



State of Utah

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MEMORANDUM

April 7, 2010

To: Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Anis Aoude, Big Game Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Overview of 2010 Antlerless Permit Recommendations

The Wildlife Division's recommended antlerless permit allocations for 2010 are summarized in the attached tables. Our biologists' recommendations are based on an evaluation of population status gleaned from last year's harvests and herd composition classifications following the 2009 hunts. The number of permits proposed for 2010 are designed to achieve or maintain desired population objectives. Please note that the attached tables summarize public draw permits only, and in many instances CWMU permits, tribal permits, and mitigation permits are also issued to harvest antlerless deer, elk, moose, and doe pronghorn to control populations and address local population management concerns.

Highlights:

- 1) Deer populations have increased slightly in some management units, and the statewide post-hunt population is estimated at about 301,700 deer
- 2) Elk populations are stable, and we now have about 67,030 elk statewide. The population is about 1,800 head below the population objective of 68,825
- 3) Elk populations are above management objectives on several units, and antlerless harvests are needed to reduce elk numbers on those units. Antlerless harvests are also needed to slow the growth of elk numbers on units that are approaching management objectives.
- 4) We are recommending 1,343 fewer public antlerless elk permits in 2010, compared to 2009. We are fast approaching our statewide objective, and we have some management units that are above objective. These permits will help us reach our objectives
- 5) We have 3 elk units where our objective is 0 elk (Henry Mountains, North San Rafael, and San Juan East of US-191) and 1 unit where due to private land issues we are unable to harvest enough antlerless elk to control the population (Nine Mile Range Creek). On those units, we recommend continuing to offer antlerless elk control permits to hunters who have any antlered or OIAL big game permit

- 6) We recommend that hunters who draw an antlerless elk permit can hunt their antlerless elk during the General or Limited Entry elk and deer seasons, provided they have the appropriate buck or bull permit and are hunting within their antlerless hunt boundary. Currently, the rule allows hunters who draw an antlerless elk permit to hunt their antlerless elk during the archery or muzzleloader General or Limited Entry elk and deer seasons. This recommended rule change adds the rifle season to that rule.
- 7) Doe Pronghorn permit recommendations show a decrease with 485 fewer public permits being recommended in 2010, compared to 2009.
- 8) We recommend a decrease in public antlerless moose permits in 2010. Our harvest the past few years along with some transplants and possible winter mortality during winter 2007-2008 has reduced our moose populations to the point that allows us to decrease permits