

STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 17, 2019

5. FIVE-YEAR PLM LICENSE RENEWAL AND 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 2019-2023, and seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2019-2023 on nine 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 nine 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 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 2019-2023, and seasons, harvests, and habitat improvements for 2019-2023 for nine properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

Exhibits

1. [DFW memo, received Apr 8, 2019](#)
2. [PLM Area License: New 5-Year Management Plans, 2019-2023, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements, received Apr 8, 2019](#)
3. [Alphabetical listing of PLM properties for five-year license renewals and new area plans, received Apr 8, 2019](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts items 4-11 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: April 8, 2019

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 17, 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, five-year renewals and an Initial PLM Management Plan for a total of 55 properties in 16 counties encompassing approximately 885,226 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 Initial and five-year renewal management plans comply with Commission policy 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 intent by the initial applicant to enter into the program. No letters of concern were received by the Department.

Habitat improvements accomplished under these plans will enhance and maintain wildlife resources on and around the PLM areas. Goals and objectives stated in the management plans are compatible with Department management plans for applicable species in these areas. In addition, implementation of these management plans will not diminish access to public lands.

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

Melissa Miller-Henson, Acting Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
April 8, 2019
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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 445-4034 or by email at Victoria.Barr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

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PLM AREA LICENSE
NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2019-2023
PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
NORTHERN REGION		
BELL RANCH DEER ZONE C4 TEHAMA 15,000 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 15 buck deer forked horn or better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 22 buck deer tags to take 15 buck deer for the period of October 26, 2019 through November 30, 2019. • In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest. • The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain 16 previously developed springs by checking for broken pipes and repairing as necessary. ➤ Develop a new water source by installing a drinker with a rainwater-collection apron and a water storage tank. ➤ Maintain 6 reservoirs by inspecting spillways and dams for damage and making any necessary repairs. ➤ Mechanically treat (by crushing with a bulldozer and masticating) at least 15 acres of decadent brush to encourage the growth of nutritious deer forage. ➤ Restrict off-road vehicle use within the recent brush treatment areas to minimize ground disturbance and minimize disturbance to wildlife. ➤ Remove at least 0.25 mile of woven wire interior fencing to enhance wildlife movement.
CAPISTRAN RANCH DEER ZONE B1 MENDOCINO 13,200 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 20 deer of which no more than 15 may be forked horn or better buck deer and 5 may be antlerless deer, 2 bull elk, and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 10 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019. • No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2019. • No more than 10 buck deer may be harvested after October 27, 2019. • On or before October 15, 2019, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 10 additional either-sex tags to accomplish the authorized harvest. • Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of August 1, 2019 through December 1, 2019. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 15, 2019 through December 1, 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continue the reduced amount of livestock grazing (no more than 200 cow/calf pairs on 13,200 acres) for the period of October 15, 2019 through June 20, 2020 to increase residual vegetation for wildlife and reduce competition. ➤ Manage invasive plants by focused high-intensity, short-term grazing. ➤ Maintain 10 springs by checking the flow and wildlife escape ramps and repairing any damaged parts. ➤ Exclude trespass livestock from USFS and BLM grazing allotments by inspecting and repairing the boundary fence. ➤ Replace the nesting material in 3 bluebird nest boxes. Boxes will be relocated if not used the previous season. ➤ Maintain 3 wood duck nest boxes. ➤ Construct a brush pile for wildlife cover and oak seedling protection. The 20 foot x 5 foot pile will be created using slash from down trees and brush, and will be located near a routinely-used water source. ➤ Maintain and monitor 3 (approximately 1,000-square foot) food plots spread out over the property and in areas where

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CAPISTRAN RANCH CONT.		<p>green summer browse is limited. Each food plot is fenced from cattle and wild pigs. Each will have a motion-sensing camera to record day and night deer activity. The annual report will include a table of total number and composition of deer photographed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Using a tractor, create a 6 foot wide and 300 foot long trail through decadent chaparral to provide access and new palatable forage for wildlife. ➤ Build and place 1 mallard hen nest tube and annually maintain those developed previously. ➤ Treat 2 acres of yellow star-thistle with appropriate herbicide.
FOUR PINES RANCH DEER ZONE B1 MENDOCINO 2,001 ACRES	<p>Authorized Harvest: 12 buck deer forked horn or better and 4 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 12 buck deer tags and 4 antlerless deer tags for the period of July 16, 2019 through November 30, 2019. • No more than 6 buck deer may be harvested after October 27, 2019. • No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2019. • Youth hunts: Continue working with California Deer Association on mentored youth hunts on Four Pines to assist in management goals and encourage and cultivate new hunters. 1- 4 tags per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain 7 previously improved springs and 2 existing ponds. ➤ Develop 1 spring in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13. ➤ Plant and maintain 0.50 acre forage plot with legumes for wildlife use in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13. ➤ Treat 0.25 acre of invasive weeds in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13, by hand manipulation or herbicides, to encourage native vegetation growth. ➤ Remove 100 feet of interior fence to enhance wildlife passage in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13. ➤ Create a 0.25 acre opening through dense brush in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13 to enhance wildlife access to forage. ➤ Remove encroaching conifer seedlings and saplings in 0.25 acre of oak woodlands in section 1, 7, 11, 12, or 13. ➤ Restrict livestock grazing to no more than 50 head of cattle during the winter and spring. ➤ Plant 50 willow shoots at existing water sources; improve existing willow patches by trimming to encourage growth. ➤ Create at least 2 new brush piles annually for wildlife cover.

PLM AREA LICENSE
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PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
<p>REDWOOD HOUSE RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B1</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>8,419 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 20 either-sex deer of which no more than 10 may be antlerless deer and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 20 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 10, 2019 through November 30, 2019. • No more than 7 buck deer fork horned or better may be harvested after October 27, 2019. • No antlerless deer shall be harvested before October 1, 2019 • Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of September 21, 2019 through October 13, 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain previously treated oak woodlands by removing encroaching conifers less than or equal to 6 inches diameter-at-breast height (DBH) from at least 40 acres of oak woodlands and prairies. ➤ Develop 1 water source for wildlife use annually.
<p>SMITH RIVER PLM</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>24,949 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 4 bull elk and 6 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 4 bull elk tags for the period of September 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. • Issue 6 antlerless elk tags for the period of October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. • 5 of the antlerless elk tags will be made available for CDFW to distribute to licensed hunters through the SHARE Program. The SHARE program will reimburse the PLM for the tag fee, but the PLM will otherwise provide the hunt free of charge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance Coho Salmon habitat in Rowdy Creek through the instream placement of 30-40-foot-long trees with root wads attached for large woody debris habitat.
<p>WIGGINS RANCH</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>16,657 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 2 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of August 15, 2019 through October 31, 2019. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of October 1, 2019 through November 15, 2019. • 1 of the antlerless elk tags will be made available for CDFW to distribute to an Apprentice Hunter through the SHARE Program. The SHARE program will reimburse the PLM for the tag fee, but the PLM will otherwise provide the hunt free of charge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Remove encroaching conifers less than or equal to 6 inches DBH from at least 40 acres of oak woodlands.

**PLM AREA LICENSE
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PLM Area	Proposed Season and Harvest	Habitat Improvement Program
CENTRAL REGION		
<p>HEARST RANCH</p> <p>SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY</p> <p>5,381 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 6 bull elk and 6 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of July 15, 2019 through December 31, 2019. • Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period August 15, 2019 through December 31, 2019. <p>*Note: The Hearst Ranch is not requesting their full allocation of tags.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Irrigate approximately 152 acres in the Arroyo de la Cruz drainage and, if necessary, seed with native grass to produce year-round forage for wildlife. ➤ Continue rotational grazing practices to meet the standard for ‘light’ grazing. ➤ Exclude livestock with permanent or temporary fencing from the Arroyo de la Cruz riparian corridor during live stream flow. ➤ Treat 1 acre for Spanish Broom using hand pulling and digging. Application of 3% glyphosate or mechanical cutting as needed. ➤ Treat 1 acre for Jubata grass with hand pulling and application of 2% glyphosate, if needed. Control flower plumes by bagging and removing or burning. ➤ Install 2 quail guzzlers in the Laguna-Rossi area (2020, 2023). ➤ Install 700 feet of hog-wire fencing to exclude feral pigs from the Arroyo de la Cruz riparian corridor (2019, 2021). ➤ Install 4 raptor perch poles in the Arroyo de la Cruz irrigated pastures (2022).
<p>TEJON RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE D-10</p> <p>KERN & LOS ANGELES COUNTIES</p> <p>270,000 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 30 either-sex deer, 5 antlerless deer, 12 bull elk, 3 cow elk, and 10 bearded turkeys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 15 either-sex tags for the period of September 21, 2019 through November 3, 2019 (early season). • Issue 15 either-sex tags for the period of November 4, 2019 through December 31, 2019 (late season). • Issue 5 antlerless deer tags for the period of September 21, 2019 through December 31, 2019. • Issue 12 bull elk tags and 3 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. • No persons shall take more than 1 buck deer, 1 bull elk, and 1 antlerless elk. • Issue 10 bearded turkey tags for the period of March 16, 2020 through May 19, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treatment of roadside invasive weeds/ Comanche, Alamo, Haul Road, Antelope Valley. ➤ Treatment of invasive weeds at pond sites. ➤ Maintenance of livestock water systems / wildlife escape ramps. ➤ Guzzler system repairs and maintenance. ➤ Addition of water trough, Five Springs System. ➤ Addition of water trough, Oso Canyon. ➤ Conduct Residual Dry Matter surveys and report results. ➤ Maintenance of netting covering open water tanks and large spring containments. ➤ Maintenance of fencing to exclude cattle; maintenance of smooth wire pasture fences modified for pronghorn movement. ➤ Monitor riparian zones using Best Management Practices for wildlife management and cattle grazing.

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<p>WORK RANCH DEER ZONE A MONTEREY 19,500 ACRES</p>	<p>Authorized Harvest: 1 bull elk, 4 antlerless elk, 6 buck deer forked horn or better, and 2 antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 2, 2019 through December 31, 2019. • Issue 4 buck deer tags and 4 either-sex deer tags to take no more than 6 bucks and 2 antlerless deer for the period of July 2, 2019 through November 30, 2019. <p>Note: Work Ranch is not requesting to use their antlerless elk tag allocation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintain perennial water for wildlife in 4 guzzlers. ➤ Repair quail guzzler in Vineyard Canyon. ➤ Increase dryland grain plantings to 400 acres to provide supplemental food and cover for wildlife. ➤ Install new water trough in George Canyon. ➤ Install new ground level water trough in Nado/Nato field. ➤ Install solar well at Leach field.

California Fish and Game Commission
Alphabetical Listing of PLM Properties for Five-Year Licenses and Area
Plans for April 17, 2019 Meeting

Approve five-year PLM 2019-2023 licenses and area plans for:

- (A) Bell Ranch (Tehama County)
- (B) Capistran Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (C) Four Pines Ranch (Mendocino County)
- (D) Hearst Ranch (San Luis Obispo County)
- (E) Redwood House Ranch (Humboldt County)
- (F) Smith River PLM (Humboldt County)
- (G) Tejon Ranch (Kern/Los Angeles Counties)
- (H) Wiggins Ranch (Humboldt County)
- (I) Work Ranch (Monterey County)