

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 1, 2026 1:27 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

I think it's a great recommendation. I hunting the Zion archery tag last year and saw lots of deer( mostly bucks) there is definitely and opportunity to capitalize on them while we have them

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

Year after year I watch and voice opinion against consistently increasing deer tags. I watch the MAJORITY of people say to not raise buck permits on the specifically the Beaver East unit. 2200 permits for one side? There has NEVER been that many tags for both sides of the Beaver units combined. Last year was a mad house. First, there isn't even 2200 bucks on the entire unit. It doesnt take a biologist to see that. Just a nobody with 2 eyes that can use binoculars can see that. If you consider predation, highway mortality, hunting, etc... the deer are getting slaughtered. The deer belong to the public and the public has almost always been hesitant to raise tags. Again, this will fall on deaf ears. Last year I heard from the biologist that there was an estimated population on 10,000 deer on the beaver. WHERE ARE THEY?

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?**

Beaver elk quality is declining faster than Artemis 2 they just launched in space. Solution? Raise more tags to continue to decrease quality. Utahs big game quality is not good. Outfitters and guides are consistently wiping out the cream of the crop not just on the beaver but every LE unit. Beaver will continue to decline like the rest of the state.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 2, 2026 4:41 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?**

The LE permit recommendations are based on age. It should be mandatory that all successful LE permit hunters submit the teeth.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 2, 2026 7:55 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

We are in the worst drought we have ever been in, and we are adding more tags? Why can't we be proactive with recommendations instead of reactive when our deer struggle with fawn survival and overall numbers?

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 3, 2026 10:38 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

The Pinevalley deer herd has been suffering for 3 years in a row with drought conditions. I personally have watched deer numbers dramatically decline. Even the does are no longer in abundance. Something extremely wrong is happening and hunting them harder is not the answer. Please consider change to help the Pinevalley unit rebound.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

I can generally agree with the recommendations presented.

However, I would like to comment and recommend concerning the Southern Region.

CONCERNS: This region has been mismanaged to the point that there are way more permits issued than is reasonable. I believe most hunters look for reasonable size deer whether they are looking for antler size/number of points or for meat for the table. The chance of finding a reasonable size deer (large 3 point or 4 point or larger) has diminished to the point that, because hunters cannot find a reasonable deer, they hunt until the last weekend/last day and then are forced to slaughter the first 2 point baby they can get, or choose to come home empty handed. This trend has been obvious for many years and the "Department" has continued to, basically, increase permits under the "guise" of allowing more individuals to hunt when actually it's mostly just about getting more money for the DWR. In fact, I believe the DWR needs to get its people off the highways writing speeding tickets and back in the business for which it was created in the first place, namely Protecting, Managing, and Supporting hunters and wildlife. I believe that fewer Wildlife Managers doing their job would benefit Utah hunters and fishers way more than is currently being done.

RECOMMENDATIONS ( For Southern Region Only) Decrease hunting permits for the general rifle hunt by 20%, keep youth permits and muzzle loader permits steady, decrease archery permits 10%. In addition, it might be advantageous to consider a ban on killing baby 2 point deer for 2 years.

My Qualifications: I have been hunting this unit since before most of you were born. I have watched "trends" come and go. I have seen hunters that had no business behind the sights of a gun to hunters proficient at 500+ yards. I have known those that take wildlife illegally and ought to be banned from hunting forever to those that love and respect the outdoors and wildlife therein. I also know that I didn't gain my opinions from reading books; I still live it every day.

PS: Give my respect to your own Faith Heaton Jolly, one of my favorite students.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 4, 2026 1:16 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?** Well done Michael.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?** get rid of all limited entry hunts and make everything general season.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime species recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?** get rid of all limited entry hunts and make everything general season.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the pronghorn recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the aquatic rule amendment recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

I would like to express my strong support for the recommendation to increase permit numbers statewide. It is concerning that public discourse is often dominated by a small, vocal minority-largely influenced by guides and social media "trophy" culture-that seems to advocate for over-restricting hunter opportunity in favor of trophy quality. Hunting should be about opportunity and management objectives, not just social media posts.

Regarding the Boulder Unit, I believe the permit increase should be more aggressive. Current data shows the buck-to-doe ratio is at 31 per 100, which is significantly above objective. While I understand success rates dipped, the ratio remains stable, likely due to recent weapon restrictions. Given that units like Cache and Beaver West saw increases of 18% and 30% respectively, I urge the DWR to bring the Boulder Unit closer to its management objective with a similar percentage increase.

Finally, I disagree with the 30/40/30 tag distribution on the Boulder. In my experience hunting the rifle season last year, crowding was minimal and easily avoided by moving away from roads. The unit has the capacity for more hunters without the need for such rigid season splits.

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the antlerless recommendations?** While I recognize the biological reasons for mule deer doe hunts, I cannot support them given that current populations remain so far below objective. We should prioritize alternative damage-mitigation strategies over doe harvests at this time.

Regarding elk management, I would like to see higher population objectives on our mountain ranges. A strategic use of sportsmen's dollars would be to purchase grazing permits from ranchers to transition those allotments from cattle to elk.

Finally, I want to voice my opposition to January cow elk hunts. To protect the herd, any necessary population control should occur in the fall before the elk are pushed onto their sensitive winter ranges.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

The beaver west is starting to recover but we are still missing 3 years of age class on this unit! Leave the tags where they are for another year then slowly ease into raising them. This unit was probably the most impacted by drought mtn lions and overhunting it doesn't make sense to raise the tags the first year they start to rebound. Especially when implementing a new type of hunt keep the tags consistent and see the affects this is an experiment you dont change the variables (THAT YOU CAN CONTROL) mid way through a science project leave the tags alone. In beaver county WE WANT MATURE BUCKS ON THE LANDSCAPE! Even if we dont get to hunt as often WE LIKE MATURE BUCKS!

**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime species recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?**

The sw desert north is fine its an opportunity hunt those tags make sense. The sw desert south is laughable and I think there is gonna be a lot of backlash from beaver county residents this year. It has been difficult the last 2 years to find a 320" bull and I personally have talked to dozens of hunters who had a hard time finding elk and seen multiple people shooting raghorn 4 and 5 points. Me along with many others are disgusted by what this unit has turned into. It's been decimated the last 5 years.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 14, 2026 10:35 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?**

I would like to see the DWR implement the re-introduction of the Paunsaugunt general archery any bull elk hunt. This hunt was removed a few years back with no rational or reasoning to the public. I would like to see archery hunters be given an equal opportunity, as rifle hunters, to pursue an any bull elk on the Paunsaugunt unit.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 14, 2026 11:12 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

Thank You for your hard work.

Please create more restricted rifle units.

There could be at least 2 units in each region, with the restricted rifle rules in place

Please adjust the tag allocation percentage for all the units in the state.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 14, 2026 9:44 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?**

I respectfully recommend that Study WRI 7707 be paused and that HB 125 and HB 469 be amended to support a more balanced, science-based approach to predator management. In several of the deer units included in this year's proposal, population estimates appear to be declining, while tag allocations are increasing substantially to reduce buck-to-doe ratios. It is unclear when the anticipated benefits of increased buck harvest and altered sex ratios are expected to materialize.

Additionally, clarification is needed regarding the distinction between "population objective" and "carrying capacity" for mule deer. If these are separate metrics, how are they defined, and to what extent does one inform the other?

The Division is currently implementing multiple management strategies to support mule deer populations. Should population improvements be observed-either within specific units or statewide-what methods will be used to evaluate which strategies are driving those outcomes?

Given that chronic wasting disease (CWD) is increasing in prevalence and has no known cure, further explanation is warranted regarding the decision to reduce mountain lion populations, which may serve as a natural mechanism for limiting disease transmission.

It is also unclear why the State has established a target mule deer population of 404,900 when this level has not been achieved in decades. Additional context for this objective would be helpful.

Furthermore, what consideration has been given to the potential long-term ecological consequences of reducing mountain lion populations in pursuit of short-term increases in mule deer numbers?

Finally, how does the State anticipate that increasing mule deer populations will affect elk populations, given that both species depend on many of the same forage resources?

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