

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16-17, 2021

5. INITIAL PRIVATE LANDS WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS (CONSENT)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider approving initial private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) plans and 2021-2025 licenses for two 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. Conditions for PLMs are unique to each participant's property.

Proposed annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for the two PLM 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 (N/A)**

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

DFW: Approve two initial PLM licenses and plans, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. [DFW memo, received Jun 1, 2021](#)
2. [PLM Area License: Initial Management Plans, 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
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 203-0567 or by email at Victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

cc: Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Stafford.Lehr@wildlife.ca.gov

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch
Scott.gardner@wildlife.ca.gov

Brad Burkholder
Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch
Brad.burkholder@wildlife.ca.gov

David Casady
Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Wildlife Branch
David.casady@wildlife.ca.gov

Victoria Barr, Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch
Victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov

PLM AREA LICENSE
INITIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2021 to 2025
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

NORTHERN REGION		
PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
ROBERTS RANCH DEER ZONE X1 MODOC 2,313 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 forked-horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of August 21, 2021 through September 12, 2021 (A3 archery season) and October 2, 2021 through October 17, 2021 (X1 general season). • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. • Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 21, 2021 through September 15, 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove/thin at least 5 acres of juniper trees in area 1. ➤ Create at least 15 brush piles that are at least 8 feet in diameter and 5 feet tall, located near springs and water sources. ➤ Meet with state and federal agencies to establish permanent wetlands. ➤ Limit cattle grazing to no more than 50 cow/calf pairs for the entire ranch and remove by September 15, annually.
WILKINSON HUNTING CLUB DEER ZONE B1 HUMBOLDT/ TRINITY 5,376 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 14 forked-horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 14 buck deer tags for the period of August 21, 2021 through September 12, 2021 (B1 archery season) and September 18, 2021 through October 24, 2021 (B1 general season). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove conifer trees less than 12 inches diameter-at-breast-height from 10 acres of oak woodlands to promote oak recruitment. ➤ Remove 2,200 feet of abandoned fencing to increase movement by wildlife. ➤ Create at least 2 brush piles measuring at least 15 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. ➤ Install 1 wood duck nesting box. ➤ Develop or rehabilitate 2 springs to provide water for wildlife.