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Memorandum

Date: July ²¹14, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham 
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the August 6, 2014 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Annual Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area License**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the annual reports and annual renewal applications for 14 properties in 10 counties consisting of 62,027 acres.

These PLM areas were previously licensed under Commission regulations under Section 601, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2013, and all habitat work was completed.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the 2014 harvest programs under conditions specified in the attached table.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 445-4034 or by email at victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

ec: Eric Loft, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Branch
eric.loft@wildlife.ca.gov

cc: Stuart Itoga, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch
stuart.itoga@wildlife.ca.gov

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

PLM AREA LICENSE
Annual Renewals 2014/2015
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
ABERNATHY RANCH DEER ZONE B5 SHASTA 1,590 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Four (4) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue five (5) buck deer tags to take four (4) forked horn or better buck deer for the period of September 1 through November 30, 2014. • In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant five (5) acres of grasses and legumes for wildlife forage. ➤ Build a ½ acre pond to provide additional water for wildlife. ➤ Continue reduced livestock numbers at 1200 AUMs from 1400 AUMs. ➤ Leave all foothill pine snags standing for wildlife habitat. ➤ Pump water into storage tanks to be used by wildlife in the summer.
BASIN VIEW RANCH DEER ZONE X2 MODOC 8,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Seven (7) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue seven (7) buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period of October 4 through November 30, 2014. • No person shall take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove 200 acres of western juniper in Unit 9 to encourage shrub and forb recruitment. ➤ Build a livestock exclusion fence around the pond in Unit 9 and install a solar pump and tank. ➤ Maintain 6 miles of interior fencing to control livestock grazing. ➤ Restrict all livestock grazing from one of the management units. ➤ Maintain ponds and fencing around the ponds to exclude livestock.
HATHAWAY OAK RUN RANCH DEER ZONE C3 SHASTA 6,640 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period September 20 through November 30, 2014. • No more than nine (9) buck deer may be harvested after October 26, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain the 20 acre riparian livestock exclusion on Swede Creek. ➤ Maintain seven (7) springs that provide year-round water. ➤ Maintain 10 wood duck boxes along Oak Run Creek. ➤ Construct one owl box and place along Oak Run Creek. ➤ Maintain 4 wildlife forage plots. ➤ Modify at least ½ mile of fence to make it wildlife friendly. ➤ Maintain 2 vernal pools in Section 9 and 18.

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LITTLE DRY CREEK RANCH DEER ZONE C4 TEHAMA 2,000 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Two (2) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue two (2) buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period September 20 through November 30, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue to exclude livestock grazing to benefit wildlife. ➤ Maintain three (3) springs. ➤ Treat 2-5 acres of yellow star thistle with herbicides. ➤ Remove at least two (2) miles of unnecessary or downed fencing to improve wildlife access and movement. ➤ Prohibit the harvest of oak trees.
MENDIBOURE RANCH DEER ZONE X5B LASSEN 8,840 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Two (2) buck deer and one (1) buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue eight (8) buck deer tags to take two (2) forked horn or better buck deer for the period of September 20 through October 19, 2014. • Issue 1 buck pronghorn antelope tag for the period of August 23 through September 7, 2014. • No person may take more than one buck deer annually in the X zones. • In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain three (3) aspen and willow livestock exclosures. ➤ Exclude livestock in the Van Loan and Big Springs area. ➤ Create a 15-acre dryland alfalfa plot and construct a fence to exclude cattle. ➤ Maintain Etchecopar Springs, Big Springs, and Deer Springs. ➤ Cut 150 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds to recruit young plants. ➤ Remove at least five (5) acres of junipers to improve shrub and forb recruitment.
PBM FARMS DEER ZONE C1 SISKIYOU 3,000 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: One (1) bull elk and five (5) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue one (1) bull elk tag for the period September 10 through September 21, 2014. • Issue five (5) buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period September 20 through November 30, 2014. • No more than two (2) buck deer may be harvested after October 19, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant 31 acres of alfalfa near the deer wintering grounds. ➤ Maintain 316 acres of wetlands to benefit wildlife, a portion of which must have water pumped into in late August or September. ➤ Pump water to a 2,500 gallon storage tank and water trough to provide water for wildlife. ➤ Remove at least 30 acres of western juniper to improve shrub recruitment. ➤ Exclude livestock from the entire ranch to benefit wildlife. ➤ Retain 491 acres of alfalfa which provides wildlife forage. ➤ Retain 800 acres of cereal rye for use by wildlife. ➤ Retain 200 acres of dryland legume food plots for wildlife forage.

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PBM FARMS CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Retain 100 acres of barley to provide waste grain forage for waterfowl. ➤ Manage 80 acres of thermal cover for use by wildlife by not removing trees and shrubs. ➤ Retain wildlife nesting areas on four (4) acres by not mowing or converting to agriculture. ➤ Retain established brush piles for wildlife use by not burning.
ROARING RIVER RANCH DEER ZONE B5 SHASTA 472 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Two (2) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue two (2) buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period August 16 through November 30, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain two (2) small ponds by adding water when levels are low to provide additional water for wildlife. ➤ Maintain fencing around grain fields to exclude livestock. ➤ Prohibit commercial firewood cutting to retain oaks. ➤ Check two (2) wood duck nest boxes for use and replace nesting material if needed. ➤ Leave all foothill pine snags standing for wildlife habitat. ➤ Maintain a 2-acre food plot to provide forage for wildlife. ➤ Maintain two water troughs to provide water for wildlife.
R-R RANCH MENDOCINO 1,460 ACRES R-R RANCH CONT.	<p>Authorized Harvest: Three (3) bull and six (6) antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue two (2) bull elk tags for the period of August 1 through November 30, 2014. • Issue four (4) antlerless elk tags for the period of September 15 through November 30, 2014. <p>Upon request of the licensee on or before October 15, 2014, the licensee may request up to two (2) additional antlerless elk tags and one (1) additional bull elk tag to accomplish the authorized harvest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Replant the existing 7-acre irrigated pasture with a clover and alfalfa seed mix to provide high quality forage for deer and elk. ➤ Replant and maintain the existing dryland plot of 100 acres with a rye grass/clover mix. ➤ Maintain all developed springs. ➤ Install six (6) additional barrel drinkers to provide additional water for wildlife. ➤ Exclude livestock from the ranch to improve forage and cover for wildlife. ➤ Retain dead and downed woody material and build additional brush piles to provide cover for wildlife. ➤ Maintain the solar powered water system at Walkers Barn.

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NORTH CENTRAL REGION		
DESERET FARMS – BALLARD UNIT DEER ZONE C-4 BUTTE 2,948 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Two (2) buck deer and seven (7) antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue two (2) deer tags to take forked-horn or better bucks for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2014. • Issue seven (7) tags to take antlerless deer for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perform body condition survey on all deer taken on the farm. ➤ Monitor wood duck and owl box occupancy. ➤ Plant 10 willow, 10 valley oak, 15 wild rose, 15 coyote bush and 10 cottonwood around pond and upland areas. ➤ Continue wild pig depredation program. Numbers taken will be sent to CDFW. ➤ Place three (3) owl boxes throughout farm. ➤ Maintain current conditions in riparian areas. ➤ Fence new orchards to reduce depredation. ➤ Continue star thistle control. ➤ Perform annual deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Survey data.
DESERET FARMS – WILSON UNIT DEER ZONE C-4 BUTTE 7,989 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Four (4) buck deer and nine (9) antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 4 deer tags to take forked-horn or better bucks for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2014. • Issue 9 tags to take antlerless deer for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Perform body condition survey on all deer taken on the farm. ➤ Plant 10 willow, 10 valley oak, 15 wild rose, 15 coyote bush and 10 cottonwood around pond and upland areas. ➤ Continue wild pig depredation program. Numbers taken will be sent to CDFW. ➤ Place 3 owl boxes throughout farm. ➤ Maintain current conditions in riparian areas. ➤ Fence new orchards to reduce depredation. ➤ Monitor wood duck and owl box occupancy. ➤ Perform annual deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Survey data.

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SPURLOCK RANCH DEER ZONE B-3 GLENN 2,630 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 10 buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 10 deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period of August 16 through December 15, 2014. • No more than 1 forked horn or better buck deer may be harvested after December 1, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain cattle numbers on property at or below 250 cow/calf pairs; grazing season November 1 to May 1, 2014. ➤ Maintain young willows inside hot line below Mallard Pond; plant 50-100 additional willows if pond re-fills. ➤ Treat approximately 20-25 acres of yellow starthistle and/or bull thistle with herbicide. ➤ Fence another 100-300 yards of creek that flows through central and eastern part of property. ➤ Plant 250-500 willows inside fenced area of creek if normal rainfall year. ➤ Plant coyote brush and other native plants inside fenced section of creek. ➤ Predator Control. ➤ Remove old cross-fencing where no longer needed for grazing management.
SUGARLOAF-BANGOR RANCH DEER ZONE D-3 YUBA 2,626 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer, 50 turkey, and 200 quail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period of September 27 through November 30, 2014. • Issue 50 turkey tags for the periods of October 1, 2014 through January 15, 2015 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 1, 2015 through May 15, 2015 (spring season, gobbler-only harvest). • Issue 200 upland game seals for the period of September 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015. Additional orders are approved in 100 seal increments up to the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderate livestock grazing program. ➤ Maintain hot line around Round Lake to keep livestock from riparian plantings (willows and cottonwoods). ➤ Spot spray and/or crush brush to improve deer browse; pile brush for quail habitat. ➤ Maintain 40 bluebird nest boxes. ➤ Maintain ditch from irrigation district ditch that supplies water to Wood Duck Lake for habitat enhancement. ➤ Maintain solar-operated well as water source for Round Lake. ➤ Provide mineral blocks for wildlife use.

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M&T CHICO RANCH DEER ZONE C4 BUTTE 5,332 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 15 antlerless deer and five (5) buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 15 tags to take antlerless deer and five (5) deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period of November 1 through December 31, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain cattle grazing levels at approximately 100 head or less. ➤ Treat 20 acres of yellow star thistle, with herbicide. ➤ Maintain or repair eight existing pond turtle basking structures. ➤ Maintain or replace existing 10 barn owl and 30 wood duck nest boxes. ➤ Remove trash from Little Chico Creek. ➤ Perform annual fall deer count to include in the annual Sacramento River Herd Survey data.
CENTRAL REGION		
BARDIN RANCH MONTEREY 8,000 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: Two (2) bull elk and four (4) antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue two (2) bull elk tags for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2014. • Issue four (4) antlerless elk tags for the period of October 1 through December 31, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain existing springs and reservoirs to provide water for wildlife. ➤ Maintain rotational grazing system and allow cattle access to upper hills only from November through June. ➤ Construct new spring and tire trough for wildlife at Water canyon. ➤ Plant ten acres of forage grasses for use by wildlife. ➤ Construct 10 brush piles to enhance upland game habitat. ➤ Burn 100 acres of heavy brush to stimulate growth of new forage for wildlife.