

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2010
To: Regional Advisory Council Members
From: Anis Aoude, Big Game Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2010 BBOIAL Season Dates and Proposed Amendments to the Statewide Mule Deer Plan

The attached documents summarize the Wildlife Division's recommended changes to the current Big Game Proclamation and Rule.

BBOIAL season dates:

See attached tables for details.

Amendments to the statewide deer plan:

Here are the options the DWR will present:

Option #1: Unit-based management, hunting in five regions

Option #2: Unit-based management, hunting in 29 units

Option #3: Modified version of Option #1

Option #1: Unit-based management, hunting in five regions

DWR biologists manage deer according to Utah's deer management plan, which requires the state's deer units to have an average of 15–25 bucks per 100 does. Under this option, the DWR would continue its unit-based management and add a new regional management goal of 18 bucks per 100 does. As part of this option, the DWR would:

- Maintain its unit-based approach to deer management.
- Continue to offer regional hunting except on units below 1bucks/100 does.
- If the ratio falls below 12 bucks per 100 does on a unit, the DWR will remove that unit from the regional hunt until its numbers rebound. A recovery unit will not return to the regional hunt until it averages at least 15 bucks to 100 does.
- If the regional average ratio falls below 18 bucks per 100 does the DWR will decrease the number of permits for the region until the average buck-to-doe ratio for the region returns to at least 18.
- Maintain the current three-year Dedicated Hunter Program
- Allow archers to hunt statewide
- Allow Lifetime license holders to choose a region

Of the three options under consideration, Option #1 is the **DWR's preferred option.**

Advantages

- Allows biological management on a unit level
- Gives hunters more flexibility in where to hunt (five larger regions vs. 29 smaller units)
- Makes it easier for families and groups to hunt together
- Offers fewer law-enforcement challenges
- Does not require changes to the Dedicated Hunter Program

Disadvantages

- Relies on hunters to evenly distribute themselves (hunting pressure could be high in popular areas)
- Leaves some units with fewer than 18 bucks per 100 does
- May result in the loss of approximately 7,000 permits
- May require an increase in permit fees

Option #2: Unit-based management, hunting in 29 units

This option would require the DWR to manage 29 general-season deer units for an average of 18–25 bucks per 100 does. It would also require a switch to unit-based hunting. As part of this option, the DWR would:

- Maintain its unit-based approach to deer management.
- Likely require all hunters to hunt on individual units.
- If the ratio falls below 18 bucks per 100 does on any one unit, the DWR will decrease the number of permits for that unit until the average returns to at least 18.
- Modify the Dedicated Hunter Program into a one-year program.
- Wait until 2012 to implement these changes.

Advantages

- Allows the DWR to more precisely manage general-season units
- Allows the DWR to more evenly distribute hunting pressure
- Ensures that all units will eventually have at least 18 bucks per 100 does
- Improves harvest-data collection

Disadvantages

- Limits a hunter to one general-season unit
- Makes it more difficult to draw a permit for some popular units (reduces the likelihood of hunting every year)
- Makes it harder to hunt as a family or group
- Requires Dedicated Hunters to draw a unit, and changes the program into a one-year program
- Poses law-enforcement challenges (more boundaries to enforce and patrol)
- May result in the loss of approximately 13,000 permits
- Will likely require an increase in permit fees

Option #3: Modified version of Option #1

There are only a few differences between Option #3 and Option #1. Under Option #3, the DWR would continue its unit-based management strategy, but there would be a regional management target of 15 bucks per 100 does. (This is different from the 18 bucks per 100 does listed in Option #1). Advantages and disadvantages would remain the same, with a couple of exceptions. This option might result in the loss of approximately 3,000 permits, and it would not require the DWR to raise permit fees.

General Season deer units if proposed unit by unit management is approved, Utah 2010.

Unit number	Unit name	3 year average bucks / 100 does
1	Box Elder	19
2	Cache	15
3	Ogden	17
4/5/6	Morgan Rich / East Canyon / Chalk Creek	33
7	Kamas	19
8	North Slope	19
9A	South Slope, Yellowstone	15
9BD	South Slope, Vernal / Bonanza	11
11	Nine Mile	25
13	La Sal	17
14	San Juan	22
16A	Central Mountains, Nebo	18
16B/12	Central Mountains, Manti / San Rafael	16
17A	Wasatch Mountains, West	18
17BC	Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek / Avintaquin	15
18	Oquirrh-Stansbury	10
19	West Desert	19
20	Southwest Desert	29
21A	Fillmore, Oak Creek	31
21B	Fillmore, Pahvant	21
22	Beaver	17
23	Monroe	11
24	Mt Dutton	20
25A	Plateau, Fishlake	16
25B	Plateau, Thousand Lakes	18
25C/26	Plateau, Boulder / Kaiparowits	14
28	Panguitch Lake	20
29	Zion	25
30	Pine Valley	21

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