

Memorandum

2014 JUL 22 AM 7:29

Date: July ²¹ 21, 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 Initial Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area License**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Initial Management Plans for three (3) properties in three (3) counties consisting of 9,247 acres. Management plans for these properties are in compliance with Commission policy requirements for private lands management. Applicants have identified the location where records will be kept and made available for inspection.

Public notices were published in local newspapers, and certified letters were mailed to adjacent landowners with notification of the applicant's intent to enter the program. No letters of concern were received by the Department for Duncan Creek Ranch or Hearst Ranch; however there was opposition to Bird Haven Ranch from one neighbor. Josh Bush, one of the PLM coordinators for the North Central Region, responded to the concerns. Attached is an email and letter of concern, (along with comments from Mr. Bush) and notes from the meeting Mr. Bush had with the family.

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 these areas. In addition, access to public lands will not be diminished under implementation of these management plans.

Post-harvest wildlife population surveys were completed for game populations surrounding each PLM area. Additionally, harvest on each PLM has been considered together with public harvest figures in preparing the various hunting environmental documents. Analysis using these surveys, harvest figures, and the proposed 2014 harvest for each PLM area show no significant adverse effects on wildlife populations resulting from the recommended hunting program.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the specified wildlife management plans, applications, and 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.

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
July 11, 2014
Page 2

Attachment

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

Stuart Itoga, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
stuart.itoga@wildlife.ca.gov

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

**PLM AREA LICENSE
INITIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2014-2019
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
DUNCAN CREEK RANCH DEER ZONE B-5 SHASTA 1,366 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 6 buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 8 buck deer tags to take forked horn or better buck deer for the period September 20 through October 26, 2014. • In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Burn at least 50 acres of decadent brush to improve wildlife forage. ➤ Place at least 150 pounds of mineral supplement containing selenium to improve wildlife health.
NORTH CENTRAL REGION		
BIRD HAVEN RANCH DEER ZONE D-3 GLENN 2,500 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 5 buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 5 buck deer tags for periods of September 27 – November 2, 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain current conditions. ➤ Plant 200 willows in creek bottoms. ➤ Plant 10 valley oak trees. ➤ Install and monitor 5 wood duck boxes.
CENTRAL REGION		
HEARST RANCH DEER ZONE A SAN LUIS OBISPO 5,381 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 6 bull elk, 6 antlerless elk, 10 sambar stags</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 6 bull elk tags for the period of July 15 through December 31, 2014. • Issue 6 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1 through December 31, 2014. • Harvest 10 sambar deer stags for the period of August 9, 2014 through February 28, 2015. Tags are not required for this species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Irrigate 152 acres of pasture for year round use by wildlife. ➤ Install livestock exclusionary fencing on 2.5 miles of riparian pasture during periods of stream flow to enhance fishery and wildlife habitat. ➤ Treat and remove 1 acre of non-native Scotch Broom to enhance habitat for native plants and animals. ➤ Treat and remove 1 acre of non-native Jubata grass to enhance habitat for native plants and animals. ➤ Install wildlife escape ramps on 12 water troughs.