

**DEER HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**Deer Herd Unit # 12**  
**(San Rafael)**  
**March 2012**

**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**Carbon, Emery, Wayne, and Garfield counties** - Boundary begins in Price at the junction of SR-10 and US-6; east on US-6 to I-70; east on I-70 to the Green River; south along the Green River to the Colorado River; south on the Colorado River and the west shore of Lake Powell to SR-95; north on SR-95 to SR-24; west on SR-24 to Caineville and the Caineville Wash road (hunters may harvest deer 2 miles south of SR-24 between SR-95 and the Notom Road); north along the Caineville Wash road to the Cathedral Valley road; west on the Cathedral Valley road to Rock Springs Bench and the Last Chance Desert road; north on the Last Chance Desert road to the Blue Flats road; north and east on the Blue Flats road to the Willow Springs road; north on the Willow Springs road towards Windy Peak and the Windy Peak road; west on the Windy Peak road to the junction of I-70 and SR-10; north on SR-10 to Price.

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

**RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP**

Unit 12 San Rafael	Yearlong range		Winter Range	
Ownership	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%
Forest Service	0	0%	0	0%
Bureau of Land Management	127012	69%	3650	54.3%
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	12913	7%	79	1.2%
Native American Trust Lands	0	0%	0	0%
Private	22019	12%	3000	44.6%
Department of Defense	0	0%	0	0%
USFWS Refuge	0	0%	0	0%
National Parks	17426	9.5%	0	0%
Utah State Parks	0	0%	0	0%
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	314	.2%	0	0%
National Recreation Area	4458	2.3%	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184,141</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,727</b>	<b>100%</b>

**UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS**

Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing. Balance deer herd impacts on human needs, such

as private property rights, agricultural crops and local economies. Maintain the population at a level that is within the carrying capacity of the available habitat. Range Trend data is not collected on the San Rafael unit. The majority of deer on this unit utilize agricultural areas to some extent throughout the winter.

In 2011, when Unit by Unit deer management went into effect, the San Rafael unit was included in the Manti general season deer hunt boundary. Deer numbers are concentrated on the unit where there are agricultural corridors. These lands often provide favorable food, water, and cover to deer. Deer numbers along these corridors are not in decline and provide hunting opportunity to the public. Most of the deer harvest on this unit occurs near agricultural areas. The decision to keep the unit within the Manti general season boundaries was largely social, allowing local deer hunters the opportunity to hunt both sides of State Highway 10 on or near private land, which is where most of the deer on the San Rafael unit are found.

### **POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

€ Target Winter Herd Size: 1000 wintering deer.

1994-2005 Objective:	1,000
2006-2012 Objective:	1,000
Change:	0

€ Herd Composition – Deer herds that can be reliably found and classified in the natural habitat are isolated and few. This results in sample size being very low, which would not represent the population on this unit. As a general rule, the Manti unit to the west will be closely monitored instead.

### **POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

#### **Monitoring**

€ Population Size – Because this population is not directly monitored or modeled, the population size is not estimated.

€ Harvest - The primary means of monitoring harvest will be through the statewide uniform harvest survey. Some harvested deer may also show up at DWR check stations.

#### **Limiting Factors** (May prevent achieving management objectives)

€ Crop Depredation - Take all steps necessary to minimize depredation as prescribed by state law and DWR policy.

€ Habitat - Very limited year-round habitat exists for deer on this unit. By far, the majority of deer on this unit are on private land. Excessive habitat utilization will be addressed.

€ Predation - Refer to DWR predator management policy.

- Assess need for control by species, geographic area and season of year.

- Seek assistance from Wildlife Services when deer populations are depressed and where there is a reasonable chance of gaining some relief through a predator control effort. Predator control will be initiated via an approved, unit predator management plan.

- Recommend cougar harvest to benefit deer while maintaining the cougar as a valued resource in its own right.

€ Highway Mortality - Cooperate with the Utah Dept. Of Transportation in construction of highway fences, passage structures and warning signs etc.

€ Illegal Harvest - Should illegal kill become an identified and significant source of mortality attempt to develop specific preventive measures within the context of an Action Plan developed in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Section.

### **HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

€ Watershed Initiative habitat restoration projects will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the UPCD process. The focus of habitat restoration efforts on this unit will be towards desert bighorn sheep habitat in high priority areas as well as key mule deer habitat especially where there is encroachment of pinyon juniper.

€ The Utah Big Game Range Trend Study does not monitor this unit.

€ Work toward long term habitat protection and preservation through the use of agreements with federal agencies, local governments and the use of Conservation Easements etc. on private lands.

€ Implement “Habitat Management Plans” developed for DWR Wildlife Management Areas located on the unit.

€ Cooperate with federal land management agencies and local governments in developing and administering access management plans for the purposes of habitat protection and escape or security areas.

This unit management plan was approved by the Wildlife Board on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be in effect for five years from that date, or until amended.

### **APPENDIX - HUNT BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Central Mtns. Manti/San Rafael**

Carbon, Emery, Sanpete, Sevier and Utah counties—Boundary begins US-6 and US-89 in Spanish Fork Canyon; southeast on US-6 to I-70; east on I-70 to the Green River; south along this river to the Colorado River; south along this river (and the west shore of Lake Powell) to SR-95; north on SR-95 to SR-24 (hunters may harvest deer within 2 miles south of SR-24 between SR-95 and the Notom Road); west on SR-24 to Caineville and the Caineville Wash road; north on this road to the Cathedral Valley road; west on this road to Rock Springs Bench and the Last Chance Desert road; north on this road to the Blue Flats road; north and east on this road to the Willow Springs road; north on this road towards Windy Peak and the Windy Peak road; north on this road to I-70; west on I-70 to US-89; north on US-89 to US-6 in Spanish Fork Canyon.