5. Annual Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management Area (PLM) Plans (consent)

Today's Item

Information \Box

Action 🛛

Consider approving annual PLM plans.

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 annual reports for 40 properties in 9 counties consisting of approximately 254,885 acres. PLM properties are conducting a variety of habitat work, including inspecting and repairing fencing, maintaining wildlife foraging areas, and creating wildlife migratory travel routes.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the wildlife management plans, license applications, and 2024-2025 harvest programs under the 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 plans are compatible with Department management plans for appropriate species in this area, and the Department finds they are in compliance with Commission regulations and policies for PLM licenses and plans.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Approve continuing PLM licenses and approve the annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2024-2025 as recommended by the Department for 40 properties, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

Department: Approve continuing the PLM licenses and approve the annual seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 40 properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

- 1. Department memo, received June 13, 2024
- 2. <u>PLM Area License Annual Renewals, 2024-2025, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and</u> <u>Habitat Improvements, received June 6, 2024</u>

Motion

Moved by ______ and seconded by ______ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 3-9 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: May 31, 2024

- To: Melissa Miller- Henson Executive Director Fish and Game Commission
- From: Charlton H. Bonham Director

Subject: Agenda Item for the June 19-20, 2024 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area Licenses

Private lands are a key component of wildlife habitats throughout California that support key populations of game and non-game species alike. Pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 3400, it is state policy to actively ensure improvement of wildlife habitats on private land in cooperation with landowners. Through the Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) advances this policy by collaborating with private landowners to develop management plans that improve wildlife habitat on their properties. As part of this program, tags are issued annually to PLM participants' allowing limited hunting on these properties.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3406(c) requires that the activities conducted pursuant to each PLM Management Plan shall be reviewed annually by the 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 plans for 3 new properties in 3 counties consisting of approximately 21,893 acres. These new properties cover a variety of habitats including chaparral and riparian areas which benefit both game and non-game species. Proposed habitat improvements include promoting early successional growth, installing numerous water catchments in an arid area, and improving the quality of riparian areas by removing non-native species.

The Department has also reviewed 5-year renewals for 10 properties in 7 counties consisting of approximately 355,360 acres and annual reports for 40 properties in 9 counties consisting of approximately 254,885 acres. PLM properties are doing a variety of habitat work.

Work ranges from but is not limited to wildlife brush piles, cover crop and food plot plantings, mastication of decadent brush, non-native vegetation removal, installing/repairing water features (such as guzzlers and springs), wildlife friendly fencing, and wildlife nesting boxes and platforms.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director Fish and Game Commission May 31, 2024 Page 2

The Department recommends that the Commission approves 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 attached tables represent the second, and final, list of PLM properties recommended for approval by the Commission in 2024. We previously recommended a first list of PLM properties for approval at the April 18, 2024, Commission meeting.

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

Attachment

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director Wildlife and Fisheries Division Department of Fish and Wildlife

> Scott Gardner, Branch Chief Wildlife Branch Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mario Klip, Environmental Program Manager Wildlife Branch Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brett Furnas, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor Wildlife Branch Department of Fish and Wildlife

Victoria Barr, Environmental Scientist Wildlife Branch Department of Fish and Wildlife

NORTHERN REGION

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Ash Valley Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 4 forked horn or better buck deer and 1	Remove noxious weeds from at least 20 acres by grubbing and/or chemical
Deer Zone X3A	pronghorn antelope	application.
Lassen 8,736 Acres	Issue 6 buck deer tags to take 4 forked horn or better buck deer for the period August 17, 2024, through November 30,	Through rotational grazing prescriptions, maintain previously completed habitat restoration work.
	2024, through November 30, 2024. No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.	Maintenance on at least 40 acres of previously treated juniper removal projects.
	In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.	
	The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.	
	Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 3, 2024, through September 30, 2024.	
Basin View Ranch Deer Zone X2	Authorized Harvest: 7 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope	Maintain at least 100 acres of previous juniper clearing projects to encourage shrub and forb recruitment by cutting juniper saplings.
Modoc	Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of October 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Leave at least 35% of crop lands left fallowed on a three-year rotation.
8,500 Acres	No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.	Install flushing bar on mowing machines to decrease animals being struck during harvesting.
	Issue one buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2024, through August 30, 2024.	Inspect and, as necessary, repair at least 10 miles of exclusionary fencing that controls livestock movement and grazing around ponds and springs.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Basin View Ranch Cont.		Exclude livestock grazing from 1 of the rotation management units (775 acres) year-round.
Big Bluff Ranch Deer Zone B5 Tehama 3,736 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 9 deer of which no more than 6 may be forked horn or better buck deer and 3 may be antlerless deer Issue 9 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 3, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2024.	Maintain and improve the Red Bank Restoration Project improvements (native vegetation restoration of 30 acres along 3 miles of creek) by repairing any damage to the livestock control fencing and irrigating until plants are fully established. Install 2 water troughs that allow for wildlife use. Maintain the water development at Miller Place as needed to provide water for wildlife by repairing any damage to the system. Maintain the wildlife-friendly fence below Sunflower Dam to exclude livestock and allow wildlife access to wetlands. Participate in the Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management Program, which is working, in part, to improve wildlife habitat on the surrounding 40,000 acres. Continue to participate in the CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Program to manage mixed chaparral fuels, enhance wildlife habitat, and reduce exotic weeds.
Black Ranch Shasta Deer Zone C3 1,000 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 2 forked horn or better buck deer, 2 antlerless deer, 1 bull elk, and 1 antlerless elk Issue 2 buck deer tags and 2 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Maintain the 145-acre wetlands project that was constructed last year to re- establish the native hydrology of the floodplain to Burney Creek. Establish a forest health and fire reduction project on at least 335 acres. Maintain 4 owl boxes and 6 goose nesting platforms by checking use and replacing nesting material as necessary.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Black Ranch Cont.	Issue 1 bull elk tag and 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No antlerless deer or elk may be harvested before September 15, 2024.	 Maintain 12 bat boxes. Rebuild 12 wood duck boxes and maintain 18 wood duck boxes along the creek. Conduct rotational regenerative grazing on the property. Replace at least 3 miles of boundary fencing with wildlife-friendly fencing. Establish a conservation easement on the majority of the farmland property.
Cow Creek Ranch Deer Zone C3 Shasta 4,714 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 10 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No more than 6 buck deer may be taken after October 27, 2024.	Treat 20 acres of decadent brush annually with a bulldozer by clearing and piling brush. Create at least 5 brush piles that are at least 5 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Retain oaks, standing snags and large woody debris that is not a safety hazard. Establish and maintain at least one spring on the property.
Dixie Valley Ranch Deer Zone X3A Lassen 12,500 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 4 forked horn or better buck deer, 2 buck pronghorn antelope, and 1 bull elk Issue 4 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No more than 3 buck deer may be harvested after October 20, 2024. No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	Manage timed cattle grazing on 250 acres of natural pasture containing a large pond, a creek, and several springs in the southeast corner of the ranch during May and September/October to provide forage and water for wildlife. Continue revitalization of at least 90 feet of aspen grove. Juniper removal project tree removal has been completed and the remaining slash piles will be burned. Leave the final cutting of hay standing in the 800-acre irrigated pasture to provide forage for wildlife.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Dixie Valley Ranch Cont. El Rancho Rio Frio Deer Zone B5 Tehama 12,682 Acres	Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024. Authorized Harvest: 24 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 24 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No more than 12 deer may be harvested after October 27, 2024.	Any old fencing will be replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing. Maintain 25 Canada goose nesting platforms at Saw Mill pond, Jacks Hole and in the large marsh area. Maintain at least 21 ponds and 25 miles of canals and waterways. Install at least 3 new guzzlers and inspect current guzzlers for damage and repair as necessary. Maintain all roads to ensure erosion control measures are in place to lessen the impacts to any waterways. Check the creek and riparian areas for erosion issues and establish preventative measures. Create at least 3 small wildlife brush piles measuring at least 15 feet in diameter and 6 feet tall. Plant at least 2 acres of previously disturbed areas with perennial grasses and clovers. Maintain at least 10 wood duck boxes along Cold Fork Creek. Control invasive weed species through physical removal, spraying with herbicide, or mowing/weed eating.
Five Dot Ranch - Horse Lake Deer Zone X5A Lassen 8,025 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of September 12, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Maintenance of rehabilitation project to Coon Camp Springs the spring and associated riparian vegetation on 20 acres by excluding cattle (allow grazing for 4-5 days only), a water storage tank, solar panel, and troughs. Continued clearance of juniper trees in an 80-acre area to enhance the riparian and wildlife habitat.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Five Dot Ranch - Horse Lake Cont.	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 12, 2024, through September 24, 2024.	Defer livestock grazing of the 300-acre Packard Field until after July 1 to improve duck and goose brood survival. Grazing will occur between July 1, 2024, and October 15, 2024. Maintain 5 goose nesting platforms at Packard Reservoir and Coon Camp Reservoir as needed. Knock seed off bitterbrush plants so cattle can stomp into the ground for regeneration. Bitterbrush regeneration will be monitored annually through photo monitoring will be conducted to track growth and success of the practice.
Five Dot Ranch – School Section	Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer	Maintain livestock exclusion fence around 2 aspen patches by inspecting it regularly and making any necessary repairs.
Deer Zone X5A Lassen 640 Acres	Issue one buck deer tag for the period of September 12, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	Cut and disperse 50 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds to recruit young plants. Photo monitoring will be conducted to track growth and success of the practice. Cattle grazing will not be utilized during this year.
Five Dot Ranch - Tunnel Springs Deer Zone X5A Lassen 2,600 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer and 2 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of September 12, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	Repair damaged livestock-exclusion fencing with wildlife-friendly fencing at Tunnel Springs. Retain water in 2 reservoirs at 50% of the current year's water capacity for wildlife. Remove 100 junipers from around Tunnel Springs and the reservoirs. Knock seeds off bitterbrush plants in the fall so cattle can stomp into the ground for
	Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of August 12, 2024, through September 24, 2024.	regeneration. Bitterbrush regeneration will be monitored annually photo monitoring will be conducted to track growth and success of the practice.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Five Dot Ranch - Tunnel Springs Cont.		Maintain the solar panel water pump system that keeps 12 water troughs full to provide water for wildlife.
		Coordinate with BLM to facilitate the gathering of wild horses on the property as soon as possible.
Five Dot Ranch - Willow Creek Deer Zone X4	Authorized Harvest: 7 forked horn or better buck deer and 2 buck pronghorn antelope	Repair any damaged livestock-exclusion fencing around 4 aspen and willow stands totaling 30 acres that provide deer fawning habitat.
Lassen	Issue 8 buck deer tags to take 7 buck deer for the period of September 12, 2024, through	Crush at least 20 acres of snowbrush to provide new palatable forage at different
7,200 Acres	November 30, 2024. No person shall take more than	sites in Sections 21, 22, 27, or 28. Photo monitoring will be conducted to track growth and success of the practice.
	1 buck deer annually in the X zones. In no case shall the number of	Retain water in reservoirs and ponds at 50% of the current year's water capacity for wildlife by filling them as needed.
	tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest The number of tag holders	Leave the third cutting of alfalfa on 100 acres west of Hwy 139 for deer and pronghorn antelope use.
	actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.	Maintain a 50-acre field of alfalfa and grass, providing forage for deer.
	Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of	Leave a minimum of 100 acres of third cutting alfalfa for wildlife.
	August 12, 2024, through September 24, 2024.	Maintain 4 goose nesting platforms at Round Valley Reservoir.
		Continue to maintain the 150-foot radius Bald eagle protection area in section 30.
		Leave 100 acres of bitterbrush in the Windmill Field for wildlife.
		Leave 50 acres of native vegetation in the triangle field between SR 139 and Horse Lake Road for wildlife use.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Grasshopper Valley Ranch Deer Zone X5A Lassen 12,063 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. 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 1, 2024, through September 3, 2024.	Exclude cattle from the northern 1/2 of the Grasshopper Valley during greater sage grouse breeding season from December 1 through May 31 annually. Replace at least 2 miles of old fencing with wildlife-friendly fencing. Install 3 float regulated water troughs with wildlife escape ramps Ditch repairs and laser level fields to better utilize irrigation water and create more forage availability. Juniper removals as needed and outlined from CDFW staff.
Hathaway Oak Run Ranch Deer Zone C3 Shasta 6,640 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 12 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of September 21, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No more than 8 buck deer may be harvested after October 27, 2024.	Develop 2 spring sites to provide year- round water sources for wildlife, one in the SE corner of section 3 and one in the Swede Creek basin of section 4. Maintain the 6-acre riparian livestock exclusion on Swede Creek by inspecting fencing and making any necessary repairs. Maintain existing spring developments that provide year-round water for wildlife by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary and clearing sediment and vegetation from the sources. Maintain 10 wood duck boxes. Maintain existing deer forage areas by diverting spring water over the maximum area possible and along the contour through a shallow ditch system. Promote vernal pool flora and fauna by using cattle grazing to protect and maintain 2 vernal pools in Section 9 and 18.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Hathaway Oak Run Ranch Cont.		Maintain or create 4 brush piles at least 6 feet high and 10 feet wide.
		Maintain previously installed owl boxes along Oak Run Creek by checking use and replacing material as necessary.
Jerusalem Creek Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 4 forked horn or better buck deer	Maintain previous water sources that provide water for wildlife by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.
Deer Zone B5 Shasta	Issue 4 buck tag for the period of August 20, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Mechanically treat a minimum of 10 acres decadent Ceanothus or white leaf manzanita.
726 Acres		Enhance and maintain 2 spring sources by removing invasive plants and maintaining exclusionary fencing.
		Create wildlife migratory travel routes through clearing ridges, trails, and road systems on 5 acres over the next 5 years.
JS Ranch Deer Zone C3	Authorized Harvest: 12 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 bull elk	Retain vegetation for wildlife cover along irrigation canal banks to the extent it does not interfere with ditch maintenance.
Shasta 7,134 Acres	Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Grazing management will be used to prevent erosion and leave browse and grass for wildlife use.
	No more than 6 buck deer may be harvested after October 27, 2024.	Maintain water in irrigation canals year- round to provide water for wildlife.
	Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2024,	Continue to maintain at least 750 acres of irrigated pastures for wildlife use.
	through November 30, 2024.	Maintain at least a 50-acre irrigated pasture for elk foraging in the northeast corner of the ranch and the Rock Garden Flats.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
JS Ranch Cont.		Mechanically control the spread of extensive blackberry thickets within a 650-acre area. Bramble margins and some interior areas will be cut or crushed to reduce blackberry water consumption and increase forage.
		Install water bars on dirt roads adjacent to Cow Creek to prevent sediment erosion flowing into the creek.
		Maintain the exclusion of livestock from 0.5 miles of riparian area by inspecting exclusion fencing and repairing any damage.
		Maintain at least 4 food plots for wildlife forage.
		Maintain cattle exclusion fencing and replant 50 acres within 4 wildlife food plots.
		Maintain the livestock exclusion area of 1,000 acres to provide forage for wildlife during late summer and early fall. Livestock are excluded from June 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.
		Enhance and maintain ponds by enlarging and repairing spillways and dams and making any other necessary repairs.
		Maintain a 200-acre fenced area with no human disturbance or cattle grazing for wildlife use year-round.
		No commercial wood or rock harvesting on the entirety of the ranch

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Kampmann Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer	Maintain a livestock exclusion area encompassing at least 200 acres.
Deer Zone C3 Shasta 557 Acres	Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Rotationally graze no more than 40 pair of cattle from April 1 through June 15 Remove 1000 feet of woven wire fencing and replace it with wildlife-friendly fencing. Create a riparian protection area in Unit 2. Treatment of Himalayan blackberry thickets in Area 2. Rangeland seeding in at least 1 acre. Install at least 2 erosion control structures. Mechanically treat at least 0.50 acre of decadent brush to create more palatable feed for wildlife. Install at least 1 wood duck nesting box
Kramer Ranch PLM Deer Zone X1 Lassen 4,070 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 5 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	 Plant at least 2 acres of quaking aspen and fence with wildlife-friendly fencing. Remove conifers and junipers from the 2- acre aspen plantation. Maintain all existing wildlife-friendly fences. Remove conifer and junipers from springs. Maintain aspen exclusion fencing from previous projects.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Little Dry Creek Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 2 forked horn or better buck deer	Continue to exclude livestock grazing from the entire ranch to benefit wildlife.
Deer Zone C4 Tehama 2,000 Acres	Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of October 20, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Maintain 3 springs and associated planted perennial grass areas by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary. Treat at least 2 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicides.
		Keep trespass livestock off the ranch by annually inspecting the perimeter fence and repairing any damage
Long Prairie Farms	Authorized Harvest: 2 either- sex deer and 1 bull elk	Remove western juniper from at least 5 acres to improve shrub recruitment.
Deer Zone X1 Siskiyou	Issue 2 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 8, 2024, through November 30,	Increase forage quality for wildlife by pruning bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 5-acre area.
1,814 Acres	2024. No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	Maintain 9 miles of exclusion fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle.
	No antlerless harvest may occur before September 15, 2024.	Use ground water pumps to create and maintain a 1-acre wetland to provide year- round water for wildlife.
	Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after October 20, 2024.	Retain at least 200 acres of alfalfa and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife.
	Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 8, 2024, through December 31, 2024.	Identify and retain at least 3 pine and/or juniper trees currently providing nesting opportunities for raptors on the ranch.
		Install 1 wildlife-friendly fence crossing.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Lookout Ranch Deer Zone X1 Modoc 6,880 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 6 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 6 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2024, through November 30, 2024. 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 15, 2024, through November 30, 2024	 Remove western junipers from 3 acres at Moon Pasture. Water development project in the South meadow. Plant 100 willows in the middle check of the F3 wetland brood pond. Plant at least 12 acres of wild smart weed and water grass in Buck Pasture Ridge and 10 acres for upland gamebirds and deer/antelope to be left unharvested and ungrazed. Rotate 200 head of cattle through all of deeded ground. During summer, graze 75% of cattle on private lease ground, then bring cattle back to the ranch in fall to manage crop residue that restricts plant growth and development. Gather cattle and ship to winter pasture. Build at least 5 brush piles measuring at least 12 feet in diameter by 8 feet tall in the Moon Pasture to provide escape cover for wildlife.
Mendiboure Cold Springs Ranch Deer Zone X5B Lassen 1,880 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of September 28, 2024, through November 17, 2024. 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 24, 2024, through September 8, 2024	Maintain 2-acre young aspen exclosure above Hall Cabin. Maintain and repair all exterior fencing that received damage from the W-5 Cold Springs Fire. Cut at least 50 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds and disperse on the ground in order to recruit young plants. Mechanically remove at least 20 western junipers from near East Spring. Maintain East Meadow spring by checking and repairing any damaged parts.

Mendiboure Cold		
Springs Ranch Cont.		Continue rotational cattle grazing between 2 pastures so that the residual dry matter does not fall below 40% using the Double-Weight sampling technique.
Mendiboure Ranch Deer Zone X5B Lassen 8,840 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 6 buck deer tags to take 3 buck deer for the period of September 28, 2024, through November 17, 2024. No person may take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest. Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 24, 2024, through September 8, 2024.	 Maintain aspen and willow livestock exclosure fencing at Etchecopar Spring, Van Loan Creek, and Big Springs by checking and repairing fencing if needed. Removal of at least 25 junipers from the Mendiboure reservoir. Create brush piles from these removed trees. Maintain at least 7 acres of dryland alfalfa and reseed as necessary for wildlife. Construct a wildlife-friendly fence to exclude cattle from the plot. Maintain springs and water sources. Cut at least 150 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds and disperse on the ground in order to recruit young plants. Maintain perimeter fences. Continue rotational cattle grazing so that the residual dry matter does not fall below 40% using the Double-Weight sampling technique. Invasive weed control through chemical applications.
Mill Creek Ranch Deer Zone C4 Tehama 21,094 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 26 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 26 buck deer tags for the period of September 16, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Begin a large-scale feral cattle removal project from the property in which at least 170 cattle will be removed this year. Protect and enhance at least 1 spring site by installing wildlife-friendly fencing allowing for riparian vegetation to regrow. Remove at least 0.50 mile of internal

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Mill Creek Ranch Cont.		Mastication or burn at least 10 acres of decadent chaparral.
Observation Peak Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer	Seed 1 acre of mountain mahogany at a rate of 0.20 lbs./acre.
Deer Zone X5B Lassen	Issue 1 buck tag for the period of September 25, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Maintain wildlife-friendly fencing on the property.
640 Acres	No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones.	Prune junipers and create wildlife brush piles.
Pondosa Deer Zone X1	Authorized Harvest: 3 either- sex deer, 2 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk	Restore at least 50 acres of aspen and meadow areas by removing encroaching conifer seedlings and saplings through the Black Cub THP.
Siskiyou 27,734 Acres	Issue 3 either-sex deer tags of which no more than 2 bucks may be harvested for the	Maintenance on Tom Young meadow by removing new conifer growth.
	period of September 15, 2024, through November 15, 2024.	Continue ongoing study that utilizes trail cameras to estimate cow:calf ratios on the property.
	No antlerless deer or elk shall be harvested before September 15, 2024.	Aspen stem count and photo point surveys.
	Issue 2 bull elk tags and 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2024, through November 25, 2024.	
Red Rock Valley Farms	Authorized Harvest: 3 either- sex deer, and 1 bull elk	Selectively remove western juniper from at least 5 acres to improve shrub recruitment.
Deer Zone X1 Siskiyou 5,562 Acres	Issue 3 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 8, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Increase forage quality for wildlife by pruning bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 5-acre area.
	No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2024.	Maintain 12 miles of exclusion fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Red Rock Valley Farms Cont	No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after October 20, 2024. Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 8, 2024, through December 31, 2024.	Install 1 wildlife-friendly fence crossing. Retain 400 acres of alfalfa and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife. Restore and maintain 10-acre wetland by pumping water into it to provide year- round water for wildlife. Protect known pine and juniper trees that provide nesting and perching opportunities for raptors. Maintain Tecnor Spring by removing western juniper trees and silt as necessary.
Rickert Ranch Deer Zone C3 Shasta 4,441 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 bull elk Issue 10 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. Only 5 buck deer shall be harvested after October 27, 2024. In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest. Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Oak recruitment habitat improvement in French Creek. Fertilizing and oak spiking to increase acorn production in a 1-acre plot. (ORHI-3A) Existing pond improvement to 3 Ponds to repair the dam overflow on Pond 3 by inserting a culvert and rebuilding the spillway. (EPI-3A) Owl box development - create and place 6 owl boxes along Swede Creek to increase owl nesting opportunities. (OBD- 3A) Brush manipulation for habitat improvement in the 3 Ponds area to enhance regeneration and regrowth of nutritional deer forage. (BDHI-3A)

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Roberts Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 2 forked horn or better buck deer	Remove/thin at least 5 acres of juniper trees in area 2.
Deer Zone X1 Modoc 2,313 Acres	Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	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
	No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	establish permanent wetlands. Limit cattle grazing to no more than 50 cow/calf pairs for the entire ranch and will be removed by September 15, 2024.
Salt Creek Ranch Deer Zone B5	Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 3 buck deer tags for the	Continue to improve water retention ponds by repairing and plugging any leaks in the dams.
Tehama 640 Acres	period of September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Continue planting and maintaining at least 25 acres of fields.
		Clear snags and implement erosion control measures for at least 5 acres due to the August Complex Fire.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
SL Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 4 forked horn or better buck deer, and 1	Use a combination of chainsaws and herbicides to remove western juniper from
Deer Zone X3A	buck pronghorn antelope	at least 5 acres.
Modoc	Issue 4 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2024,	Flood 455 acres of harvested wild rice fields for waterfowl use.
7,500 Acres	through November 30, 2024.	Maintain the livestock exclusion fence
	No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.	around the spring below Likely Mill to exclude cattle.
	Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.	Maintain 2 springs on Rocky Prairie and 1 pond by ensuring that fencing excludes cattle. Any damaged fences and structures will be repaired as necessary.
		Maintain the livestock exclusion fencing along the West Side Canal where willows are present.
		Plant 200 willow shoots along the river in Area C.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Walton Homestead Family, LLC Deer Zone X3A Lassen 5,980 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 5 either- sex deer, and 1 buck pronghorn antelope Issue 5 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024. No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2024. 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 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.	Remove at least 80 acres of junipers yearly. The slash will be used to create wildlife brush piles measuring at least 12 feet in diameter and 6 feet in height. Complete the Horse Meadow and Hanna Springs spring development including wildlife/livestock watering system. Cattle grazing will be restricted every third year by only grazing March through June. Finalize water well, and a solar pump and storage tank will be installed along with piping and troughs to facilitate cattle watering out of the meadows. Maintain wildlife-friendly livestock enclosure fencing around springs and basins and use solar pumping or gravity flow to give cattle and wildlife water access outside the fence. Maintain aspen enclosure fencing and continue to remove junipers and pine trees within the enclosures.
Willow Creek Ranch Deer Zone C2 Shasta and Siskiyou 4,016 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 5 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of August 17, 2024, through November 30, 2024.	Treat at least 1 acre of oak woodlands to remove encroaching conifers. Meadow encroachment will be treated on 15 acres of seedlings using a weed eater with a blade. A minimum of 5 acres of large conifers will be removed from. encroaching the meadow area. Beaver habitat improvement will be conducted in the meadow, a beaver deceiver device has been installed to allow beavers to populate the meadow. Install at least 4 wood duck boxes in the meadow.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Willow Creek Ranch		Manage at least 75 acres of mixed conifer forest to enhance openings and create wildlife habitat.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Angel Slough Deer Zone C4 Butte	Authorized Harvest: 5 forked horn or better buck deer, and 6 antierless deer Issue 5 buck deer tags for	Place 5 wood duck boxes along eastern boundary. Keep water in east boundary pond.
855 Acres	 the period of August 17, 2024 through November 30, 2024. Issue 6 antlerless deer tags for the period of August 17, 2024 through November 30, 2024. 1 tag to be filled by a junior hunter. 	 Plant 25 acres of cover crops. If accessible spray 1 acre of noxious weeds in Oxbow meadow. Maintain 10 wood duck boxes. Maintain 10 owl features (boxes and perches). Re-plant any previous plantings that did not survive (200). Complete 2 deer surveys.
Deseret Farms Deer Zone C4 Butte 11,114 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer, and 25 antlerless deer Issue 10 buck deer tags for the period of November 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Issue 25 antlerless deer tags for the period of November 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.	 Burn/disc pond 3 and soto lake (20 acres). Improve 3 basking mounds by removing cocklebur and seeding with native seed. Remove wild pig. Maintain 3 previously improved basking mounds. Control star thistle (5 acres). Maintain 3 brush piles 10 feet x 10 feet x 5 feet minimum.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Deseret Farms Cont		Maintain 10 wood duck boxes.
		Maintain 10 owl features (boxes and perches).
Llano Seco Ranch Deer Zone D4 Butte	Authorized Harvest: 25 forked- horn or better buck deer, and 5 antlerless deer Issue 25 buck deer tags for the period of September 1, 2024 through November 30,	Treat/mow 400 acres of star and bull thistle on the west side of the ranch. Grow 520 acres of dry land grains. Grow 400-500 acres of Sunflower.
14,500 Acres	2024.	Maintain or replace existing 50 owl and wood duck boxes.
	Issue 5 antierless deer tags for the period of September 1, 2024 through November 30, 2024.	Maintain or replace 6 pond turtle basking structures.
	2024.	Partner with TNC to restore 480 acres of native grass in previously farmed fields.
M&T Chico Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 5 forked- horn or better buck deer and 10 antlerless deer	Implement fencing or other options to manage cattle grazing in riparian areas.
Deer Zone C4 Butte 5,332 Acres	Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of August 17, 2024 through December 31, 2024.	Improve foraging and nesting habitat for herons and egrets in rookery and for Swainson's hawk and peregrine falcon.
0,002 Acres	Issue 10 antlerless deer tags for the period of August 17, 2024 through December 31,	Maintain cattle grazing levels at approximately 100 head or less.
	2024. Due to human safety concerns, deer will not be	Treat 20 acres of yellow star thistle, cape ivy, or tree-of-heaven with herbicide.
	actively hunted during the rut and fruit harvest season on	Maintain or replace 10 barn owl and 30 wood duck nest boxes.
	the ranch, that runs from September 1, 2024 through November 1, 2024.	Perform annual fall deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Herd Survey Data.
		Release 200 pheasants to establish population.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Rock Creek Deer Zone C4 Butte/Tehama 9,945 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 30 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 33 buck deer tags for the period of August 17, 2024 through November 30, 2024.	Maintain 2 spring sites and 2 well sites which includes repair or replacement of pumps, troughs, and fencing. Maintain 3 brush piles to a minimum of 10 feet x 10 feet x 6 feet. Maintain restrictions on grazing to under 250 AUMs on the Garner Ranch, 210 AUMs on the Rose Ranch and 30 AUMs on the Watson Ranch per suggested usage by N.R.C.S. Set aside 1,300 acres per year with no cattle grazing on the Rose Ranch for years 2022 through 2025. Remove 0.50 mile of old fencing and t-posts to reduce wildlife entanglement and movement hindrance (approximately 2 miles over 4 years) on the Rose Ranch. Install 4- 6 trail cameras on the Watson Ranch Property or perform 2 annual deer surveys to document and report wildlife use.
Smith Flat Ranch Deer Zone A Yolo 1,024 Acres	Authorized Harvest: 5 forked horn or better buck deer Issue 10 buck deer tags for the period of July 13, 2024 through November 30, 2024. 1 tag must be filled by a junior hunter.	Maintain the following water systems: *Smith Flat - fill two, 2,500-gallon tanks, repair and maintain system. *Shooting Flat – fill 2,500-gallon tank, repair and maintain system. *Desperation Tank – fill 2,500-gallon tank, repair and maintain system. *Spring Box – repair and maintain system *Reservoir Guzzler and 500 Gallon Tank

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Smith Flat Ranch Cont.		Maintain quail brush piles (4) to a minimum size of 15 feet wide by 6 feet high.
		Clean out and repair east side spring box.
		Plant 0.50 acre of sunflowers and 0.50 acre of safflower in shooting flat.
		Disc and plant 3 acres of native grass seed on smith flat. 2,000 sq. feet will be a trial plot of winter brassicas and winter wheat. No cattle grazing in this area.
		Install 1 wildlife guzzler at winters flat.
		Create 1 quail brush pile in shooting flat and 1 at in winters flat (15 feet wide by 6 feet high)
		Limit cattle grazing to 60 head in the smith flat area (500 acres) for 8 weeks.
Sugarloaf-Bangor Ranch	Authorized Harvest: 12 forked horn or better buck deer, 50 turkey, 200 quail,	Maintain cattle stocking rate at or below 200 cow/calf pairs.
Deer Zone D3	and 2 black bears	Restrict cattle grazing from December 1 to May 15.
Yuba 2,626 Acres	Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of September 21, 2024 through November 30, 2024.	Maintain hot line around Round Lake to keep livestock from riparian plantings (willows and cottonwoods).
	Issue 50 turkey tags for the periods of October 1, 2024	Maintain solar-operated well to provide a consistent water source for Round Lake.
	through January 15, 2025 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 1, 2025	Obtain solar and solar pump for BVID water supply basin if needed.
	through May 15, 2025 (spring season, bearded turkey only harvest).	Create 5 brush piles (10 feet x10 feet x 6 feet) in areas near water sources.
	···· , ···· , ···· ··· , ···· ··· , ·	/ Install 6 blue bird boxes.

PLM Area	2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Sugarloaf- Bangor Ranch Cont.	Issue 200 quail tags for the period of September 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Additional orders are approved in 100 seal increments up to the authorized harvest. Issue 2 bear tags to take 2 bear for the period of September 21, 2024 to December 31, 2024 or when the state wide bear quota has been fulfilled.	Install 2 wood duck boxes at round lake

INLAND DESERTS REGION

2024 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer, 1	Continue non-use by livestock.
bear	Improve spring and water developments.
Issue 10 buck deer tags and	Implement habitat restoration for non- game species.
1 antlerless deer tag for the	
	Repair fire-damaged roads within PLM.
2024.	Continue monitoring of water sources with trail cameras.
Issue 2 bear tags for the period of September 14, 2024 through December 8, 2024 or when the statewide	
	Harvest Authorized Harvest: 10 forked horn or better buck deer, 1 antlerless deer, and 2 black bear Issue 10 buck deer tags and 1 antlerless deer tag for the period of September 14, 2024 through December 8, 2024. Issue 2 bear tags for the period of September 14, 2024 through December 8,