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| STATE OF UTAH | NO. W5WLD-08 | NO. PAGES 4 |
| DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES | EFFECTIVE DATE <u>September 11, 2001</u> | |
| WILDLIFE | APPROVED Wildlife Board <u>September 11, 2001</u> | |
| SUBJECT: | BUCK PRONGHORN, BUCK MULE DEER, BULL ELK <u>AND ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME SPECIES</u> DEPREDATION <u>AND NUISANCE POLICY</u> | |
| DISTRIBUTION: | ALL DIVISION EMPLOYEES | |

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures and guidelines for handling big game depredation and nuisance situations that involve buck pronghorn, buck mule deer, bull elk, and once-in-a-lifetime big game species, including trophy animals. Past Division of Wildlife Resources big game depredation rule, policies and procedures have centered principally on control and/or removal of antlerless animals. In most circumstances, ~~antlerless control~~ or removal has resolved the problem. Situations requiring depredation actions targeted at buck and bull big game animals have been uncommon. Limited entry buck and bull management, including spike bull elk management, on many big game units has resulted in an increasing percent of mature male animals. In certain instances groups of bucks and bulls have become a significant problem in agricultural cropland depredation as well as nuisance, urban situations. Many of these problem areas are near highways so ~~public safety issues, particularly~~ increased potential for vehicle collisions during nighttime hours are also of ~~paramount~~ concern. In some cases, big game species such as bison have moved off approved management units onto adjacent units or other areas not approved for that species and are thereby considered to be nuisance by a wildlife management plan.

II. POLICY

The ability to hunt, observe, and photograph trophy big game are highly valued recreational opportunities. The need to for adequately addressing problems with and controlling buck, ~~or~~ bull, and once-in-a-lifetime big game animals in depredation and cultivated cropland, nuisance, and situations public safety

~~situations~~ can be in direct conflict with many hunting and wildlife viewing publics. ~~Being able to hunt, observe, and photograph trophy big game are highly sought after recreational opportunities.~~ The Division's big game management program has the goal to provide adequate cover, forage, and water away from agricultural croplands, urban areas, and other areas of potential human conflicts. In spite of the presence of adequate habitat on mountain summer and winter ranges, big game animals are often attracted to cultivated croplands ~~and urban areas~~ and resulting conflicts can be substantial if not addressed in a timely manner. It is the Division's intent to eliminate developing situations where big game animals, sometimes including groups of trophy bucks, ~~or~~ bulls or once-in-a-lifetime species take up residence on these lands. The Big Game Feeding Policy (see policy W5WLD-2) ~~approved by the Wildlife Board in December of 2000,~~ also addresses this concern by stating that the Division will provide supplemental winter feeding only on a short-term basis in limited and specified situations.

Implementation of actions that would encourage or promote tolerance of buck pronghorn, buck deer, ~~or~~ bull elk, or once-in-a-lifetime species during any season of the year on agricultural croplands or within urban areas could result in: (1) increased depredation on private land; (2) increased risk of wildlife/vehicle collisions ~~unacceptable public safety risks~~ on adjacent highways; (3) increased risk of wildlife disease; and (4) significant ~~rangeland~~ habitat damage to private rangeland. Such actions are not part of the Division's routine big game management program. Where significant depredation, public safety, disease, or ~~rangeland~~ habitat damage to private rangeland issues are not present, the Division will continue to explore options that are mutually beneficial to the Division and the private landowner, including the issuance of mitigation permits/vouchers as per Big Game Depredation Rule R657-44.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. The Division discourages the presence of Discouraging buck pronghorn, buck deer, and/or bull elk, presence and / or once-in-a-lifetime species, including groups of mature trophy animals; (1) on cultivated crops, or (2) in urban areas where control and/or taking of females has not resolved the problem, and (3) in areas where these animals are considered to be nuisance.

Upon discovery of the presence of buck pronghorn, buck deer, or deer or bull elk, or once-in-a-lifetime species on agricultural croplands within urban areas, or in areas where these animals are considered to be nuisance, coming from off the Division will may implement actions to move these animals to areas of native rangeland or otherwise resolve the problem.

Where mature trophy animals are involved, the appropriate administrative Region will prepare a written plan which will be submitted to the Wildlife Section Chief and the Division Director for approval. Actions may include any of the following:

1. Herding, ~~potentially with aircraft for bison off the unit;~~
2. Capture and relocation;
3. Depredation hunter pool hunts as authorized by the Wildlife Board;
4. Emergency hunts as authorized by the Division Director's Office;
54. Season extensions, including early openings, on existing buck/bull permits as authorized by the Division Director;
65. Issuing big game mitigation permits/vouchers to landowners as authorized by the Division Director;
76. Division removal as authorized by the Division Director;
87. Temporary fencing; or
98. Temporary feeding as per Division Policy on Big Game Feeding (see W5WLD-2).

- B. The Division discourages private efforts ~~that~~ attract and hold groups of buck pronghorn, buck deer, ~~or~~ bull elk, or once-in-a-lifetime species, including trophy animals, on agricultural croplands or within urban areas.**

The Division strongly discourages private individuals and/or organizations from implementing actions, including supplemental feeding, that would encourage or attract groups of buck, ~~and~~ bull, and once-in-a-lifetime big game animals, including trophy animals, to reside on or near agricultural croplands or within urban areas. These efforts, although sometimes well intentioned, may result in attracting continually increasing numbers of animals to these lands resulting in serious long-term depredation, public safety concerns, loss of habitat, and increased risk of disease.

- C. The Division recognizes that the take of trophy animals in a depredation or nuisance situation is controversial by itself and is further complicated by drawing procedures including waiting periods and use of bonus points. The procedures to address these concerns are as follows.**

1. Hunters participating in depredation or nuisance hunts for buck, ~~or~~ bull, and once-in-a-lifetime big game that may include trophy animals will be selected from individuals receiving a permit for the

limited entry or once-in-a-lifetime unit or from the alternate drawing list of hunters for the unit.

2. Preseason depredation or nuisance hunts ~~of for~~ buck, ~~or~~ bull and once-in-a-lifetime big game animals will first use hunters selected in the drawing for the limited entry or once-in-a-lifetime unit and secondarily ~~use~~ hunters from the alternate drawing list for that unit. Post-season depredation or nuisance hunts for buck, ~~or~~ bull and once-in-a-lifetime big game animals will use hunters from the alternate drawing list for that species. If the hunt is not on a limited entry or once-in-a-lifetime unit, hunters will be selected from the nearest adjacent limited entry unit for that species.
3. The Division may contact hunters from the alternate drawing list to participate in a buck, ~~or~~ bull, once-in-a-lifetime depredation or nuisance hunt prior to the statewide general hunt for a given species of big game. ~~A~~ Hunters selected for a buck, ~~or~~ bull, and once-in-a-lifetime depredation or nuisance hunt ~~whethat~~ does not possess an unfilled, valid ~~buck or bull~~ permit for the species to be hunted will be required to purchase the appropriate ~~depredation~~ permit before participating in the ~~depredation~~ hunt.
4. All animals harvested in a buck, bull, or once-in-a-lifetime species ~~bull~~ depredation or nuisance hunt must be checked in with the Division within 72 hours.
5. If a hunter is selected from the alternate drawing list for a depredation or nuisance hunt ~~in~~ in a limited entry unit and harvests or once-in-a-lifetime unit and harvests a trophy deer, elk, ~~or or~~ pronghorn, as defined in or any once-in-a-lifetime species, as defined in 23-132-2(46); that person shall lose their bonus points for that species and incur the applicable waiting period. Similarly, a hunter who in the depredation hunt, the person will lose their who has obtained a once-in-a-lifetime species depredation or nuisance hunt permit and has successfully harvested an animal may not obtain any other once-in-a-lifetime permit or hunt during any other once-in-a-lifetime hunt for that species as provided in R657-5, except for cow moose where a two year waiting period will be imposed bonus points, and incur a waiting period or will not be allowed to hunt in any other moose or bison hunt.
6. Depredation or nuisance hunts ~~Seasons~~ will be held to discourage buck, ~~or~~ bull, or once-in-a-lifetime big game animals from remaining

in the depredation ~~or of~~ nuisance situation ~~or not approved as a~~ off
the non-management unit for that species. A limited number of
hunters will be selected for a short season (generally 5-7 days)
followed by a rest period to allow additional hazing or other action
deemed appropriate by the Division prior to bringing in any
additional ~~the next group of~~ hunters.

IV. REVISION DATE

This policy shall be reviewed on or before _____.

DRAFT - 10/14