

Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

13. Five-Year Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Plans and Licenses (Consent)

Today's Item

Information Action

Consider approving five-year PLM plans and 2026-2031 licenses.

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

California Fish and Game Code Section 3402 subdivision (a) states that an application for a wildlife habitat enhancement and management area license may be issued by the Department upon approval by the Commission; 3406 subdivision (c) requires that the activities conducted pursuant to each Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan shall be reviewed annually by the Department and by the Commission at a public hearing. Licenses for such areas may be granted by the Commission for a period of five years following department review and approval of the management plan (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Subsection 601(a)).

The PLM program 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 five-year management plans for nine properties in four counties consisting of approximately 58,513 acres.

Habitat improvements accomplished under the management 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 and the Department finds they comply with Commission regulations and policies for PLM licenses and plans.

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

Commission staff: Approve five-year PLM license renewals for 2026-2031 and proposed seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2026-2031 as recommended by the Department for nine properties, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

Department: Approve five-year PLM license renewals for nine properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received June 8, 2026](#)
2. [PLM Area License Five-Year Plans, 2026-2031, received June 8, 2026](#)

Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 12-17 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: June 8, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 17-18, 2026 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 plans for 10 new properties in 6 counties consisting of approximately 38,863 acres. These new properties cover a variety of habitats including oak woodland, chaparral and riparian areas which benefit both game and non-game species. Proposed habitat improvements include oak woodland restoration, installing numerous water catchments, and improving the quality of riparian areas by removing non-native species. The Department received letters of concern from neighbors of 7 Oaks Ranch, in Tulare County, regarding hunting through the PLM Program. The Department addressed their concerns related to fire arms and are requesting their 3 PLM deer tags be archery only.

The Department has also reviewed 5-year renewals for 9 properties in 4 counties consisting of approximately 58,513 acres and the annual reports for 51 properties in 15 counties consisting of approximately 303,913 acres.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the wildlife management plans, applications, and each 2026/27 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.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
June 8, 2026
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The attached tables represent the second, and final list of PLM properties recommended for approval by the Commission in 2026. We previously recommended a first list of PLM properties for approval at the April 16, 2026, Commission meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Attachment

cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch
[REDACTED]

Mario Klip, Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch
[REDACTED]

Victoria Barr, Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch
[REDACTED]

**Five-Year Private Lands Management (PLM) Area
License Renewals for 2026-2031 with
Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements**

NORTHERN REGION

PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Dixie Valley Ranch</p> <p>Deer Zone X3A</p> <p>Lassen</p> <p>12,500 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 4 forked horn or better buck deer, 1 buck pronghorn antelope, and 1 bull elk</p> <p>Issue 4 buck deer for the period of August 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p> <p>No more than 3 buck deer may be harvested after October 18, 2026.</p> <p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p> <p>Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.</p> <p>Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p>	<p>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 between May and September/ October to provide forage and water for wildlife.</p> <p>Continue revitalization of at least 90 feet of Aspen grove.</p> <p>Remove at least 30 Juniper trees annually.</p> <p>Leave the final cutting of hay standing in the 800-acre irrigated pasture to provide forage for wildlife.</p> <p>Any old fencing will be replaced with wildlife friendly fencing.</p> <p>Maintain 25 Canada goose nesting platforms at Saw Mill pond, Jacks Hole and in the large marsh area.</p> <p>Maintain at least 21 ponds and 25 miles of canals and waterways.</p> <p>Implement a wolf deterrent program. This will include burying of dead livestock, keeping all dog food indoors, removal of wet and food garbage, regular burning of other non-biological garbage, and due to cattle losses during winters all cattle will be removed from the ranch from November through the winter season annually.</p>
<p>Kramer Ranch</p> <p>PLM</p> <p>Deer Zone X1</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 5 forked horn or better buck deer</p>	<p>Remove junipers from at least 50 acres. Limbs from these trees will be used to create 1-5 brush piles annually.</p>

**5-Year Private Lands Management (PLM) Area License
Renewals, 2026-2031 with Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat
Improvements**

PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Kramer Ranch (continued) Lassen 4,070 Acres</p>	<p>Issue 5 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p> <p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p>	<p>Treat at least 20 acres per year of noxious weeds.</p> <p>Maintain all existing wildlife friendly fences. 1 mile of fencing will be modified to become wildlife friendly.</p> <p>Remove conifer and junipers from springs.</p> <p>Maintain aspen exclusion fencing from previous projects.</p> <p>Remove all conifers from at least 6 acres of aspen groves.</p> <p>Continue prescribed grazing, which will be utilized to help maintain the previously treated juniper removal project areas. Livestock will be used from April 15 through November 15 annually. These areas are monitored maintain a stubble height of 6 inches or higher.</p>
<p>Little Dry Creek Ranch Deer Zone C4 Tehama 2,000 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <p>Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of October 20, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p>	<p>Continue to exclude livestock grazing from the entire ranch to benefit wildlife.</p> <p>Maintain 3 springs and associated planted perennial grass areas by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.</p> <p>Treat at least 2 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicides.</p> <p>Keep trespass livestock off the ranch by annually inspecting the perimeter fence and repairing any damage.</p>
<p>Long Prairie Farms Deer Zone X1</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 either-sex deer and 1 bull elk</p> <p>Issue 2 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 1,</p>	<p>Remove western juniper from at least 25 acres to improve shrub recruitment.</p> <p>Increase forage quality and browse regeneration for wildlife by pruning</p>

**5-Year Private Lands Management (PLM) Area License
Renewals, 2026-2031 with Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat
Improvements**

PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Long Prairie Farms</p> <p>(continued)</p> <p>Siskiyou</p> <p>1,814 Acres</p>	<p>2026, through November 30, 2026.</p> <p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p> <p>No antlerless harvest may occur before September 15, 2026.</p> <p>Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after October 18, 2026.</p> <p>Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 1, 2026, through December 30, 2026.</p>	<p>bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 25-acre area.</p> <p>Maintain 9 miles of wildlife friendly exclusionary fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle.</p> <p>Use ground water pumps to create and maintain a 1-acre wetland to provide year- round water for wildlife.</p> <p>Retain at least 200 acres of alfalfa and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife.</p> <p>Identify and retain at least 3 pine and/or juniper trees currently providing nesting opportunities for raptors on the ranch.</p> <p>Attempt to remove feral horses and maintain wildlife friendly fencing to exclude them from the property.</p>
<p>Mendiboure Cold Springs Ranch</p> <p>Deer Zone X5B</p> <p>Lassen</p> <p>1,880 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <p>Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period of October 6, 2026, through November 23, 2026.</p> <p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p>	<p>Maintain a 2-acre young aspen enclosure above Hall Cabin.</p> <p>Remove at least 1 acre of junipers from around meadows annually.</p> <p>Plant at least 2 pounds of bitterbrush seed on 5 acres in 2026 and 2029.</p> <p>Cut at least 50 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds and disperse on the ground in order to recruit young plants.</p> <p>Maintain East Meadow Spring by checking and repairing any damaged parts.</p>

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Renewals, 2026-2031 with Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat
Improvements**

PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Mendiboure Cold Springs Ranch (continued)</p>		<p>Continue rotational cattle grazing between 2 pastures so that the residual dry matter does not fall below 40% using the Double-Weight sampling technique.</p> <p>Plant at least 30 rootstock willow trees near the spring at Halls Cabin Pond.</p> <p>Create at least 1 solar water trough that will be used to provide water to wildlife throughout the year.</p>
<p>Pondosa Deer Zone X1 Siskiyou 27,734 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 either-sex deer, 2 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk</p> <p>Issue 3 either-sex deer tags of which no more than 2 bucks may be harvested for the period of September 15, 2026, through November 15, 2026.</p> <p>No antlerless deer or elk shall be harvested before September 15, 2026.</p> <p>Issue 2 bull elk tags and 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2026, through November 25, 2026.</p>	<p>Restore at least 78 acres of aspen and meadow areas by removing encroaching conifer seedlings and saplings through the NW Pondosa Timber Harvesting Plan.</p> <p>Maintenance on Tom Young, Atkins and Whitlow Flat meadows by removing new conifer growth.</p> <p>Continue ongoing study that utilizes trail cameras to estimate cow:calf ratios on the property.</p> <p>Aspen stem count and photo point surveys.</p> <p>Continue to maintain the 416 acres of Mature Forest Reserves under the Conservation Easement.</p>
<p>Red Rock Valley Farms Deer Zone X1 Siskiyou 5,562 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 either-sex deer and 1 bull elk</p> <p>Issue 3 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p> <p>No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2026.</p>	<p>Selectively remove western juniper from at least 25 acres to improve shrub recruitment.</p> <p>Increase forage quality for wildlife by pruning bitterbrush and mechanically disturbing the soil within a 25-acre area.</p> <p>Maintain 12 miles of exclusion fencing on the ranch to prohibit grazing from trespass cattle. Retain 400 acres of alfalfa</p>

**5-Year Private Lands Management (PLM) Area License
Renewals, 2026-2031 with Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat
Improvements**

PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
Red Rock Valley Farms Cont.	<p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p> <p>Only 1 buck deer shall be harvested after October 18, 2026.</p> <p>Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 1, 2026 through December 30, 2026.</p>	<p>and timothy grass in the crop pivot corners to provide fall forage for wildlife.</p> <p>Restore and maintain 10-acre wetland by pumping water into it to provide year-round water for wildlife.</p> <p>Protect known pine and juniper trees that provide nesting and perching opportunities for raptors.</p> <p>Maintain Tecnor Spring by removing western juniper trees and silt as necessary.</p> <p>Attempt to remove feral horses and maintain wildlife friendly fencing to exclude them from the property.</p>
<p>Roberts Ranch</p> <p>Deer Zone X1</p> <p>Modoc</p> <p>2,313 Acres</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <p>Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period of October 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p> <p>No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</p>	<p>Remove/ thin at least 60 acres of juniper trees. Remove junipers from 1/3 mile (approx. 5 acres) above the current seasonal spring.</p> <p>Create at least 15 brush piles annually that are at least 8 feet in diameter and 5 feet tall, located near springs and water sources.</p> <p>Meet with state and federal agencies to establish permanent wetlands.</p> <p>Limit cattle grazing to no more than 50 cow/calf pairs for the entire ranch that will be removed by September 15 annually.</p>
<p>Salt Creek Ranch</p> <p>Deer Zone B5</p> <p>Tehama</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <p>Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of September 1, 2026, through November 30, 2026.</p>	<p>Continue to improve water retention ponds by repairing and plugging any leaks in the dams.</p> <p>Continue planting and maintain at least 25 acres of fields.</p>

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PLM Area	2026 Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>Salt Creek Ranch (continued) 640 Acres</p>		<p>Clear snags and implement erosion control measures for at least 5 acres due to the August Complex Fire.</p> <p>Enlarge at least 1 new water source to maintain water availability throughout the year.</p> <p>Create at least 5 wildlife brush piles that measure 6 feet high and 15 feet in diameter.</p> <p>Build and install 10 rubber water bars to maintain roads and lessen sedimentation of waterways.</p>