

Staff Summary for April 17-18, 2024

11. Initial Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management Area (PLM) Plan and License (consent)**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Consider approving initial PLM plan and 2024-2028 license.

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

California Fish and Game Code sections 3400-3408 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.

The Department has reviewed the initial management plan for one new property in one county, consisting of approximately 4,988 acres.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the wildlife management plan, license application, and 2024-2028 harvest program under conditions specified in Exhibit 2. Habitat improvements accomplished under this plan will enhance and maintain wildlife resources on and around the PLM area. The goals and objectives stated in the management plan are compatible with Department management plans for appropriate species in this area and the Department finds it is in compliance with Commission regulations and policies for PLM licenses and plans.

At the June 2024 Commission meeting, the Department will give a presentation on its PLM Program, as requested by the Commission.

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

Commission staff: Approve the initial PLM license for the 2024-2028 seasons and associated PLM management plan with proposed season, harvest, and habitat improvements under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

Department: Approve the initial PLM license, and management plan and proposed season, harvest, and habitat improvements under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received March 29, 2024](#)
2. [PLM Area License Initial Management Plans, 2024-2028, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements, received March 29, 2024](#)

Staff Summary for April 17-18, 2024

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 11-15 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: March 25, 2024

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 17-18, 2024 Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area
Licenses**

California Fish and Game Code Section 3406(c) requires that the activities conducted pursuant to each Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan (PLM) shall be reviewed annually by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) at a public hearing. Licenses for such areas may be granted by the Commission for a period of five (5) years following department review and approval of the management plan (Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 601(a)).

The Department has reviewed the initial management plan for one new property in one county consisting of approximately 4,988 acres and the 5-year renewals for nine properties in six counties consisting of approximately 112,818 acres. Additionally, the Department has reviewed the annual reports for 52 properties in 14 counties consisting of approximately 550,079 acres.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the wildlife management plans, applications, and each 2024/25 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached tables. 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.

The remaining PLM areas will be submitted to the Commission for approval at the June 19-20, 2024 meeting.

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

Attachment

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
March 25, 2024
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Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch

Mario Klip, Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch

Brett Furnas, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Wildlife Branch

Victoria Barr, Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
PLM Area License
Initial Management Plan, 2024-2028
Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements

CENTRAL REGION		
PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Stevinson Ranch A Deer Zone Merced 4,988 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 9 forked-horn or better buck deer</p> <p>Issue 9 buck deer tags for the period July 13, 2024 through September 22, 2024</p>	<p>Maintain 20 existing mature valley oak trees.</p> <p>Mow 5 acres of non-native grass in oak woodland to promote oak generation.</p> <p>Install and maintain cattle exclusion fencing around 5 valley oak saplings.</p> <p>Disk or mow 5 acres in areas adjacent to riparian habitats.</p> <p>Install and maintain 5 wood duck nesting boxes per year.</p> <p>Install and maintain 3 nesting boxes for American Kestrel.</p> <p>Install and maintain 3 raptor perch poles in appropriate areas.</p> <p>Disk 10 acres and plant legumes and cereal grains in areas not grazed by cattle.</p> <p>Install 3 wildlife friendly fence crossings.</p> <p>Cut and maintain 5 wildlife travel corridors to open up dense vegetation.</p>