

Form Name:
Submission Time:

April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback
April 1, 2026 10:18 pm

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

Somewhat agree

Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?

As I may agree with tag number allocations changes across limited entry units. I disagree with much of the general season any bull units. None of my comments are issues proposed in the video but I do feel strongly about several issues I wish the Division would consider more seriously.

One growing concern to me is the implementation of unlimited quota tag systems for non-residents. Utah is the only state in the west that has UNLIMITED state wide elk tags. I personally view this as a sellout of local and state opportunity. Utah's wildlife is a public resource, and while non-resident participation has value, unlimited access to non residents creates a lot of issues in my mind especially in conjunction with guiding and outfitting. This dynamic contributes to overcrowding and diminishes the quality of hunts that residents have long supported through purchasing tags and permits on a consistent basis, conservation efforts, and year-round time spent a field.

This issue lies in the current structure of outfitting and guiding, particularly within general units. While outfitting has a place in the hunting landscape, for example "once in a lifetime" or "limited entry hunts" scale and concentration of guided operations are raising serious issues for me. Many outfitters are able to bring large numbers of clients into already pressured general units, effectively amplifying hunter density beyond what those areas can sustainably handle. Many general elk units now have multiple outfitting camps set up across basins and spread through nearly every drainage in large portions of the state. This isn't just happening near easy access points or road systems, guiding and outfitting operations are increasingly occupying remote, hard-to-reach wilderness areas as well. There are situations personally and from peers that have taken a pack string 15 miles into the backcountry, expecting solitude and a true backcountry experience, only to find that nearly every basin already holds an outfitted camp.

This takes away from the very experience many hunters are working so hard to find. Yes, it's understood that this is public land and everyone has the right to use it. But when those who are willing to put in the time, effort, and physical work to access remote country are met with widespread commercial presence, it starts to feel like a sellout. The expectation of earning a quieter, less crowded hunt through that extra effort is diminished when outfitting camps are consistently encountered in the same remote spaces on a very regular basis. From personal experience covering many basins and drainages throughout many hunting seasons and it seems to be becoming a bigger and bigger issue each year.

To address this, outfitting and guiding in general season units

should be very limited and more carefully regulated. Caps on the number of clients per outfitter, restrictions on where guiding can occur, and stricter oversight could help restore balance. Without these changes, general units risk becoming overcrowded to the point where the average hunter-especially residents-feels pushed out of their own public lands. If the goal is to preserve quality hunting experiences and equitable access, then both opportunity distribution and commercialized hunting must be managed on a greater scale. This free for all mentality of outfitting every basin or drainages is talking away from the reason we hunt.

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April 2026 RAC Proposals Feedback
April 2, 2026 7:21 pm

Do you have any comments about the antlerless recommendations?

I have strong feelings about not allowing doe antelope harvest on the north slope unit south of Lonetree, Wyoming. The antelope are abundant in this unit and this is the same exact herd that Wyoming is harvesting many Does from. I've spent an extensive amount of time on both sides of the state line and this cannot be a science based approach. Wyoming continues to increase tags in this area and these antelope don't see the difference in the state lines in this area.

Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?

Proposal to Modify General Season Deer Draw and Point System
I am writing to propose a new management strategy for General Season deer units: transitioning away from the current points system over a three-year period.
Under this plan, the first year would prioritize high-point holders.

second year, would clear out mid-tier holders.

third year, would address those with the fewest points. Once the transition is complete.

the system would move to a "harvest-based" eligibility model:

Successful Harvest: Results in a mandatory three-year waiting period before applying again.

Unsuccessful Hunt: Guaranteed a tag for the following year until a harvest occurs.

The goal is to improve the age class of our herds. Currently, long wait times for tags pressure hunters to harvest the first legal buck they see. By guaranteeing a tag the following year for those who don't fill it, hunters can be more selective, allowing younger deer to reach maturity.

If we are worried about the application fee. that's easy just add \$10 tag increase.

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

Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations?

I am writing to propose the reinstatement of the Multi-season General Season Any Bull elk permit. Currently, this 'hunt-all-seasons' option is only available for spike-only units, but I believe it should be extended to any bull units as well. To maintain management objectives, this could include a permit cap similar to the 4,500-limit currently placed on multi-season spike tags. This change would provide adult hunters with an opportunity similar to the youth permit, allowing them to hunt through the archery, any-legal-weapon, and muzzleloader seasons with a single tag.

Which best describes your position regarding the pronghorn recommendations?

Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless recommendations?

Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU recommendations?

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations? We need to decrease deer permits
Not increase
And manage for adult deer harvest 4 year old and over not manage juvenile deer under 4

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

Do you have any comments about the once-in-a-lifetime species recommendations? Need to build herds not decrease
Need to cut all permits in half

Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk recommendations? Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the bull elk recommendations? Utah use to be the go to state for mature elk
We need to decrease permits and go for quality and quantity
And for love of God get rid of spike hunts
The current elk season on limit entry are to short it takes a lifetime to draw a tag and 7 days is not long enough hunt
It seems like it dwr goal to kill immature elk no one waits 20 years to kill a 320 or smaller bull
Open bull hunts are a joke whole state needs to be a draw
Quit sales for opportunities and manage for quality and quantity

Which best describes your position regarding the pronghorn recommendations? Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the pronghorn recommendations? Tags need cut in half need to manage for quality and quantity
not opportunities
And mature animals not 2 to 3 year olds

Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless recommendations? Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the antlerless recommendations? Should not be any public antlerless tags we need to build herds back on public ground
Private tags only to manage Private land elk
And Private land owner tags should never be allowed on public ground

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU recommendations? Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the CWMU recommendations? These tags need to be managed better for public access they still block public from hunting
And 25 percent of tags should be youth tags

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

Do you have any comments about the aquatic rule amendment recommendations? No comment

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

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about the once-in-a-lifetime species recommendations?

I strongly oppose how nonresident tags are being split among residents and nonresidents in certain hunts. Some examples:

- North Slope/Three Corners moose MB6007: 2 of 8 permits to nonresidents - 25% of the total for the hunt
- Beaver mountain goat GO6800 - 2 of 9 permits to nonresidents - 22% of the total for the hunt
- Escalante, East desert bighorn DS6626 - 2 of 7 permits to nonresidents - 29% of the total for the hunt
- Nine Mile, Gray Canyon rocky mountain bighorn RS6712 - 2 of 6 permits to nonresidents - 33% of the total
- Book Cliffs Little Creek bison BI6537 - 7 of 15 permits to nonresidents - 47% of the total for the hunt

The allocation on the Book Cliffs bison hunt is suspicious to me. The late hunt on the Little Creek unit is not a friendly hunt for nonresidents. They most likely will need a guide (or at minimum, a packer) to succeed. Are the local guides/packers on the Book Cliffs in cahoots with the DWR? Are permits being allocated this way so guides and packers get more business? We should be giving nonresidents a variety of application choices in the Book Cliffs - not isolating them all in the most difficult hunt.

With so few permits on these hunts, grouping permits in this way has a significant impact on the odds of the residents trying to draw these tags. For example - as a resident, giving 2 permits on the Escalante to nonresidents (instead of 1) gives me a random draw chance at 2 permits instead of 3 - reducing my odds by 33%. I know it's probably too late for this year, but for next year, please spread nonresident permits out amongst the hunts as evenly as possible.

Do you have any comments about the antlerless recommendations?

Where feasible, I think we should consider pausing rifle cow elk hunts during the late archery bull elk hunts.

Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer recommendations?

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any comments about the buck deer recommendations?

Mule deer overall have been doing well. That being said, the combination of HB125, HB469 and WRI 7707 (the DWR / BYU study) has created a mandate to cull our mountain lions supposedly at least in part so that it will increase our mule deer population to 404,900. Yet those numbers haven't been realized in decades and are likely not realistic. Exterminating our mountain lions is what appears to be the goal. Yet these predators have been shown to help control chronic wasting disease by taking down the sick and weaker deer/elk. They are actually good for healthy deer populations. Mountain lions are loved by many and are part of our Utah heritage. This supposed study is reckless and seems to prioritize hunters and the species that they love to hunt over the existence of another species that should also be allowed to exist. It is unethical and selfish to pay hunters to wipe lions out of areas to see if deer or other ungulate populations grow. Weather and habitat loss are more important factors. Deer populations could go up just due to the weather and we might say "its because we got rid of the lions, lets get rid of them in other areas of Utah. " We will lose our mountain lions if we continue along this pathway. Instead, we should be focussing on habitat and migratory pathways. Keeping all of our wildlife healthy.

Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless recommendations?

Neither agree nor disagree
