisting of approximately 283,362 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 2020, 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 applicants' 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 2021/22 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached table.

**Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director**  
**Fish and Game Commission**  
**May 18, 2021**  
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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 203-0567 or by email at [Victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment

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***PLM AREA LICENSE  
5-YEAR RENEWALS, 2021 to 2025  
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS***

<b><i>NORTHERN REGION</i></b>		
<b>PLM Area</b>	<b>Proposed Season and Harvest</b>	<b>Habitat Improvement Program</b>
KRAMER RANCH PLM  DEER ZONE X1  LASSEN  4,070 ACRES	<p><b><i>Authorized Harvest:</i></b> 5 forked-horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of August 21, 2021 through November 30, 2021.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• Issue 1 buck antelope tag for the period of August 21, 2021 through September 19, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove conifers and competing shrubs from 1-acre aspen stand and build exclusionary fencing.</li> </ul>
LITTLE DRY CREEK RANCH  DEER ZONE C4  TEHAMA  2,000 ACRES	<p><b><i>Authorized Harvest:</i></b> 2 forked-horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of October 20, 2021 through November 30, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Continue to exclude livestock grazing from the entire ranch to benefit wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 3 springs and associated planted perennial grass areas by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat 10 acres of decadent brush to create more palatable feed for the wintering deer herd.</li> <li>➤ Treat at least 2 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicides.</li> <li>➤ Keep trespass livestock off the ranch by annually inspecting the perimeter fence and repairing any damage.</li> </ul>

***PLM AREA LICENSE  
5-YEAR RENEWALS, 2021 to 2025  
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS***

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>LONG PRAIRIE FARMS</p> <p>DEER ZONE X1</p> <p>SISKIYOU</p> <p>1,814 ACRES</p>	<p><b><i>Authorized Harvest:</i></b> 2 either-sex deer and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 either-sex deer tags for the period of October 2, 2021 through November 30, 2021.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after October 17, 2021.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 8, 2021 through December 31, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove Western juniper from at least 5 acres to improve shrub recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Increase forage quality for wildlife by pruning bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 5-acre area.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 9 miles of exclusion fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle.</li> <li>➤ Use ground water pumps to create and maintain a 1-acre wetland to provide year-round water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Retain at least 150 acres of alfalfa and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Identify and retain at least 3 pine and/or juniper trees currently providing nesting opportunities for raptors on the ranch.</li> <li>➤ Install 1 wildlife-friendly fence crossing.</li> </ul>
<p>MENDIBOURE COLD SPRINGS RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE X5B</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>1,880 ACRES</p>	<p><b><i>Authorized Harvest:</i></b> 1 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of October 2, 2021 through November 30, 2021.</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 21, 2021 through September 5, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 2-acre young aspen enclosure above Hall Cabin.</li> <li>➤ Cut at least 50 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds and disperse on the ground in order to recruit young plants.</li> <li>➤ Maintain Hall Cabin pond by adding rocks to spillway and inflow areas to prevent erosion.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically remove at least 25 western junipers from meadows.</li> <li>➤ Maintain East Meadow spring by checking and repairing any damaged parts.</li> <li>➤ Continue rotational cattle grazing between 2 pastures so that the residual dry matter does not fall below 40% using the Double-Weight sampling technique.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
**5-YEAR RENEWALS, 2021 to 2025**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
PONDOSA  DEER ZONE X1  SISKIYOU  27,734 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 forked-horn or better buck deer, 1 antlerless deer, 2 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2021.</li> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of September 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.</li> <li>• Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Restore 77 acres of aspen and meadow areas by removing encroaching conifer seedlings and saplings through the Black Cub THP.</li> <li>➤ Create 4 brush piles for wildlife cover.</li> <li>➤ Retain 30 acres of late seral habitat by retaining up to 10% of the standing inventory within even-aged timber units.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 50 acres of meadows in the Bear Lake/ Horseshoe and Tom Young areas.</li> </ul>
RED ROCK VALLEY FARMS  DEER ZONE X1  SISKIYOU  5,562 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 either-sex deer and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 either-sex deer tags for the period of October 2, 2021 through November 30, 2021.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after November 1, 2021.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 8, 2021 through December 31, 2021.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Selectively remove western juniper from 5 acres to improve shrub recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Increase forage quality for wildlife by pruning bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 5-acre area.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 12 miles of exclusion fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle.</li> <li>➤ Install 1 wildlife friendly fence crossing.</li> <li>➤ Retain 400 acres of alfalfa and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Restore and maintain 10-acre wetland by pumping water into it to provide year-round water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Protect known pine and juniper trees that provide nesting and perching opportunities for raptors.</li> <li>➤ Maintain Tecnor Spring by removing western juniper trees and silt as necessary.</li> </ul>