

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 18, 2016

**3. ANNUAL PLM HARVEST PROGRAMS****Today's Item**Information Action 

Approve the annual Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area 2016-2017 harvest programs on seven properties.

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

The management plans for these properties are in compliance with FGC regulations and policies for PLM's. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2015, and all habitat work was completed (Exhibit 1).

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

**FGC staff:** Approve seven harvest programs as recommended by DFW.

**DFW:** Approve the 2016-2017 harvest programs for seven properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW Memo, received Apr 5, 2016](#)
2. [PLM proposed annual details \(DFW memo attachment\)](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the annual private lands management wildlife habitat enhancement and management area harvest programs on seven properties for 2016-2017.

2016 APR -5 AM 11:16

## Memorandum

Date: March 29, 2016

To: Mike Yaun  
Acting Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 18th, 2016 Fish and Game Commission Teleconference 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 7 properties in 2 counties consisting of 96,298 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 2015, and all habitat work was completed.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the 2016/17 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](mailto:victoria.barr@wildlife.ca.gov).

Attachment

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**PLM AREA LICENSE  
ANNUAL RENEWALS, 2016/2017  
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
<p>ACKERMAN-SOUTH DAUGHERTY WMA</p> <p>DEER ZONE A</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>10,831 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 16 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 16 buck deer tags for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 8 buck deer may be harvested after September 18, 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers from at least 10 acres of oak woodland and prairie habitat on Miller and Ackerman Ridges.</li> <li>➤ Enhance and maintain perennial water sources to improve water storage near the Masonite Road/Miller Ridge area.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least ¼ mile of unnecessary fencing along the 8 mile access to reduce wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Create 4 brush piles for wildlife cover in the Upper Ackerman Creek watershed.</li> </ul>
<p>EDEN VALLEY RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B1</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>20,879 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 8 bull elk, 7 antlerless elk; 20 forked-horn or better buck deer, and 5 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 bull elk tags for the period of July 10, 2016 through December 13, 2016.</li> <li>• Issue 7 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 15, 2016 through December 13, 2016.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2016, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 2 additional bull elk tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• Issue 20 buck deer tags for the period of July 10, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be taken after October 23, 2016.</li> <li>• Issue 5 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 15, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plant 42 acres of alfalfa to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 23 water sources, including 12 springs, as needed.</li> <li>➤ Plant and irrigate a 3-acre area with oats, legumes, and grasses outside of the Valley Area and fence to exclude livestock.</li> <li>➤ Treat at least 40 acres of yellow star thistle in the main Valley Area with appropriate herbicides.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from 10,000 acres on the east side of Eden Valley to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Monitor and maintain the 4 rail-type elk crossings.</li> <li>➤ Construct at least 4 brush piles in Paradise pasture to provide wildlife cover.</li> <li>➤ Burn at least 6 acres to improve wildlife habitat.</li> <li>➤ Manage livestock grazing by rotating cattle through 4 different pastures to improve wildlife forage.</li> <li>➤ Remove 1 mile of unnecessary fence in Pigtail pasture to reduce wildlife entanglement.</li> <li>➤ Plant 30 acres of triticale in Toni Field on the eastside of the ranch.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
EDEN VALLEY RANCH CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhance pond #2 at Bright Ridge by removing silt to increase water capacity.</li> <li>➤ Improve irrigation in the 3-acre spring/wildlife area by contouring the field in the southwest part of valley, east of Stage Coach Road.</li> </ul>
ELK CREEK RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  2,241 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer, forked-horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 3 buck deer may be taken after October 23, 2016.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2016, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 3 additional buck deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from Bennett Valley (15 acres) to improve wildlife forage and cover.</li> <li>➤ Maintain the livestock exclusion fencing around the ponds in sections 8 and 5.</li> <li>➤ Repair spring and water tank to irrigate the southern portion of Bennett Valley.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat at least 20 acres of decadent brush</li> </ul>
SANHEDRIN RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  11,595 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 15 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 15 buck deer tags for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be taken after October 23, 2016.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2016, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 5 additional buck deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exclude all livestock grazing from the PLM area to improve forage and cover for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 4 developed springs.</li> <li>➤ Improve spring S4 by cleaning and digging out silt to improve water availability.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat 20 acres of brush with a tractor and by hand.</li> <li>➤ Create at least 10 brush piles for use by wildlife.</li> </ul>

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SANHEDRIN RANCH CONT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest:</li> <li>• The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.</li> </ul>	
SEVEN SPRINGS RANCH  DEER ZONE A  MENDOCINO  2,250 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 9 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 9 buck deer tags for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 4 buck deer may be harvested after September 18, 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from the PLM area to increase habitat quality for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Plant 5 pounds of clover and vetch seed on roads and cut banks.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat 1 acre of Douglas-fir saplings encroaching into oak woodlands at Cow Springs.</li> <li>➤ Plant willows around the spring on Indian Creek Road and at Cow Springs.</li> </ul>
SUMMER CAMP RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  38,502 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 80 buck deer forked horn or better and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 80 buck deer tags for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 9, 2016 through November 30, 2016.</li> <li>• No more than 40 buck deer may be taken after October 23, 2016.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2016, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 20 additional buck deer tags and 1 additional bull elk tag to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• The number of deer tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 3 irrigated wildlife forage areas, totaling 12 acres.</li> <li>➤ Improve 1 spring by cleaning out and installing an off-site water trough.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock from 1 spring by installing at least 300 square feet of wildlife-friendly fencing.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 2 riparian exclusion areas totaling ¾ acre and plant willows.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 13 developed springs.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from mid-June through October.</li> <li>➤ Remove encroaching conifers from at least 10 acres of oak woodlands.</li> <li>➤ Construct a minimum of 20 brush piles within oak woodland habitat.</li> <li>➤ Maintain approximately 7 miles of riparian fencing on the Eel River and repair any damage.</li> </ul>

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SUMMER CAMP RANCH CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain a minimum of 10 miles of road to prevent sedimentation into the Eel River system. Road maintenance will generally include grading roads, pulling inside ditches where they exist, shaping the road surface to promote proper drainage, and maintenance of drainage facilities such as cross drains and culverts.</li> <li>➤ Burn 10 acres of grasslands to rejuvenate vegetation.</li> </ul>
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		
GABILAN RANCH  MONTEREY  10,000 ACRES	<p><i>Authorized Harvest:</i> 3 bull elk and 1 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Burn 200 acres of chaparral and woodland with heavy brush undergrowth to stimulate new forage growth.</li> <li>➤ Construct 10 brush piles for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Remove cattle in May to conserve feed and reduce competition for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Continue an erosion control program to reduce sedimentation in the area creeks.</li> <li>➤ Treat ¼ acre of purple star thistle to enhance and maintain habitats for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Let the “gathering pasture” (250 acres) near the house grow up between March 1- April 30<sup>th</sup> for cover for early ground nesting birds.</li> <li>➤ Continue the reduced stocking rate of 625 animals which is 375 head less than normal.</li> <li>➤ Follow Smoke Management Plan with CDF and Monterey Air Quality Control Board in order to improve burn scheduling flexibility.</li> </ul>