

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 12-13, 2019

**3. FIVE-YEAR PLM LICENSE RENEWAL AND HARVEST PROGRAMS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Approve the five-year (2019-2024) renewal of private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) area licenses and seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 11 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 and plan; 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 location where records will be kept and made available for inspection (Exhibit 1).

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

**FGC staff:** Approve five-year renewal of PLM licenses, and annual seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 11 PLM properties as recommended by DFW, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

**DFW:** Approve the specified wildlife management plans, five-year PLM license renewals for 2019-2024, and seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2019-2024 for 11 properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo, received May 30, 2019](#)
2. [PLM Area License: New 5-Year Management Plans, 2019-2024, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements, received May 30, 2019](#)
3. [Alphabetical listing of PLM properties for five-year license renewals and new area plans, received May 30, 2019](#)

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 12-13, 2019

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 3-9 on the consent calendar.

## Memorandum

Date: May 28, 2019

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the June 12-13, 2019 Fish and Game Commission Meeting  
Private Lands Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Management (PLM) Area Licenses**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has reviewed the Annual renewals and five-year renewals for 51 properties in 14 counties consisting of approximately 349,650 acres.

The Annual renewal PLM areas were previously licensed under Commission Regulations Section 601, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Full payment was made for all tags used in 2018 and all habitat work was completed.

The five-year renewal management plans comply with Commission policy for private lands management. 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. In addition, access to public lands will not be diminished under implementation of these management plans.

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the specified wildlife management plans and each 2019/20 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached tables.

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**  
**NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2019-2024**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>		
CLARKS VALLEY RANCH  DEER ZONE X3B  LASSEN  2,793 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 buck deer tags for the period of September 28, 2019 through November 17, 2019.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain at least 10-acres of previous juniper treatments through removal of young junipers.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 3 aspen and willow enclosures by inspecting fencing and making any necessary repairs.</li> <li>➤ Continue rotational grazing by resting a different pasture each spring to protect critical wildlife habitat areas and aspen.</li> <li>➤ Through this five-year period develop a plan and implement it to improve 55-acres of riparian habitat in Clarks Valley. Current year will entail field work, planning, and implementation on 18-acres.</li> </ul>
CORNING LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY  DEER ZONE B5  TEHAMA  6,200 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer forked horn or better, 3 antlerless deer and 300 quail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags and 3 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 21, 2019 through October 27, 2019.</li> <li>• Issue 300 quail seals for the period of October 19, 2019, through January 26, 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Retain 8 irrigated forage plots, totaling 10-acres, planted in a grain/vetch/forb combination for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Continue reduced livestock numbers at 150 Animal Units and deferred grazing from December 1, 2019 through May 1, 2020.</li> <li>➤ Develop a 1-acre irrigated forage plot of alfalfa in an area that lacks green forage for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Burn or crush at least 20-acres of decadent brush to improve wildlife forage.</li> </ul>
DUNCAN CREEK RANCH  DEER ZONE B5  SHASTA  1,366 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 8 buck deer tags to take 6 forked horn or better buck deer for the period August 18, 2019 through November 30, 2019.</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>➤ Burn at least 20-acres decadent brush to improve wildlife forage.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
**NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2019-2024**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>FIVE DOT RANCH-AVILA</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>DEER ZONE X3A</p> <p>11,000 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of September 12, 2019 through November 30, 2019.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</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>➤ Continue reduced livestock use at 300-400 head (previously 450 head).</li> <li>➤ Cut 300 Junipers from Coral reservoir.</li> <li>➤ Continue to exclude livestock from 7 aspen and wetland habitat enclosures by inspecting fencing and making any necessary repairs. These areas provide important deer fawning habitat.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 6 nesting platforms for Canada geese at 4 reservoirs by checking use and replacing nesting material as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Cut and disperse 100 mountain mahogany branches with ripe seeds in order to recruit young plants.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 6 existing springs by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 4 existing reservoirs by inspecting spillways and dams for damage and making any necessary repairs.</li> </ul>
<p>RED ROCK RANCH</p> <p>LASSEN</p> <p>DEER ZONE X3B</p> <p>6,887 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 7 buck deer forked horn or better and 2 buck pronghorn antelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 7 buck deer tags for the period of September 28, 2019 through November 17, 2019.</li> <li>• No person shall take more than 1 buck deer annually in the X zones.</li> <li>• Issue 2 buck pronghorn antelope tags for the period of August 10, 2019 through September 15, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Aspen meadow restoration in Red Rock Creek, Quaking Creek, and Bare Creek totaling 100 acres. For this year conduct field work, planning and implementation of 33-acres.</li> <li>➤ Maintain the livestock fencing at 2 springs near Windy Flat to exclude livestock.</li> <li>➤ Inspect and make any necessary repairs to the livestock exclusion fencing around 2 aspen and willow stands that provide deer fawning habitat.</li> <li>➤ Remove all western juniper from 41-acres to enhance shrub recruitment.</li> <li>➤ Maintain aspen enclosure in Boot Lake Canyon, west of Boot Lake, to exclude livestock grazing and encourage the development of additional fawning habitat.</li> <li>➤ Continue rotational grazing to rest at least 1 meadow for wildlife cover and forage.</li> <li>➤ Maintain Little Boot Lake and Little Boot Springs through inspection, evaluation, and repair.</li> <li>➤ Masticate 2-acres of decadent sage and mountain mahogany.</li> </ul>

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
SCHNEIDER RANCH  DEER ZONE B1  MENDOCINO  5,222 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 August 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019.</li> <li>• No more than 5 buck deer may be harvested after October 25, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cultivate with tractor equipment and irrigate the 1-acre Cabin habitat plot, which provides a year-round deer forage.</li> <li>➤ Create 6 brush piles for wildlife cover, each approximately 10 foot in diameter and 6 feet tall to provide habitat for both deer and quail.</li> <li>➤ Burn 6 brush piles to leave remnant nutrient rich charcoal and ashes.</li> <li>➤ Cut/hinge at least 10 smaller sub-canopy oaks so they droop to a point where branches are within reach of deer.</li> <li>➤ Inspect previously improved springs and repair any damaged parts, clear any brush intruding on the collection galleries, clean out accumulated debris and mud, and ensure the box is structurally sound.</li> </ul>
<b>NORTH CENTRAL REGION</b>		
BIRD HAVEN RANCH  DEER ZONE D3  GLENN  2,500 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 buck deer tags with 1 of the 6 tags being reserved for a junior hunter. 1-2 of these tags will be donated to a non-profit or sold to generate revenue for any such non-profit. The harvest period will be from August 17, 2019 to November 30, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain current conditions.</li> <li>➤ Plant 10 valley oak trees.</li> <li>➤ Spray, cut, and remove 1-2-acres of Himalayan blackberry.</li> <li>➤ Spot spray 150-acres for noxious weeds</li> <li>➤ Conduct 2 deer surveys.</li> <li>➤ Plant 6 separate 3-5-acres of corn, safflower, oats, or milo plots to provide wildlife habitat and forage.</li> </ul>
ORDWAY RANCH  DEER ZONE D5  CALAVERAS  850 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 6 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 6 buck deer tags for the period of September 28, 2019 through November 30, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exclude cattle grazing in Pasture B.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 3 water sources for wildlife (including 2 solar-powered wells).</li> <li>➤ Install new solar-powered well and wildlife-friendly water trough.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 50-acres of fencing around two natural springs and creek to exclude cattle.</li> <li>➤ Continue control of invasive weeds.</li> <li>➤ Develop new wildlife brush piles and enhance existing brush piles.</li> </ul>

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<p>SOPER-WHEELER  DEER ZONE D3  BUTTE  5,250 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 18 buck deer forked horn or better, 26 turkeys, 200 quail, and 16 bear tags to take 8 bears</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 18 buck tags for the period of August 17, 2019 through November 30, 2019. Two tags will be donated to the California Deer Association for auction with the season extended to December 10, 2019 for any donated tags.</li> <li>• Issue 26 turkey tags for the periods of Oct 10, 2019 through November 30, 2019 (fall season, either-sex harvest) and March 10, 2020 through May 17, 2020 (spring season, bearded turkey only harvest). 2 tags will be donated to the Hunter Education Instructor Tag Incentive Program (HEI). 2 tags will be donated to the SHARE Program.</li> <li>• Issue 200 quail tags for the periods of October 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 16 bear tags to take up to 8 bears for the period of August 17, 2019 through December 31, 2019 or until 1,700 bears have been taken statewide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop 10 brush piles.</li> <li>➤ Maintain and provide maintenance on all 11 wells, 5 water sources, and 7 guzzlers.</li> <li>➤ Maintain restrictions on grazing.</li> <li>➤ Plant 20-acres of turkey mullein or other seed-bearing plants to provide habitat for game birds.</li> <li>➤ Conduct small burns to clean up after logging operations.</li> <li>➤ Reduce invasive weeds (specifically star thistle) through goat grazing on 10-acres.</li> <li>➤ Perform 2 December deer surveys.</li> </ul>
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		
<p>GABILAN RANCH  MONTEREY  10,000 ACRES</p>	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 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, 2019 through December 31, 2019.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Gabilan Ranch is not requesting their full allocation of tags.</p>	<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 reserve forage and reduce competition for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Continue an erosion control program to reduce sedimentation in area creeks.</li> <li>➤ Treat one half acre of purple star thistle to enhance and maintain habitats for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Let the “gathering pasture” (250-acres) near the house grow between March 1 and April 30 for cover for early ground nesting birds.</li> <li>➤ Continue a reduced stocking rate of 1,000 animals (200 head less than normal).</li> </ul>

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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
GABILAN RANCH CONT.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Follow Smoke Management Plan with CDF and Monterey Air Quality Control Board in order to improve burn scheduling flexibility.</li> <li>➤ Clean out wood duck boxes and prepare them for nesting season.</li> </ul>
ROOSTERCOMB RANCH  DEER ZONE A  STANISLAUS  4,862 ACRES	<p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 1 bull elk and 4 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period September 7, 2019 through December 31, 2019.</li> <li>• Issue 4 buck deer tags for the period August 10, 2019 through November 24, 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construct 2 catchment dams to build new water sources for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Plant 30-40-acres with grass mix in Area A.</li> <li>➤ Maintain all current water sources and fence crossings. Repair as necessary.</li> <li>➤ Clear up to 10-acres decadent manzanita and other brush species and use cuttings to construct brush piles for quail.</li> </ul>

**California Fish and Game Commission**  
**Alphabetical Listing of PLM Properties for Five-Year Licenses and Area**  
**Plans for June 12-13, 2019 Meeting**

Approve five-year PLM 2019-2024 licenses and area plans for:

- (A) Bird Haven Ranch (Glenn County)
- (B) Clarks Valley Ranch (Lassen County)
- (C) Corning Land and Cattle Company (Tehama County)
- (D) Duncan Creek Ranch (Shasta County)
- (E) Five Dot Ranch-Avila (Lassen County)
- (F) Gabilan Ranch (Monterey County)
- (G) Ordway Ranch (Calaveras County)
- (H) Red Rock Ranch (Lassen County)
- (I) Roostercomb Ranch (Stanislaus County)
- (J) Schneider Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (K) Soper-Wheeler (Butte County)