

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 15-16, 2020

**16. FIVE-YEAR PLM PLANS (CONSENT)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Consider approving five-year private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) plans and 2020-2024 licenses for fourteen 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 fourteen 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 PLM license renewals for 2020-2024, and annual seasons, harvests and habitat improvements for 2020-2024 as recommended by DFW for fourteen properties, under a motion to adopt the consent calendar.

**DFW:** Approve five-year PLM license renewals for fourteen properties, under the conditions specified in Exhibit 2.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW memo](#), received Apr 13, 2020
2. [PLM Area License: New 5-Year Management Plans, 2020-2024, Proposed Seasons, Harvests, and Habitat Improvements](#), received Apr 13, 2020

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts items 15-22 on the consent calendar.

## Memorandum

**Date:** March 23, 2020

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

**From:** Charlton H. Bonham  
Director

**Subject:** **Agenda Item for the April 15-16, 2020 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, 5-year renewals and Initial PLM Management Plans for 58 properties in 16 counties consisting of approximately 904,954 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 2019, and all habitat work was completed.

The Initial and 5-year renewal management plans are in compliance with Commission policy for private lands management. The 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 Initial applicant intent 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. 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, applications, and each 2020/21 harvest program under conditions specified in the attached table.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
March 23, 2020  
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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at (916) 371-3466 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, 2020-2024**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest  | Habitat Improvement Program  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>NORTHERN REGION</b>  |  |  |
| <p>ALEXANDRE<br/>ECODAIRY FARMS<br/>PLM</p> <p>DEL NORTE</p> <p>1,724 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 bull elk and 4 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 4 antlerless elk tags for the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop and implement a 5-acre wetland development project over the 5-year period.</li> <li>➤ Remove a fish passage barrier on Tryon Creek during the 5-year period.</li> <li>➤ Install 20 new 500-gallon water troughs in fields 23 through 29 during this 5-year period.</li> <li>➤ Plant 30 Sitka spruce with exclusion fencing (to protect and encourage tree growth).</li> <li>➤ Seasonal grazing of 30 acres of wetlands will be excluded from January 1 through July 15.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>AMANN RANCH</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>369 ACRES</p>                            | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 1 bull elk and 1 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of September 15, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Irrigate and sub-irrigate at least 190 acres of pasture for use by wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Install 1 elk friendly fence crossing.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 50 cattle to reduce competition with elk for forage. Repair or replace the irrigation pump.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 16 water troughs by ensuring they are holding adequate water for wildlife and install escape ramps.</li> <li>➤ Mow, disc and reseed 25 acres in the yellow start-thistle treatment area.</li> <li>➤ Disc and reseed a minimum of 30 acres of rotational pasture with “pasture mix 2”.</li> <li>➤ Leave unharvested the second cutting of hay on 342 acres. This will retain approximately 500 tons of forage accessible to elk.</li> <li>➤ Plant 100 willows, fenced for protection, for cover and browse.</li> <li>➤ Preserve the tri-colored blackbird habitat.</li> </ul> |

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
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| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest  | Habitat Improvement Program   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>BIG LAGOON<br/><br/>HUMBOLDT<br/><br/>109,367 ACRES</p>                        | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 5 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 5 bull elk tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 2, 2020 through November 15, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 1, 2020, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 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 tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of elk available to harvest.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Green Diamond will provide and deliver 25 merchantable trees with root wads attached to the landing of the project site for installation into Little River to provide salmonid spawning and rearing habitat when these are required during the 5-year plan. Details outlined in the management plan.</li> <li>➤ 100 acres of oak woodlands and adjacent grasslands will be treated as outlined in the management plan.</li> <li>➤ 17 slash piles will be created for wildlife within the harvest units associated within the Maple Creek Watershed.</li> <li>➤ 88 acres of ground-based timber harvest will also retain (1) pre-existing non-merchantable large woody debris and (2) merchantable large woody debris with existing hollows or evidence of internal rot and hollows.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>CARLEY RANCH<br/><br/>DEER ZONE B1<br/><br/>MENDOCINO<br/><br/>1,660 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 15 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 8 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 8 buck deer may be harvested after October 26, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2020, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 7 additional buck deer tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 20 acres of controlled burn in the annual grasslands and chaparral.</li> <li>➤ Maintain all previously developed water sources (3 springs, 6 guzzlers, and 6 associated water tanks) to provide water for wildlife. Maintenance includes repairing broken and deteriorating pipes and other components.</li> <li>➤ Maintain the wildlife-friendly livestock exclusion fencing around developed springs and repairing any damage.</li> <li>➤ If chaparral cannot be burned, brush rake removal of 5 acres of montane chaparral will occur.</li> <li>➤ Irrigate the 1-acre alfalfa food plot during the dry season. The plot is fenced with wildlife-friendly fencing to exclude livestock.</li> <li>➤ Maintenance of 30 fruit trees have been planted and protected with wire fencing to provide a wildlife food source.</li> <li>➤ Road maintenance and erosion control practices will be completed on roads.</li> </ul> |

**PLM AREA LICENSE**  
**NEW 5-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANS, 2020-2024**  
**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

| PLM Area   | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>CHRISTENSEN RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B1</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>1,061 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 22 deer of which no more than 15 may be forked horn or better buck deer and 7 may be antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 22 either-sex deer tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 7 buck deer may be harvested after October 26, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 20, 2020, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 12 additional either-sex tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer available to harvest.</li> <li>• In no case shall the number of tags issued be used to exceed the authorized harvest.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Install 1 new water trough for wildlife use.</li> <li>➤ Erosion control on ranch roads.</li> <li>➤ Oak woodlands restoration project scoping with CDFW to develop areas to be treated.</li> <li>➤ Install 2 wood duck nesting boxes near existing ponds.</li> <li>➤ Continue to promote bald eagle nesting through the retention of snags and large trees.</li> <li>➤ Annual maintenance on 8 developed springs and repair any broken water pipes.</li> <li>➤ Plant <i>Brassica</i> seed in the fall by manually seeding and raking in fresh pig rooting areas. The extent of this activity will depend on pig activity but is expected to represent at least 6 sites this year, scattered throughout the ranch.</li> <li>➤ Exclude cattle from the ranch; no cattle leases are proposed under the PLM 5-year management plan.</li> </ul> |
| <p>KLAMATH PLM</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>32,594 ACRES</p>                           | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 2 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 2, 2020 through November 15, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 1, 2020, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 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 tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of elk available to harvest.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove at least 280 acres of conifers which are encroaching into oak woodland and prairie habitat.</li> <li>➤ All conifers less than or equal to 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) will be removed.</li> <li>➤ At least 20 conifers larger than 12 inches DBH will be girdled to create wildlife snag trees.</li> </ul>   |

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**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>RAINBOW RIDGE<br/>PLM</p> <p>HUMBOLDT</p> <p>DEER ZONE B4</p> <p>21,300 ACRES</p>  | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 15 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 15 buck deer tags for the period of August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 8 buck deer may be harvested after September 27, 2020.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Remove at least 20 acres of conifer which are encroaching into oak woodland and prairie habitat.</li> <li>➤ All conifers less than or equal to 12 inches DBH will be removed. Conifer removal may be substituted by a prescribed burn of low intensity to create browse to improve foraging habitat for deer.</li> <li>➤ Remove at least 0.25 miles of woven wire fencing throughout the South Rainbow area.</li> <li>➤ Mechanical Head (Masticator) or chainsaws may be used to mow down young tan oak trees, whitethorn, manzanita to create browse for deer in units A-E, if present.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>SEVEN SPRINGS<br/>RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE A</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>2,250 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 9 forked horn or better buck deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 9 buck deer tags for the period of July 11, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 4 buck deer may be harvested after September 20, 2020.</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exclude livestock grazing from the PLM area to increase habitat quality for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Remove 0.20 miles of dilapidated woven wire fencing.</li> <li>➤ Plant 0.125 acres of clover and vetch seed on washouts along roads and slides.</li> <li>➤ Cut and mechanically treat, by uprooting, approximately 1 acre of young Douglas fir which are growing on ridges within the oak woodland area.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat 1 acre of conifer encroachment on oak woodlands.</li> <li>➤ Mechanically treat 1.25 acres with heavy equipment by removing and crushing decadent brush above the root crown.</li> <li>➤ Clean out spring pond at the south end of the ranch of excess vegetation.</li> <li>➤ Maintain prior years' clearings and brush piles to encourage new growth. New brush piles may be created as needed.</li> </ul> |

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| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>SIX POINT RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE A</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>3,960 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 12 forked horned or better buck deer, 3 bull elk and 5 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 12 buck deer tags for the period of July 15, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 4 buck deer maybe harvested after September 20, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period of July 20, 2020 through October 19, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 5 antlerless elk tags for the period of September 15, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2020, the licensee may request (in writing) up to 1 bull tag and 3 additional antlerless tags to accomplish the authorized harvest.</li> <li>• The number of tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of elk available to harvest.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 4 miles of roads and water bars where slopes are greater than 15%.</li> <li>➤ Seed along 4 miles roads for wildlife forages and erosion control.</li> <li>➤ Create 15 wildlife brush piles at least 8 feet high and 30 feet in diameter.</li> <li>➤ Place tree stems and brush in the head cuts in at least 5 locations to decrease soil erosion on the upland areas.</li> <li>➤ Cattle grazing will be reduced to no more than 120 head of cattle for 4 months.</li> <li>➤ Remove 3 fence barriers and replace with elk crossings of wildlife friendly fencing.</li> <li>➤ Maintain all the water developments, name and map them all for better management in the future.</li> <li>➤ Plant 10 acres of forage plots for deer utilization.</li> <li>➤ Establish a 2-acre exclusion plot for deer fawning area.</li> <li>➤ Survey, identify, and prioritize future star thistle control areas.</li> </ul> |
| <p>STACKHOUSE RANCH</p> <p>SHASTA</p> <p>DEER ZONE C3</p> <p>400 ACRES</p>    | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 deer of which no more than 1 may be antlerless deer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 either-sex deer tags for the period of September 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No antlerless deer shall be harvested before September 15, 2020.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prescribed burn of at least 5 acres under the mature oak stands.</li> <li>➤ Plant 5 black oak seedlings.</li> <li>➤ Allow regrowth of important brush species to 3 feet in the 100 acres of thinned plantations.</li> <li>➤ Control invasive blackberries on 15 acres at the pond and restored meadows, through spraying with appropriate herbicide.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 6 wood duck nesting boxes.</li> <li>➤ Reconstruct 2 nesting islands.</li> </ul>   |



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| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>SUMMER CAMP RANCH</p> <p>DEER ZONE B1</p> <p>MENDOCINO</p> <p>38,502 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 80 forked horn or better buck deer and 1 bull elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 80 buck deer tags for the period of July 11, 2020 through November 30, 2020.</li> <li>• No more than 40 buck deer may be taken after October 26, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 11, 2020 through December 15, 2020.</li> <li>• On or before October 15, 2020, 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 or elk tag holders actively hunting shall not exceed the number of deer or elk available to harvest.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain 3 irrigated wildlife forage areas, totaling 12 acres.</li> <li>➤ Develop spring labelled as S14 by cleaning out and enlarging water hole for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Exclude livestock from a 300 square foot area around 1 spring by installing wildlife-friendly fencing.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 1 riparian exclusion areas totaling 0.50 acre by repairing any damaged fencing and planting willows inside the enclosure.</li> <li>➤ Remove the exclusionary fencing from the 0.25-acre riparian willow habitat area that is fully established.</li> <li>➤ Maintain 13 developed springs by checking and repairing any damage. Exclude livestock grazing from July through October.</li> <li>➤ Improved grazing management on the 9-acre Garcey Unit to leave a minimum of 1,000 pound per acre RDM.</li> <li>➤ Create a 25-acre shaded fuel break through out this 5-year period. The fuel break will be up to 100 feet in width along both sides of approximately 1 mile of existing permanent roadway.</li> <li>➤ Create at least 20 slash piles that are a minimum of 10 feet in diameter.</li> <li>➤ Remove planted conifers in 5 acres of grassland areas to improve forage for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain approximately 7 miles of riparian fencing on the Eel River and repair any damage.</li> <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 inspection/repair of drainage facilities such as cross drains and culverts.</li> <li>➤ Burn 10 acres of brush and grasslands in coordination with CalFire VMP to rejuvenate vegetation and control conifers invading oak woodlands.</li> </ul> |

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| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program   |
|---|---|---|
| SUMMER CAMP RANCH CONT.   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Burn approximately 1,012 acres over 5 years through the Vegetation Management Program with CAL FIRE. If burning cannot be conducted during the 5-year project, 25 acres of planted ponderosa pine in grassland areas will be treated for conifer removal as an alternative.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>CENTRAL REGION</b>   |   |   |
| CARNAZA RANCH<br><br>SAN LUIS OBISPO<br><br>8,475 ACRES           | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 bull elk, 3 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 3 bull elk tags for the period of July 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 3 antlerless elk tags for the period of August 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plant 100 acres of barley per year to provide food and cover for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Keep water troughs full year-round to provide water for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Plant 10 trees to enhance wildlife habitat.</li> <li>➤ Build 3 brush piles for quail roost.</li> </ul>  |
| CLARK AND WHITE RANCHES<br><br>SAN LUIS OBISPO<br><br>5,660 ACRES | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 3 bull elk and 2 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 1 bull elk tag for the period of July 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period of August 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020.</li> </ul> <p>Note: Clark and White Ranches are not requesting their full allocation of tags.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plant 1,000 acres of barley annually for use by elk and other wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Repair dams in each year 2020-2023 to increase standing water and enhance riparian/marsh habitats.</li> <li>➤ Plant 1 acre of quail bush for upland game in 2022.</li> <li>➤ Construct brush piles in 2021 and 2023 for upland game.</li> </ul> |

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**PROPOSED SEASONS, HARVESTS, AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS**

| PLM Area  | Proposed Season and Harvest   | Habitat Improvement Program   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>D- RAFTER- "L"<br/>RANCH, LLC</p> <p>SAN LUIS OBISPO<br/>3,156 ACRES</p> | <p><b>Authorized Harvest:</b> 2 bull and 1 antlerless elk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue 2 bull elk tag for the period July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> <li>• Issue 1 antlerless elk tag for the period August 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain and establish brush piles for wildlife habitat.</li> <li>➤ Install pond turtle ramps on goose platforms.</li> <li>➤ Install pond turtle basking structure.</li> <li>➤ Elk crossing installation over existing fencing to connect eastern and western sides.</li> <li>➤ Leave downed woody debris for wildlife.</li> <li>➤ Maintain oak trees for mast production.</li> <li>➤ Maintain wildlife water infrastructure.</li> </ul> |