

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 20-21, 2018

25. FIVE-YEAR PLM HARVEST PROGRAMS (CONSENT)**Today's Item**Information Action

Approve the five-year renewal of Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area licenses for 2018-2023, and wildlife management plans with seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2018-2019, on eleven 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, with conditions unique to each participant's property.

Proposed wildlife management plans and annual seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for the eleven properties have been reviewed by DFW and found to be in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLMs; applicants have identified the locations where records will be kept and made available for inspection (see Exhibit 1 for Agenda Item 24).

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

FGC staff: Approve the DFW recommendation, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

DFW: Approve the five-year PLM license renewals for 2018-2023, and the wildlife management plans with seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2018-2019, for eleven properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 1.

Exhibits

1. [Proposed five-year management plan details](#)
2. [Alphabetical listing of eleven properties](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the consent calendar, items 23-28.

PLM AREA LICENSE
NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2018-2023
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
BASIN VIEW RANCH DEER ZONE X2 MODOC 8,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 7 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of October 6, 2018 through November 25, 2018. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove all western junipers from 50 acres in Unit 9 in order to encourage shrub and forb recruitment. ➤ Inspect and, as necessary, repair 10 miles of interior fencing that controls livestock movement and grazing. ➤ Exclude livestock grazing from 1 of the rotation management units (775 acres) year-round. ➤ Till and seed annual grain on 90 acres in Unit 9 for weed control, with the eventual goal of establishing permanent range grasses. ➤ Maintain and repair any damage to 5 ponds and springs.
BLACK RANCH SHASTA DEER ZONE C3 1,000 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 buck deer forked horn or better, 2 antlerless deer, 1 bull elk, and 1 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 buck deer tags and 2 antlerless deer tags for the period of November 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018. • Issue 1 bull elk tag and 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of November 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain the 145 acre wetland project that was constructed last year to re-establish the native hydrology of the floodplain to Burney Creek. ➤ Install wildlife-friendly fencing around the 145 acre wetlands. ➤ Maintain 4 owl boxes, 7 bat boxes, and 6 goose nesting platforms by checking use and replacing nesting material as necessary. ➤ Build and install 20 new wood duck boxes. ➤ Remove 1,300 feet of internal barbed wire fencing running north-south to reduce wildlife entanglement. ➤ Limit livestock grazing to a 5 acre pen and barn area (exclusion area is 990 acres). ➤ Selective thinning of overstocked stands to improve forest health and promote the growth of understory forage species.

PLM AREA LICENSE
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PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>HATHAWAY OAK RUN RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE C3</p> <p>SHASTA</p> <p>6,640 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period September 15, 2018 through November 30, 2018. • No more than 9 buck deer may be harvested after October 21, 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain the 6 acre riparian livestock exclusion on Swede Creek by inspecting fencing and making any necessary repairs. ➤ Maintain or improve 7 springs that provide year-round water for wildlife by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary, and clearing sediment and vegetation from the sources. ➤ Develop 1 new spring in the south east corner of Section 3. ➤ 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 protecting and maintaining 2 vernal pools in Section 9 and 18 from mechanical disruption and allowing cattle to graze. ➤ Maintain 2 owl boxes along Oak Run Creek by checking use and replacing material as necessary. ➤ Install 1 new pre-fabricated bat house. ➤ Plant 3 container stock cottonwood trees and install fencing to exclude livestock.
<p>SL RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE X3A</p> <p>MODOC</p> <p>7,500 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 4 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 4 buck deer tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through November 15, 2018. • Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018. • No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use a combination of chainsaws and herbicides to remove western juniper from 5 to 10 acres. ➤ Flood 400 acres of harvested wild rice fields for waterfowl use. ➤ Maintain the livestock exclusion fence around the spring below Likely Mill to exclude cattle. ➤ 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. Fences and structures will be repaired as necessary. ➤ Plant 200 willow shoots along the north and south banks of the West Canal. ➤ Maintain and replace goose nesting platforms as needed.

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTH CENTRAL REGION		
SUGARLOAF-BANGOR RANCH DEER ZONE D3 YUBA 2,626 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer forked horn or better, 50 turkey, and 200 quail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of September 22, 2018 through November 30, 2018. • Issue 50 turkey tags for the periods of October 1, 2018 through January 15, 2019 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 1, 2019 through May 15, 2019 (spring season, bearded-only harvest). • Issue 200 upland game seals for the period of September 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. Additional orders are approved in 100 seal increments up to the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderate livestock grazing program. ➤ Clear roads of downed trees from October 2017 Cascade Fire. ➤ Repair and replace fencing (wildlife friendly design), gates, and PLM signs damaged in fire. ➤ Repair Wood Duck Lake damaged water supply system. ➤ Clear and improve existing fire breaks from county road.
CENTRAL REGION		
ALEXANDER RANCH DEER ZONE A MONTEREY 786 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 buck deer forked horn or better, 1 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 buck deer tag for the period July 2, 2018 through November 30, 2018. • Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 2, 2018 through December 31, 2018. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain existing springs, troughs and reservoirs to provide water for wildlife. ➤ Limit cattle stocking rate to 75 animals to enhance and provide habitat and feed for wildlife. ➤ Create 5 brush piles for use by wildlife. ➤ Plant 5 acres to benefit wildlife forage (elk and deer). ➤ Conduct 2 elk counts per year (count deer when possible also).
CARRIZO RANCH SAN LUIS OBISPO 11,040 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 3 bull elk, 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period July 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain fence around Big Spring riparian area and the 2 windmill ponds to reserve water for wildlife. ➤ Plant 5 trees around Elk windmill pond for use by wildlife. ➤ Plant 100 acres of barley for wildlife in the Lewis pasture. ➤ Take actions to improve water quality in Big Spring.

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<p>HARTNELL RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE A</p> <p>MONTEREY</p> <p>4,600 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 buck deer forked horn or better, 1 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 buck deer tags for the period July 2, 2018 through November 30, 2018. • Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 2, 2018 through December 31, 2018. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain existing springs, troughs and reservoirs to provide water for wildlife. ➤ Limit cattle stocking rate to 250 animals to enhance and provide habitat and feed for wildlife. ➤ Create 8 brush piles for use by wildlife. ➤ Plant 10 acres to benefit wildlife forage (elk and deer). ➤ Conduct 3 elk counts per year (count deer when possible too).
<p>MORISOLI RANCH</p> <p>MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO</p> <p>14,700 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 4 bull elk and 4 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. • Issue 3 antlerless elk tags for the period August 15, 2018 through December 31, 2018. <p>Note: The Morisoli Ranch wanted to request their full allocation of elk tags for the upcoming season but that would represent an increase in tags and is not possible without approval of the new statewide elk management plan. Harvest levels remain unchanged from last year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Build 1 elk crossing. ➤ Construct 5 brush piles for use by wildlife. ➤ Develop 1 new water source for wildlife. ➤ Build and install one bird nest box. ➤ Plant 10 acres of forage mix for use by wildlife. ➤ Clear 5 acres of old growth brush to stimulate new forage growth for use by wildlife. ➤ Seed cleared areas with barley/vetch mixture to provide additional forage for wildlife.
SOUTH COAST REGION		
<p>SANTA CATALINA ISLAND</p> <p>DEER ZONE D15</p> <p>LOS ANGELES</p> <p>42,100 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 500 deer: 250 antlerless and 250 either-sex deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 300 tags, 150 antlerless deer tags and 150 either-sex deer tags for the period of July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. • On or before October 1, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 50 additional antlerless deer tags and up to 50 additional either-sex deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest. Any tags not requested during this request period can be rolled over into and allocated during the next request period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue successful recovery of the Catalina Island Fox. ➤ Continued monitoring of island for non-native mammals (e.g., raccoons). ➤ Continued bison herd management. ➤ Continue animal and plant baseline monitoring activities. ➤ Continue expanded weather data collection. ➤ Continue Catalina Habitat Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP). ➤ Continue plant community fencing and monitoring from the past fire impacts. ➤ Continue and expand education and outreach programs.

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SANTA CATALINA ISLAND CONT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On or before December 1, 2018, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 50 additional antlerless deer tags and up to 50 additional either-sex deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue review of long-term Mule Deer Management Plan for Catalina Island. ➤ Bullfrog control program. ➤ Survey and population analysis of rare species.
INLAND DESERTS REGION		
BIG MORONGO SPRINGS RANCH DEER ZONE D14 SAN BERNARDINO 6,632 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer forked horn or better, 2 antlerless deer, and 5 black bear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags and 2 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 8, 2018 through December 2, 2018. • Issue 5 bear tags to take black bear for the period of September 8, 2018 through December 30, 2018 or when the statewide quota of 1,700 is met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to exclude livestock use on the ranch. ➤ Repair or replace all pipelines and tanks damaged by Sawtooth wildfire. ➤ Repair fire-damaged roads within PLM. ➤ Continue monitoring of water sources with trail cameras.

California Fish and Game Commission
Alphabetical Listing of PLM Properties for Five-Year Licenses and Area
Plans for June 20-21, 2018 Meeting

Approve five-year PLM 2018-2023 licenses and area plans for:

- (A) Alexander Ranch (Monterey County)
- (B) Basin View Ranch (Modoc County)
- (C) Big Morongo Springs Ranch (San Bernardino County)
- (D) Black Ranch (Shasta County)
- (E) Carrizo Ranch (San Luis Obispo County)
- (F) Hartnell Ranch (Monterey County)
- (G) Hathaway Oak Run Ranch (Shasta County)
- (H) Morisoli Ranch (Monterey County/San Benito County)
- (I) Santa Catalina Island (Los Angeles County)
- (J) SL Ranch (Modoc County)
- (K) Sugarloaf-Bangor Ranch (Yuba County)