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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Division of Wildlife Resources

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator

DATE: August 4, 2025

SUBJECT: **Drought Permits for Henry Mountains Bison**

The Henry Mountains Bison Management Plan calls for a population management objective to “maintain a post-hunt population size of 325 adult (age 1+) bison within the Henry Mountains Wildlife Management Unit”. Strategies within that objective include the following:

- Habitat conditions, including effects of drought, will be discussed with the bison committee when harvest recommendations are reviewed.
- Utilize the United States Drought Monitor...to make temporary adjustments in the bison population size depending on drought severity and range conditions. If drought-related conditions and bison densities negatively impact habitat, recommend additional bison permits at the August Wildlife Board meeting.

### Proposed Henry Mountains Bison Drought Permits:

- Aerial survey conducted on August 5-6
- Estimated 360 adults (pre-hunt)
- Over objective for bull:cow ratio
- Mountain was very dry
- Some troughs were dry
- Recommending additional 19 hunter's choice permits
  - 6 permits to BI6503
  - 6 permits to BI6504
  - 7 permits to BI6516
- Additional permits would bring post-hunt estimates to ~280 adults and help bring bull:cow ratio within objective
- Recommendations supported by agriculture and conservation partners

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