

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 26, 2022 11:39 am

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

Get rid of the CWMU program. or make significant changes to it such as put a cap on how much the landowner can charge for their tags because they just want to make money, and increase the number of public tags to match the amount of private tags.

Why is one of the top goals of the CWMU to 'Provide Income for Landowners'?? The rich get richer...

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

I pretty much agree with most of the proposal.

-I would like to see Spike archery hunters have to start on Aug. 23rd the same day LE archery bull hunters start. It seems pretty unfair to let spike hunters pressure the elk herds for 4 days before a guy that waited years to draw his limited entry tag.

-I would also recommend only allowing multi season general bull hunters to be able to hunt the late season I think that would help with crowding issues on the early hunt and give the guys a little better hunt that only purchase a the rifle only tag.

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations? Neither agree nor disagree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 26, 2022 3:30 pm

Which best describes your position Somewhat agree
regarding the proposed statewide elk
management plan?

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I am happy with most of the changes proposed and thank all those who have worked on this project. I do want to address two concerns that I have.

I do not agree with making the over the counter archery elk tag a bull only tag. This change does not increase opportunity or quality. The statewide average success rate for over the counter archery elk hunting is 11%. This is when either a bull or cow can be taken. This low of a success rate can not really be a large factor in quality management on units. If you make the tag a bull only tag the success rate will decrease even more.

This change would actually decrease opportunity giving a hunter a less likely chance of actually filling a tag in the field. Even if archery antlerless elk hunts are created for the same time period as the over the counter archery elk hunt it would not be a fair trade. First off by creating those hunts you are openly admitting that allowing cows to be harvested on the over the counter tag was not really affecting quality. Secondly, with two permits two elk could be harvested instead of one. Third, the opportunity cost to hunt cows with archery equipment was just raised in three different ways. First, I am now having to pay an application fee for the antlerless tag, second I am now having to pay two tag fees instead of one, and third I am now having to burn antlerless points to have the tag.

This recommended change to make over the counter archery elk permits bull only tags should not be approved because it does not meet the stated goals of the statewide elk plan to increase opportunity while maintaining quality.

It is shocking to me with such a comprehensive look at how to increase opportunity for elk hunters while maintaining quality that CWMUs were not asked to contribute anything to the hunting community which they benefit from. Last year 1141 Limited Entry bull elk permits were given to CWMUs. Of that only 142 were available to public hunters. That means that statewide only 12.5% of these highly sought after tags were available to the public hunter. This is because of the structure of the CWMU program where operators get to choose which tier of tag splits they want to participate in. The lowest tier, and most often chosen, is the 90/10 split. Meaning the CWMU keeps 90% of the tags offered to it and the public get the other 10%.

Again I am shocked that the Elk Plan committee did not address this or recommend that CWMUs be asked to help address the point creep problem. If this lowest tier split was changed to 80/20, where in, the number of permits given to the public was raised by just 10%, this would bring 85 more Limited Entry bull elk permits available to the resident public hunter. With over 30 of those permits going into the bonus point draw there by increasing the incentive for high point holders to apply for CWMUs and thereby get removed from the point pool.

If the statewide elk plan is going to change so many aspects of how elk

hunting takes place in Utah then the CWMUs should be asked to change as well.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime hunt proposals? This look great

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates? This two looks good.

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? I am glad to see definitions being made instead of more regulation.

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

It is shocking to me with such a comprehensive look at how to increase opportunity for elk hunters while maintaining quality that CWMUs were not asked to contribute anything to the hunting community which they benefit from. Last year 1141 Limited Entry bull elk permits were given to CWMUs. Of that only 142 were available to public hunters. That means that statewide only 12.5% of these highly sought after tags were available to the public hunter. This is because of the structure of the CWMU program where operators get to choose which tier of tag splits they want to participate in. The lowest tier, and most often chosen, is the 90/10 split. Meaning the CWMU keeps 90% of the tags offered to it and the public get the other 10%.

CWMUs should be asked to help address the point creep problem. If this lowest tier split was changed to 80/20, where in, the number of permits given to the public was raised by just 10%, this would bring 85 more Limited Entry bull elk permits available to the resident public hunter. With over 30 of those permits going into the bonus point draw there by increasing the incentive for high point holders to apply for CWMUs and thereby get removed from the point pool. This small 10% change would not even affect about a third of the current CWMUs with another third only having to give up 1-2 more permits and another third having to give up 3-4 more permits.

I would end by making it clear that I like the CWMU program. My family and myself have seen the benefits of it. I do however believe that with some much of how we big game hunt in Utah changed in the last 30 years it is now time for the CWMU program to make a change. A change that reflects the fact that the land is no longer the most valuable resource of the program but, as the CWMU operators know best, the tags are the most valuable resource of the program and these tags should be more equally split between the two benefiting parties.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 26, 2022 4:47 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

The only part I disagree with is making archery, bull only. I believe archery to be challenging enough as it is. I also think that the majority of archery hunters would rather take a bull, but settle only to fill a freezer. So this change would only take food from a family.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

Overall - I think the changes in the elk management plan are all mostly good ideas. More general-season any bull options is sorely needed.

One suggestion, - for the LE Archery Elk Hunts. Moving the season dates four days later is a good idea, but why not leave the season opener as-is instead of delaying it four days as well? So, instead of the (2023) dates being August 23 - Sept 19, start the archery hunt on the "normal" date of August 19.

One more suggestion - I think that Utah should adopt a draw-only tag allocation system for NR hunters for general season elk hunts. This follows suit with the majority of other western states.

Overall, I am pleased by the proposal in general.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 26, 2022 6:06 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

Need to give less tags and stop over hunting everything. The elk herd is the worst I've ever seen and it's been in the decline for years.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 26, 2022 6:30 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I disagree with making archery, bull only! It's already the most challenging hunt with success rates rights there with rifle even having the either sex option. Most archery hunters would rather shoot a bull anyway (more meat) but take what opportunity is given to fill there freezer. Taking the cow option away would definitely hurt.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 27, 2022 7:08 am

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I feel that the Dwr is all about increasing there revenue to pay for people to sit around the office, instead of out in the field doing what they need to. I do not feel that they care at all about the deer and elk herds. Splitting the archery hunt into buying two tags bull and cow is total b.s. Everybody tries to get a spike with their bow but since numbers are low especially where we hunt we usually end up with a cow to fill the freezer. No cap on the spike hunt will only cause over crowding which is what you say you want to help.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 27, 2022 10:40 am

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan? CUT MORE TAGS! Cut non resident tags and give them back to Utahans.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates? CUT MORE TAGS.
Cut non resident tags.

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

Many years ago Lee Robinson and I (both members of the AMM) worked hard to have a true primitive muzzle loading hunt. Round ball only, black powder only, and iron sights only. It is not a primitive muzzle loading hunt now. It has turned into a modern long range rifle loaded from the muzzle and it has ruined it for those of us who want to hunt with original style fire arms. Please, please give us old timers at least three days before these modern muzzle loaders start hunting with their range finders, scopes, sabots, modern jacked bullets with high BC bullets. Thank you. A Paul Mantz

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 28, 2022 1:33 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

Don't eliminate the 7.5 - 8 year age objective for all units. Units like Beaver, San Juan, and Plateau should retain age objectives geared specifically for trophy quality rather than hunting opportunity.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
October 30, 2022 2:57 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

We really need a primitive muzzleloading hunt again even if it is only for a few days. These modern muzzleloading rifles have destroyed the hunt for traditional black powder flintlock/percussion cap rifles that only use round balls. I have generally hunted with a traditional muzzleloading rifle, and my first deer was taken back in 1974 was with an old 54 caliber Lemah Trade gun. I would like to experience these days again. Modern hunting regulations have really hurt hunting for comment folks and families. Thank you for your time. Albert P Mantz

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
November 1, 2022 3:22 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I have hunted with traditional blackpowder muzzleloaders since the hunt in 1976 on the Boulder unit. I have hunted with Flintlock only for the last 20 years. With the current muzzleloading season, I am very much at a disadvantage when trying to hunt. I strongly agree with the proposal for primitive weapon regulations and urge the RAC's and the Wildlife Board to implement primitive hunt areas this coming season. I would further suggest that the late Muzzleloader season in November be restricted to Primitive muzzleloaders only. Two exceptional areas for primitive weapons would be the Boulder Plateau unit and the Pinevalley unit in the SW corner of the state. Urge you to approve the primitive proposals and implement them in as many areas as possible. Jim McConnell, Cedar City Utah.
harley.jmc@gmail.com

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Over the years I have proposed the very thing Gabe Patterson has proposed in the Technology Committee Recommendations. The only item different than Gabe's ideas was a flintlock only instead of cap lock and flintlock, but I can live with the way it is proposed, I shoot both. I would like to see this tried in a couple of areas for the first year or two to see how this works just like when the Muzzle Hunt started in the mid 70's, there were just a couple of areas where you could use the muzzle loaders. A good area that I would propose is the Bumble Bee Mountain area above New Harmony in Washington and Iron County, and you could call this area a restricted weapon area and just use the same hunt dates as the rest of the State. I have hunted with a Muzzle since about 1975 with my first hunt in the Boulder Mountains and have been shooting a flintlock rifle for over 20 years. I think this is one of the best ideas that has been proposed in years and I would love to see it implemented. Thanks, Ray Bentley, Cedar City, UT david.ray.bentley@gmail.com

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I agree that the demand for more opportunities in Utah for elk hunting has increased dramatically over the last 10-years. Increasing the allotment of tags and opening new hunting areas and timeframes for hunters is the best way to maximize opportunity for our growing state. I agree that changes need to be made but I do not think the proposal and current model maximizes the opportunity for tags to be utilized at the appropriate times. Managing an elk herd should be done in a way to maximize the growth and health of the upcoming generation, since elk herds are only as good by the calves that can replace them. The current hunt structure and the proposed changes put excessive pressure on the herds during actual breeding/conception, potentially delaying conception and leading to smaller, less healthy mothers and calves the following year. Which would have detrimental effects on the herds over multiple years.

It all comes down to these few points.

Perceived peak "rut" is between September 20th-27th studies have shown that the average conception of elk occurs somewhere between October 3rd & October 6th so perceived peak run is not peak breeding time.

The elk conception window is far later in the season than most people realize.

The breeding windows for cow elk are extremely narrow and can easily be missed.

Missing the breeding window will cause cow elk (which are seasonally polyestrous cyclers) to cycle again later in the year.

Later cycling causes calves to continue nursing late into the fall.

If cows nurse later, it will affect their ability to have "normal cycles".

Studies have shown that elk will not cycle if the cows have inadequate nutrition weight or increased stress.

The current proposal puts excessive pressure on elk herds when a majority are breeding.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

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Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

This management plan is not even close to being called management. Season dates, changes, two different seasons/weeks. Having Unlimited permits for youth AND the second week is RIDICULOUS. I'd rather have a draw system than have UNLIMITED permits in any general season Elk hunt. So my recommendation would be keep giving 15,000 any bull and 15,000 spike only permits and 15,000 YOUTH permits for either spike or any bull. THOSE WHO "WANT" ELK PERMITS WILL GET IN LINE OR ONLINE TO PURCHASE THEIR PERMITS, THAT IS THEIR "OPPORTUNITY." UNLIMITED tag suggestion is ASININE!! KEEP THE SAME THING WE'VE BEEN DOING. It's not about opportunity, its about management and having elk to hunt. PLEASE DO NOT Change the General season elk seasons or have two different rifle weeks. OR unlimited tags PERIOD for youth OR second week. I hunted the full season for rifle any bull this year and there is not enough elk for your "OPPORTUNITY" recommendation. You will ruin the elk herds and wildlife and the landscape if you do so. PLEASE KEEP THE SAME SEASON DATED AND NUMBERS FOR GENERAL SPIKE AND GENERAL ANY BULL AND LOWER THE QUOTA FOR YOUTH TO 15,000 INSTEAD OF UNLIMITED.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

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Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan? I applaud the Division, RAC, and Wildlife Board for their ongoing work. LE bull elk tags are very popular in Utah. The more tags that can be issued the better. I agree with less days for Early rifle LE bull elk hunts. Thank you for listening to the hunters that submitted feedback from the survey.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations? Strongly agree

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

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Dear RAC Members,

I am writing these comments in opposition to the proposed changes to Administrative Rule R657-5 as recommended by the DWR Technology Committee.

First I would like to commend you and the DWR for creating the HAMS Elk Hunt on the Barney Top. I had the opportunity to participate in that hunt this year with a relative who drew the tag. It is a challenging area and a very challenging hunt which is awesome, and I think it is exactly what you had in mind when you created it. I also understand this hunt strategy was also intended to help reduce point creep for limited entry elk hunting.

In my opinion this hunt should remain the way it is with no further weapon restrictions for the following reasons.

- a. It is already a challenging enough hunt with the current restrictions. I would assume the success ratio is fairly low especially for a good bull.
- b. The current restrictions will be more effective in reducing point creep because the proposed restrictions cater to a very limited and select group of hunters. Those hunters could still hunt with those weapons on a HAMS hunt without an unfair advantage.
- c. The new restrictions could result in a greater number of wounded animals and possibly multiple wounded animals from a single hunter with the extended season dates.

The HAMS hunt with the current restrictions is a new hunt and recommend that you wait a few more years before you consider making further changes to such a new hunt.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to the RAC process. We are lucky to live in such a great State with so many hunting opportunities.

Sincerely,

Dave Black

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I think most of this is good and heading in the right direction. I think that if 76 percent of the limited entry applicants are wanting to rifle hunt and the early rifle hunt is the coveted tag, we shouldn't take all 4 days from the early hunt. Take two and take two from the mid season hunt or take 2 from the early, one from muzzleloader and one from the mid.

I think splitting the archery hunt into two hunts would increase opportunity for people willing to challenge themselves on the earlier two weeks of the archery hunt.

The general season hunts are your opportunity hunts and the limited entry hunts are the quality hunts. So to create more opportunity to hunt I think it would be good to make the spike and cow hunts hams or restricted weapons hunts and issue more tags.

I think twelve year olds should be taken out of the pool for limited entry tags. They are too young to appreciate those tags and it can ruin them on hunting anyway. Let them shoot smaller animals in easier to hunt places. It's not right for them to be drawing tags that people have waited 20 + years to draw.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

See comments in elk management plan segment.

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I think it's long overdue to restrict technology. I think all general season hunts should be restricted weapons as outlined in the video. The limited entry and once in a lifetime hunts I think should be addressed a little less strict though. There's senior citizens and people with certain disabilities that make it near impossible to hunt since of these animals they've waited their whole lives for. I don't agree with drones and night vision or thermal optics but I think the technology used to be able to shoot long range; turrets, range finders, slider sights, crossbows, etc. should be allowed on limited entry and once in a lifetime hunts to help people harvest the animals they've dreamed of their whole lives.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
November 5, 2022 10:03 am

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Please pass the technology committee's proposal as presented by the division! It is a win-win! It preserves opportunities for hunters to use their modern gear while creating situations for primitive weapon use. If I were to make an amendment, I would define muzzleloaders as, "Only capable to be loaded from the muzzle, firing a patched round ball with loose powder by means of an external, side mounted ignition system".

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

The bull hunt seems to have a later rut than in the past. The big bull hunt needs to start later in the year, the muzzle loader hunters hit the prime rut in the Manti.

I strongly disagree with the recommendations to the muzzle loader and archery weapon changes. This is a really dumb idea, this will lead to a higher number of wounded animals. The current equipment leads to cleaner kills. This is defiantly an idea that is not a sportsman, and defiantly someone that is not concerned about the well-being of wildlife.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts?

Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I strongly disagree with the recommendations to the muzzle loader and archery weapon changes. This is a really dumb idea, this will lead to a higher number of wounded animals. The current equipment leads to cleaner kills. This is defiantly an idea that is not a sportsman, and defiantly someone that is not concerned about the well-being of wildlife.

The trail camera changes last year are not doing anything. I strongly support the use of Wi-Fi cameras, however a non Wi-Fi camera does not give a hunter an advantage.

We need people that hunt and have concern for wildlife, the common sense is not part of you mission statement. I hope you use common sense in making decisions.

Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?

Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I strongly disagree with the following changes to any bull any legal weapon elk hunt. #1 making the any bull elk hunt that is currently a single hunt of 13 days into two separate hunts only 7 days long. #2 give out 15k tags for the first hunt in the first week. #3 give unlimited tags to the second hunt in the second week.

Here are my reasons to leave any bull elk any legal weapon hunt alone. First, this huge demand increase is a result of COVID as Dax Mangus mentioned in the presentation, in the past it took a couple months and now it takes hours to sell out of all elk tags. This is not a long term demand and we should not be drastically changing the elk hunts and Utah's elk strategy around this. Second, there are already too many people. Up by flaming gorge where I hunt you are required to drop your trailer before the hunt starts otherwise you are camping on the road. The proposed changes will make this much worse. Third, this hunt already has a very low success rate. In the Big Game Annual Report of 2020 under "Statewide elk harvest statistics, Utah 19761-2020" in 2020 only 4214 bull elk were taken in the general season harvest and there were 40102 hunters afield which is only a 10.5% success rate. Adding unlimited tags will only decrease the success rate in this hunt. Fourth, with 15k tags in the first hunt and unlimited tags in the second hunt we are increasing stress and pressure on the elk which I think will ultimately start the decline of our elk herd populations due to the thousands of hunters and elk not having safe places to rest except on private land. Then elk hunting will really be in a pickle when the herd numbers decline. Fifth, I believe there will be more conflicts with private landowners as there are no safe spots for the elk and well meaning elk hunters will take a not so good shot at an elk near the private/public boundaries and the wounded elk crosses over into private land.

Elk and other animals are a resource to be used and taken care of but it is a limited resource. Therefore, I object to any and all hunts where there are an unlimited number of tags that treat elk as an unlimited resource. The great American bison were once treated as an unlimited resource and as such were almost extinct. Let's make sure history does not repeat itself.

Please do not go forward with the changes to the any bull any weapon elk hunt. I do acknowledge there is more demand for elk hunting, though I think it's only temporary and short term and to solve this I would suggest we make the elk hunts where hunters are only eligible to do an elk hunt every 2 years. This will protect our elk more and still gives opportunity to all those who want to elk hunt every other year.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I am concerned with the proposed elk management plan for the following reasons.

1. Splitting the hunt into two one week hunts makes it so there is a shorted hunt period to participate in elk hunting.
2. By drastically increasing the number of elk tags (for the first week) will make the public hunting areas even more crowded and difficult to find camping spots let alone hunting spots.
3. By creating an unlimited number of elk tags (for the second week) will do nothing more than continue to decrease the elk herds and continue to make elk hunts, beginning next season and forward, even more difficult.

I don't believe that we need to make the general elk hunt as difficult to obtain a tag as our limited entry hunts, but I do have great concern in drastically increasing the general elk tag amounts. I say this as a relatively new hunter (5ish years) that has low hopes of actually acquiring enough limited entry points to participate in limited entry elk hunts, and wish to still have at least a chance of being successful in both participating in each general season elk hunt annually and being successful in harvesting an elk for myself occasionally.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

I do not agree with shortening the early any weapon elk hunts to 5 days. People apply for many years and sometimes decades to get these permits. I think limiting them to only 5 days is wrong. The DWR says that most of the elk killed are in the first few days, so what does it hurt to let the few remaining permit holders have those few extra days to hunt.

I also do not like having the "points only" period for the big game draw to be the same time as the antlerless application period. what will happen is all the people that get on to buy points for big game will now decide to apply for antlerless tags even though they probably had no intention of apply for antlerless permits in the first place. which in turn will cause even more point creep in the antlerless draws.

I also think that the 4500 multi season spike elk permit limit is too high. We have entirely too many people hunting all three seasons. I would like to see the multi season limited to 2500.

I disagree with adding a December archery LE Elk hunt. These animals need some time to recover after a brutal fall season. we chase these animals from August to November. leave them alone in the winter.

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I strongly disagree with limiting muzzleloaders to a 1X scope. A 1x scope is actually a demagnification from the human eye and makes objects look farther away. The difference in harvest success for muzzleloader when they had 1X scope regulations and now when we can use a magnified scopes is negligible. That is right from the DWR. So, if it's not going to save deer or elk, why do it? One thing a magnified scope does is allow better aiming so that less animals are wounded. I would propose a scope magnification limit of 4x.

I would also like to see a regulation in that a muzzleloader has to have a one-piece ramrod that is stored alongside of the barrel. All the long-range muzzleloaders have collapsible ramrods that do not attach to the muzzleloader. This would do more for making a muzzleloader a short-range weapon than a 1X scope would.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan? Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan? When division officials make comments like (@34:55) that the max average bull elk size is 320 BC it creates trust and PR problems. The average BC score on 5.5-6.0 elk in Utah is much higher than 320. Please push them to address these type of comments - it is not helpful. With the option for more last-minute alternate draws, recommend letting 5 to 10 of the alternates know in advance that they are alternates and could be notified if and once they alternate tag becomes available. Please vote against the Paunsaugunt changing to any bull, this just contributes to the point creep. Manage it for the same 5.5-6.0 age class. I has been and can be restored to a great elk unit. We should minimize spike hunts to maximize the number of 5.5-6.0 age bulls on the LE hunts. Propose resting units every other year by not having spike hunts on even/odd years depending on the units (ie Nebo spike on odd years and not even, Wasatch spike on even and not odd). Please vote against all spring cow elk hunts. The only reason to hunt spring cows would be in the case of serious overpopulation issues. With he state being under objective, minimize cow hunts and oppose spring hunts.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposals for the 2023–24 once-in-a-lifetime hunts? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed hunting seasons and dates? Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? We need to continue to support fair chase activities, best to implement restrictions before they become standard practice.

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

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I believe this plan is set to manage the hunters but not the elk. It gives plenty of opportunity for hunters but it would be nice to have a realistic chance at harvesting an animal. I wish we could manage the elk for what is best for the elk. Not manage for the people.
If antlerless elk tags are for management purpose then we should keep the provision of killing an elk if we have a deer tag in the same area.

Also seems to be favoring bow hunters. I no they are less efficient at killing but to give a bow hunter a tag for cow purchased separately and bull purchased separately is crazy, one or the other. (Looks to be a way to make more money is all.) They should not be able to buy both. Bow hunters kill a lot a cow elk. I bow hunted elk because I could kill a cow not a bull. All cow elk hunts should be in a draw and managed for herd size no matter the weapon type.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I really think we need to bite the bullet and put the multi-season general elk tags in a draw. Competition for them is going to get far worse now - rifle hunters who want two weeks to hunt instead of one will start going after them, in addition to everyone else now who already does.

I would also like the RACs/Board to consider an unlimited two-season general any bull elk tag that would allow a hunter to hunt the archery and late rifle seasons. It seems to make sense because both of those hunts are unlimited quota anyway, and it can provide a little more opportunity to those who aren't able to get the full multi-season tag.

I really like making the general archery elk tag bull-only, with additional cow tags offered during the same season. It's fair to make archery hunters spend their points on a cow tag like everyone else does in the draws.

Thanks to everyone who was involved.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

November 2022 RAC Proposals Feedback
November 10, 2022 12:13 am

Which best describes your position Strongly disagree
regarding the proposed statewide elk
management plan?

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

I strongly disagree with these proposals. I'm getting tired of the changes that seem to always make it worse instead of better. The biggest concern I have is dropping the limited entry hunt to 5 days. Nobody in my family has been able to draw a limited entry tag or a once in a lifetime tag and now that my wife should draw her very first elk tag next year, you're going to change it after all of the money and years of waiting. The quality on the Wasatch unit has went down and everyone I know and have talked to feel the same way, but for some reason you're talking about possibly adding a late hunt and even allowing the general season elk tags to be unlimited. Anyone who has been up there and put in the time watching the deer and elk know that it has went down hill. After the first hunt starts, a lot of the elk and deer drop into private property or move off, making them extremely hard to find. So saying things like, a lot of people harvest their elk within three to five days, like it isn't a big deal is very upsetting. No hunt is guaranteed and shortening it will just make it that much harder. This seriously has to stop.

During the power point it made me extremely angry when you brought up what it would take to draw a limited entry elk tag if you started putting in for these hunts at the age of 12. The power point showed one unit, I believe, could take up to 130 years to draw and made it seem unfair to the youth. But I say, what about all the people who have been waiting their turn? I understand getting young people involved, but cheating other people out of their opportunity, that they have been waiting years for is not the right thing to do. I started hunting when I was 14 years old and have been waiting for my chance. Every year I look at the numbers that it could take to draw the deer unit I'm putting in for, and there is a chance I won't even draw that unit in my lifetime. I'm tired of hearing how bad the youth have it when we have all been waiting our turn. Even if I can draw a deer tag, I don't think I'll even get a chance to hunt a limited entry elk unit. Nobody in my family has drawn a tag that is a limited entry or once in a lifetime. I think you need to stop adding more to the units that are already over hunted and stop giving priority based on age. Everyone should be on the same playing field and when you go off of peoples age and exclude others based on that, that is AGE DISCRIMINATION!!

My wife's grandfather passed away this year and it was sad because he never got the opportunity to draw. We all think this year would have been the year he drew his once in a lifetime tag, but it never happened. I feel that you are discriminating against people based on their age. When looking how you already set aside tags for the youth on the general deer hunt, and I believe this year you also offered general season unlimited elk tags for the youth, it shows priority based on age and I feel that this needs to stop and be looked into. My father is now getting close to 70 years old and is still trying to draw his limited entry deer tag. Not wanting to go to far back, but when the discussion came up about lowering the age to 12, there were a lot of people, including myself, that thought it should be left alone. While talking with a staff member from the Springville office years ago, they informed us that they wouldn't be changing the age to 12 when it came to the limited entry draw or once in a lifetime, but just the general season. This ended up being a lie. One of the reasons I have lost faith in how things

are being ran is because of this.

We all know that half the tags on a limited entry unit go to the people with the highest points and the other half is a free for all like the lotto. Well there are a lot of people that bank on that and have hope that this year might be the year they get lucky. Then you went and added more people to the pot when the system was already maxed out! Then you complain and sit hear and say how you're trying to create more opportunity and that hunters are just wanting their cake and to eat it to. Well if that's the case and it's not just about selling more tags, then why would you go and add more people to a system that is overloaded already?? And then you talk about trying to come up with ideas on trying to create more opportunity which then makes me sit here and wonder for who? I do not understand why you guys have allowed some of these decisions to go through.

One year you allowed the youth to hunt nine days and we were only allowed five. It cost my dad a deer of a lifetime. We found a nice deer on the last day of the hunt, but since it was a shortened year, he has to continue to wait and hopefully draw a limited tag to have a chance for what he was cheated out of. Now I'm worried your going to cheat my wife out of her chance by cutting the hunt in almost half. I noticed during the powerpoint it was mentioned trying to allow youth to hunt longer on their hunts because they have school and extra curricular activities. But what about all the people who have full time jobs, kids, and various other responsibilities? For a lot of us we are lucky to get any time off and usually get stuck only getting to hunt the weekends. Adults also have responsibilities that they can't miss where missing some extra curricular activities as a kid won't cost you a job!

So I ask that this does not go through and you quit trying to add more hunts and leave it alone. I don't see how this is helping the wildlife. I'm out in the field countless hours every year and watching the quality deteriorate and yet you want to create more hunts and more people in the field. I truly believe that the state is more concerned with making money then in protecting Utah's hunting heritage.

These are my thoughts on several different issues around hunting here in Utah that I wanted to voice my opinion on. I realize these are not all directly related to the most recent proposals, but I still wanted to voice my concerns.

**Which best describes your position
regarding the proposed hunting
seasons and dates?**

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed hunting seasons and dates?

I strongly disagree with these proposals. I'm getting tired of the changes that seem to always make it worse instead of better. The biggest concern I have is dropping the limited entry hunt to 5 days. Nobody in my family has been able to draw a limited entry tag or a once in a lifetime tag and now that my wife should draw her very first elk tag next year, you're going to change it after all of the money and years of waiting. The quality on the Wasatch unit has went down and everyone I know and have talked to feel the same way, but for some reason you're talking about possibly adding a late hunt and even allowing the general season elk tags to be unlimited. Anyone who has been up there and put in the time watching the deer and elk know that it has went down hill. After the first hunt starts, a lot of the elk and deer drop into private property or move off, making them extremely hard to find. So saying things like, a lot of people harvest their elk within three to five days, like it isn't a big deal is very upsetting. No hunt is guaranteed and shortening it will just make it that much harder. This seriously has to stop.

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Which best describes your position regarding the Technology Committee's recommendations?

Neither agree nor disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I think that muzzleloaders should not have scopes over one power. When looking back, I remember muzzleloaders that could shoot out to 100 to 200 yards max. But now I'm seeing guys on the range push out to 700 yards with theirs. I think that once a muzzleloader can shoot out to those distances, that to me is more of a rifle at that point.

I don't believe that certain weapons should be restricted to only certain areas of a unit. Take for instance deer hunting on the Wasatch unit from Alpine to Spanish Fork. To restrict the face of that unit to archery, like it is farther north, only makes it harder to hunt by making more rules to follow and spending more money buying more equipment like a bow. I feel that the firearm safety rule of knowing your target and beyond is the hunters responsibility and we shouldn't be micromanaged.

On any legal weapons, I can understand limiting or restricting scopes that can detect heat and things like that. Having a normal rifle with a 3x9 scope shouldn't be changed or restricted. One of the biggest reasons is because of the cost it can be for people to change their setup. More importantly some people have physical limitations where using a bow may not be possible. I know hunters who want to do archery, but they are limited to having a scope because of their age and eye sight. This helps them to make a clean and ethical shot.

These are my thoughts on several different issues around hunting here in Utah that I wanted to voice my opinion on. I realize these are not all directly related to the most recent proposals, but I still wanted to voice my concerns.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed statewide elk management plan?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the elk management plan?

Utah's biggest challenge is Population growth: seems to me that opportunity and point creep are the main focus of these changes, OUR POPULATION IS GROWING, ITS TIME FOR A SOLUTION, Elk: EITHER ELIMINATE THE SPIKE HUNT ON ALTERNATE YEARS OR KILL ALL THE BULLS OFF TO GIVE OPPERTUNITY AND ELIMINATE POINT CREEP. more BULLS equal more oppertunity and less point creep. most people that I talk to want quality over quantity, I see alot of wasted habitat for elk and deer in this state, pull your heads out of your butts and start building better habitats, the San Rafel desert is a great place to start. Utilize the Dedicated Hunter program better. I know many people that would dig springs, plant natural foliage. Deer, solution to more numbers, 3 point or better hunts. 5 day seasons across for ALL SEASONS, THIS INCLUDES ARCHERY, TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE LEAPS AND BOUNDS FOR ARCHERY. the holdover from one year of this type of hunting will provide more success.

I am against any tag increases
i have been a resident of utah all 45 years of my life.
i have drawn all of the limited entry hunts
I Have hunted all my life, bears, lions. everything
I have been more successful on OTC TAGS THAN LIMITED ENTRY TAGS.
OPPERTUNITY IS A STATE OF MIND, A 5 DAY HUNT IS STILL A HUNT, GIVE THE ANIMALS A TIME TO REST. have 2ed season hunts at 5 days for more oppertunity