

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I would like to see the Beaver unit stay at the 2023 buck number recommendation. In other words no increase.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I've spent around 80 days in the field on the pine valley unit this past year. I strongly disagree with the proposed tag increases and here is why... 2 years ago the pine valley unit cut tags to 1/3 of its normal amount. The drought was hard on deer and I think that was the right choice. In that drought year I hardly saw any doe with fawns. Cutting tags in my opinion saved a lot of deer but I realize opportunity is a big deal. Raising the tags last year I think was necessary to have that middle ground and I think because of tag cuts the deer herd was healthy enough to deal with it. I know that tag numbers are still lower than they historically have been, but I would really like to see the tag numbers stay as they were last year. A tag increase of 1,100 in the pine valley then adding 4 more late season muzzle loader tags including the one won at the expo could really hurt our recovering deer herd. Remember it wasn't too long ago we were in a multi-year drought. I appreciate your time and hard work in trying to better our deer herds.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 28, 2024 10:08 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I strongly oppose the notion to increase tags on the pine valley deer unit. Please keep it at what it is. I know tag numbers are still lower than historical numbers, but our deer herd is not what it was historically. Please keep this in mind and dont raise tag numbers on the pine valley unit

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 28, 2024 10:18 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat disagree

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

Please keep the pine valley permit numbers as they are. There is no reason to increase them. Are deer herd is not what it was even 5-6 years ago.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I do NOT agree with tag increases on Zion and pine valley! There is 88,820 acres of summer range (archery range) on the Zion unit. Your proposal suggests 400 more archery specific tags on the Zion. Your 2023 total number archery tags were 359.. a 400 tag increase goes to 759 total archery hunters in the field. Based off the public land access on the unit divided by hunters, that equals 117 acres per hunter. That's 1 hunter per every .18 acres. I've hunted this unit for 10 years. I've watched a decline in quality of bucks but more importantly, a decline in fawns and does. This past year in 2023 I saw a promising amount of fawns. And now we're going to have a 400 tag increase on the archery hunt alone? That's flat out ridiculous guys. I cannot and will not support that.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** I agree with a non resident antler gathering season. But all species are shed by May 1st. Make that date February 1st-May 1st. Let the residents get to gather antlers in their home state and units without being flooded by non residents.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 11:20 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

We need to keep tag numbers as is in pine valley. I know they are still lowered than they were 5 years ago but our deer herd is struggling. Until we get accurate harvest reports we should keep tag numbers the same as they were last year. The winter range numbers are not nearly as good as they have been. I think because of drought there are not many 3-4 year old deer we are missing that age class on the pine valley unit because the drought was so hard on deer 3 years ago. I'd like the division to please consider keeping tag numbers as they were last year.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 12:56 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Some units the division is asking 700 to 1000 buck tag increases. Can we gradually increase them like 100 to 200 more buck tags and see how the hunt goes and then gradually increase them again the next year. These huge jumps like 700 to 1000 more on some units is ridiculous. Everything in moderation. These big jumps is to much in one year.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Your own numbers for the southwest desert are 2,600 deer. You have a buck to doe ratio of 19.5, that is 507 bucks, you want to issue 475 tags? That is ridiculous, i am a lifetime license holder 4596, i have not killed a deer in 15 years because the quality bucks that were once in this state are gone. I have been told by Jason Nicholes the southern unit biologist that the success rate is low but what about a year that is an anomaly like the winter last year? None tags get filled and there goes the deer herd for good. Its already been down for 30 years, now you want to wipe it out over money. Surely wildlife is more important than money, maybe not to the politicians, but to us sportsmen.



**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I am lifetime license holder 4563 i have been hunting the southwest desert since i was 16, I am 67 now. You are wanting to raise the tags by 150 in that unit and it has already been down for 30 years, what are you trying to do finish the deer herd off? That is what will happen, there are not 475 bucks in that unit, i know that for a fact, i am down in that unit every year for the whole hunt plus other times of the year camping. If you raise the tags you are not protecting wildlife for future generations, sure you will get your money now, but at what cost?

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 1:41 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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

I agree that the southern region can handle the additional permits. Just last year I saw more bucks than I've seen in 5 years of hunting my home unit. Not just young bucks but several really mature deer. I also have family that's really wanting to get into hunting who would be thrilled at the opportunity to harvest just a buck. Nothing special. I for one are for more opportunities. We only have so many seasons. For these reasons I am in favor of these proposals.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat disagree

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

SWD Unit - it is hard to justify recommendations without accurate data. We have no collard animals on the unit. This limits data. Current classifications and counts are very difficult on this unit. It is unique and should not be lumped in with other data from neighboring units. The ratios and population data seems to conflict with in the field observations. The increases could be 10k and it would not affect the numbers on such a small population. The quality of the experience is very poor due mostly to such a small population. Adding crowding for small populations is not a healthy experience regardless of the number or quality of bucks. Collar data would be a great advantage in determining the overall health of such a small herd of animals in such a large unit.

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat disagree

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

It is my understanding that tooth data is voluntarily submitted, not required. It seems the age data would be skewed as it is likely that only the hunters killing large mature animals are interested in the age. Young bulls or sub-mature bulls are possibly not added to the equation as frequently and therefore the age classification is skewed? Is there a better way to get an overall evaluation of harvested animals to more accurately determine objectives?

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 2:09 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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

I am encouraged to see some slight permit number increases on the L.E. Elk Units: Beaver East, Fillmore-Pahvant, Monroe Mtn., and the San Juan. I respectfully appeal to you to allot (1) additional permit to the non-resident applicants for the "Early Mature Bull Rifle" hunt so that those non-residents with 25+ points can draw a permit as a Max Point Holder rather than there just being (1) permit allocated that goes to the general pool on every one of these units. I feel that this request is well within reason. Thank you for your consideration.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly agree

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

I agree with all proposed tag numbers except for the southern region. We should be increasing tags according to the biologists recommendations, not the reduced division recommendations. The Pine Valley and Zion units are managed as GENERAL units not a limited entry. That being said as a general unit the tag numbers are decided based off of buck to doe ratios. Buck to doe ratios means any buck that is easily identified during they're counts. It DOES NOT mean only mature bucks. The pine valley and zion have grown in population and the data shows there will be an increase in bucks this year. Without the increase in tags the buck to doe ratio will fall out of the set parameters. Which is what everyone wants. But if that's what you want why not make these units limited entry?? Either make the units limited entry or stop complaining when the division asks for an increase of tags.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Our deer heard is still way down in the Pine Valley area. A lot smaller increase in tag numbers for the Pine Valley would be appreciated. I understand we offered a lot more tags in 2017, 2018, but heard numbers were so much higher then. The numbers of deer in the lost peak and enterprise reservoir areas are scary low compared to just a few years ago.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** I live around the Enterprise area of the Pine Valley unit and are deer numbers are way down from just a few years ago. Any doe tags for the area are too many. Please cut land owner tags also.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 4:40 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Strongly disagree  
**regarding the buck deer permit**  
**recommendations for 2024?**

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I strongly disagree with the tag recommendations because just because we have seen one so called "better" year of survival (from what I seen last year is not the case) in the southern region why would we add more tags just to kill most of the "so called survivals" off this year. If it continues what will my kids have to look forward to in 4-7 years to come.

My dad had a late season general deer tag last year for Southwest desert, a unit I have grown up hunting my entire life, to say we were severely disappointed is a huge understatement.

I was on the unit with boots on the ground from July-November and the amount of deer I seen was no where near the amount being advertised.

I just feel the unit is terribly downhill and I understand there are not many tags available on the unit (which is a blessing seeing where the herd is at) I feel it would be best to keep the numbers where they are to see if we can get the herd thriving again for years to come and the future generations of hunters have a great experience.

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree



**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I Agree overall with the recommendations as we need to be making sure youth get opportunities to have tags. And Increasing tags increases that.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** I Agree overall with this as well so that people have more of a chance to hunt bulls with point creep being such a problem.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** Regarding Cow Elk hunts I don't think Cow elk should be hunted at all on any unit besides in some private land instances. Keep elk growing and don't kill cows.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** I agree that people should be educated before going shed hunting and I agree that there shouldn't be seasons except for non residents as that allows the residents of Utah to have first crack at it.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 8:49 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Age class of bucks is too low especially in Monroe and vernal

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** Far too many youth September hunt tags

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 29, 2024 10:04 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Let's let the deer recover for another year. Mule Deer are struggling and we need to let them build back so we have opportunity in the future. Thank you.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations?** Great work!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** Nice.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** Please consider relocating the antlerless animals rather than hunting them. Let's grow these populations.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations?** Relocate antlerless individuals to repopulate areas that suffered last winter.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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

Southern Utah Deer numbers on the Beaver and Southwest Desert are extremely low. Talk to anyone who has been out looking for deer this winter on our normal winter ranges. The numbers are significantly lower. In some areas there are no deer! The DWR's methods for determining deer populations are flawed and have been for many years. If you feel you just have to raise numbers don't go more than 5 to 10 percent otherwise you will destroy any increase we have gained the last two years.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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

Why are you determined to destroy one of the best elk unit in the western US, the Beaver unit? You need to cut harvest numbers by 50%. Your age class and Elk quality will continue to decline if you keep allowing the number of permits given the last two years.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 30, 2024 8:50 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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

I don't agree with the way population of deer statistics are calculated! I spend a lot of time in the mountains and don't see the numbers that are reported. Buck to doe ratios are not that high. More consideration should be given for mature buck hunting not just yearling bucks when doing your permit calculations. Hunters should be encouraged to not harvest yearling bucks .

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 30, 2024 9:55 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat agree

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

I agree that we should increase permits. The column where you were showing how high you could go and still meet the objective was interesting to see. I'm going to trust you guys. Please make sure we don't over hunt some of those southern units and drop the buck to doe ratio lower than the objective.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** You need to give out more permits on limited entry units, there are plenty of good bucks dying of old age because they never broke the magic 200" mark.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

So first thing I would like to point out is that he contradicts himself for the northern units saying that hunters had low success rates because of harsh winter but your numbers show more than the recommended ratio for bucks to does so how does that work when success goes down saying the population took a hit from the winter but the counts are still higher than normal. That leads to my next comment on how is it you can get an accurate count on deer numbers and buck to doe ratio when you count them during the rut when the deer are traveling to winter grounds and a lot of those deer move to different units so potentially you are counting deer on a specific unit that could summer on a completely different unit, you can't get accurate numbers that way it just doesn't work. I really wish the public would be listened to when it comes to permits and the health of the deer heard we are out in huge numbers seeing what it looks like on a daily basis and it doesn't matter what we think or see it's just what you think your data says is what it is but it's not at all accurate and the harvest of bucks does contribute to the health of the deer population, you kill 30,000 and that number is generous for how bad the success rates are deer in the state that is a pretty big hit if we are below objective on the minimum number of deer we want (400,000+) when it's well below that number anyway. I had a rifle deer tag last year on the fishlake the numbers that your data show do not add up I hunted the whole hunt from morning to dark covering basically the whole u it trying to find something to shoot, I did pass on a couple of younger bucks early in the hunt which turns out was a huge mistake because after the 3rd or 4th day I couldn't find a buck to shoot if my life depended on it, it came down to last light I finally found a 2 year old buck to shoot, all in all the buck numbers are not even close to what you say they are, they might be when you count them during the rut when deer all congregate from 2 different units but when they split and head back to the summer range the counts are way off.

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Now this is a whole different animal (dad joke for the win) I honestly can only speak for the fishlake in particular. This year was absolutely pathetic I know a few people that had tags one didn't harvest a bull the other one harvested a small 4 point bull because that was the only opportunity he had, my other friend was in the same boat harvested a small 5 point because there was nothing to chase these were 2-4 year old bulls, the numbers are just in the garbage for that unit between the spike hunt and the deer hunts I maybe saw 4-6 bulls and nothing that was even worth taking a second look at, I also hope that not one person buys a multi-season spike elk permit I'm really bitter about this one, let's raise the price of just a single hunt a few dollars but raise the price of the multi season astronomically that is an absolute joke and then say it's not about the money when clearly that is a huge money grab. One more thing I'm pretty sure the age classes are all made up and not data driven at all I had a friend shoot a bull on the boulder unit he was having the same problem as the fishlake not being able to find a mature bull to shoot he shot a smaller bull 3-4 year old age class and the tooth data came back saying it was a 7 year old bull, the antlers didn't show that age the. Body size surely didn't reflect that type of age.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.**

You guys way over step your bounds you are here to manage living breathing animals once that antler falls on the ground and I pick it up is my personal property not yours i can do with it what I please the over reach is unreal

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
March 31, 2024 4:04 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

How can you blame the population on weather when Colorado is doing fine and why would you recommend all these new regulations on units like the boulder like shorter seasons but then nearly double the permits that tells me it's all about money and not the deer herd

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 1, 2024 9:56 am

**Which best describes your position**      Strongly disagree  
**regarding the buck deer permit**  
**recommendations for 2024?**

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

First off, the "new information higher buck to doe ratios decreases herd productivity" is highly speculative! Have you ever ran test unit scenarios of similar units carrying higher buck/doe ratios vs lower buck/doe ratios? There are so many monkey wrenches thrown into managing different units, to come to that conclusion as fact is misleading at best. This would definitely support your numbers increase for the southern part of the state for sure though. Why aren't you increasing tags on the Kamas and Thousand Lake? Both of those units are way over objective and you are decreasing tags??? Don't you want to see those herds flourish with lower buck/doe ratios??

Also, coming off the heels of one of our lowest harvest totals you are planning on increasing permits? On top of that you have decreasing fawn and doe survival and you are ramping up tag numbers?

I honestly don't care how many buck tags you are issuing, [REDACTED] at this point make them unlimited. According to the division we will have a healthier deer herd if we get rid of excess bucks anyways...

If these recommendations are data driven the division seriously needs to find some different data sets like maybe observation and communication with local sportsman, land owners, ranchers, etc. Have you ever thought that maybe the division is collecting/interpreting data wrong and you do not have the animals you think you have? Maybe the division does not know how to grow deer? Sounds like the only thing that grows deer is mother nature according to the reason for population increases and decreases.

At the end of the day I have watched deer in my lifetime drop drastically over the last 30 years. If the objective for the southern region general deer is 103,000 (give or take) and by the divisions numbers we are currently at 81,000 (give or take) you have one of two problems. Either your carrying capacity/population objective is 20-40% below what it should be or your model you are using to get an estimated population is broke, kind of like your permit calculator. I am fully aware that we need does to build the deer population as well as to maintain the deer population. So, the one thing I am pleased to see is that you are not recommending increases in doe harvest (even though I'm sure your permit calculator calls for it).

The reason the division gets so much flack for increasing permits is because we still have enough people around that can remember how many deer used to be on the landscape. So when we are told that we can afford to harvest more bucks from the population, most of us that can remember when deer numbers were at carrying capacity call BS! Its like looking up at blue sky and telling us its yellow, and we have to look harder to see it. I guess eventually us "old timers" will stop giving a crap and quit caring, and you can pass off low deer numbers as high or adequate deer numbers.

On a positive note, the elk and antelope are doing great. Keep up the good work on those species!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?**

Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.**

Just get on with it and outlaw shed hunting in the state. At least then it would be more black and white when you are breaking the law and not speculating if you are breaking a law. What the ████ are we doing???

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 1, 2024 10:39 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I support these tag increases. I personally am ok not shooting a small deer even if I dont fill my tag, but I have lots of friends and family that don't care what size of deer they are hunting they just want to be able to go hunting. With the tag cuts over the last 5 years its made it really tough to draw tags. The data shows we can increase tags so I would support that. especially on the pine valley unit.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** I think its great we are able to give out more elk tags. I really like the direction we are going with late season archery hunts. Its tough but at leased there is an option people dont have to wait a life time to be able to draw a really good unit if they want to take that risk.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat disagree

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

Please do not increase the numbers of permits so drastically on the southern units!!! Hunters want quality hunts, not quantity hunts. We have one good year so let's add almost 1000 permits on the Zion unit! Seems crazy to me. How about recommendations lagging one year behind the data to see if the numbers really add up and the trend is going in the right direction. As we have seen the last two years, weather conditions vary greatly from year to year. I would much rather wait one more year for a quality hunt than go have the chance to harvest a two point because the fawn crop survival rate was good last year. Your Paunsaugunt management is above recommendations of 40% over 5 years old. How come you don't issue a few more permits based on the increase in that population? Afterall, they are in the southern region as well. When are you going to again try a 3 point or better on some units. Everyone I talk to wants that. The mentality of hunters has changed since 20 years ago. Then give limited permits for yearling bucks if you want to manage the unit's buck to doe ratio. Thanks for your consideration.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I spend more time than the average guy out in the mountains. This is ridiculous. The reason i got into hunting when i was 12 years old 13 years ago the reason i fell in love with hunting Family was a huge part of it spending time in the mountains. Second the long days of hunting big mature mule deer with my dad. There is nothing more exciting than getting a chance at a big mature deer. Everyday we hunted a great buck it wasn't like it is now and shot that first buck you see. That is the reason many people my generation fell in love with it we caught it at the right time. Now the generation below me didn't get to hunt big mature Muleys the drive isn't there. I feel terrible for my kids what's is going to be there when my boys get old enough to hunt. The tags should be cut or the units shut down I'd rather hunt ever 5-6years and hunt a decent deer than to get a tags every 2 years and see tiny 1-2 year old deer die. The future of hunting with be gone that's why 5 the younger kids done like to hunt what's the fun in hunting a week hunting hard and the other thing you can find it's a 2 year old buck. Ridiculous please listen to the sportsman

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** So I'm proposing to bring back the GS Elk Multi season permit as a restricted weapons hunt only. Compound bow/rifle with no scopes and we already have Muzzleloaders restricted. I know this was a popular hunt and I feel like we could do this as a restricted hunt.

I strongly disagree on adding any more tags to the LE early rifle Elk. I feel like every 1 tag you add to that hunt you could add 4 to early archery or 2 to mid season.

The late season archery elk. We should double the tags on every unit in my opinion look how many units had 0 % success.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Souther Utah is once again bearing the brunt of proposed tag increases. Just a couple of years ago the sky was falling and we had to cut tag numbers in half because the population of deer on the landscape was in such sharp decline. Now we get one good water year and the biologists think we have righted the ship.

I could support a small increase in tag number but an increase of 1100 on Pine Valley is ridiculous. We don't even have a good starting point for actual deer numbers on the landscape. The way the DWR counts deer numbers is outdated and flawed.

I recommend a tag increase of no more than 200 on Pine Valley. Please, for the love of [REDACTED], let the deer herd recover a little bit. These wild swings in tag numbers numbering in the thousands for one individual unit is indicative of poor management.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Once again we are talking about how many bucks are available to hunt in our southern regions. The Beaver unit is once again way under objective in deer numbers, yet a +600 increase in tags is recommended for this unit like many other units in southern Utah. I have looked in most wintering areas on the Beaver unit, and for the life of me cannot see where deer numbers have increased like the tag numbers reflect. With very low and concerning deer numbers on the Beaver unit as currently exists, it is very hard to find any reason to add 600 tags to this unit. At this time there is just not enough total number of deer to justify such a large increase in Buck tags.

I am thankful for the RAC process and would hope that you would carefully look at the increase in tags in all of our southern units. I do not feel that the southern unit needs to be a pawn in making up for lost tags in Northern Utah. The sportsmen of Southern Utah drive out and look at deer every year in the deer wintering grounds. I would ask you to ask these sportsmen if they are seeing these large increase in our deer herds rather than trust the output of a calculator or gamble on what the weather will do each year.

The fact is the Deer Numbers are down, yes even in Southern Utah. Because I am most familiar with the Beaver unit, I can honestly say that this unit is in no position to add General season buck tags of 33%, where deer survival in general is struggling to increase on this unit.

Thanks for your time and willingness to listen.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat agree

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

I wish more people who make all the comments on KSL and Facebook about cutting tags would watch this video so they understand that hunting bucks DOES NOT impact deer populations.

Please increase the tags in Southern Utah to above what is proposed (the yellow bar). I would like my kids to have the opportunity to hunt, even if the chances of harvest go down.

**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?**

There shouldn't be any antlerless deer hunts until we are at or above the statewide population objective. Please find another way to compensate landowners! This is where all the big banquet and expo funds should be spent.

I would also love to see the elk unit objectives increased. Cattlemen have way too much say in how many elk the range can support. Please look at purchasing grazing permits and increasing elk numbers. I would also love to see the hunter's choice on archery eliminated so hunters can only take bulls.

Once again, find another way to compensate landowners for damage wildlife causes.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.**

I started shed hunting 24 years ago when no one did it. It was a great spring activity growing up in rural Utah. I still like to go out and hike just for the exercise. Shed bans and the seasons make it feel like breaking the law to be on public land because you might happen across an antler.

If you close the antler gathering, you also close the public land access altogether. Seasons and bans only hurt the honest.

I'm fine with putting restrictions on the buying and selling of antlers.

Please, leave it alone!

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

I do not agree with an increase of 800 permits on the Boulder unit. The two previous years before last years hunts we observed good buck numbers across the unit, last year was terrible. I know your census data is showing different, if that's the case why aren't hunters seeing that and why isn't success greater? Are those mainly yearling bucks? The quality has been terrible on the south and west sides on this unit in particular. Many of us are struggling to take the data on your census data credibility based on what we are seeing ourselves. Maybe part of the unit is doing good and others aren't? Or maybe your census data is capturing deer from other units mingled with Boulder deer during census time?

I've also heard similar feelings on Pine Valley and Zion. Pine Valley has been terrible for a few years.

I'm not against slight increases in tags, but these proposals seem very drastic and unrealistic. Let's proceed cautiously.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 3, 2024 2:44 am



**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** The spike hunt on certain limited entry units needs to be done away with. The pahvant unit has a high success rate on spikes and the amount of bulls on the unit is decreasing. People wait 20 plus years to draw a bull tag. They don't want to go shoot a 340 inch bull they want a 380 plus. The harvest age is also irrelevant. Ever since the spike hunt has been opened on the pahvant unit the quality of bulls has decreased significantly.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** The late season cow elk hunt needs to be done away with. Nobody should be out pushing animals in December or January. Extremely detrimental to the deer and elk herds.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** I would still recommend a shed season for utah residents. More along the lines of starting March 1st. Unless the emergency feeding is in effect. Then the decision to push opening day back could be made much sooner. This would allow for a longer period with no disturbance to deer herds mainly since most people start shed hunting in January for some reason. The penalty for shed hunting before the opening day should be treated as poaching. That is the only way to ensure people won't go shed hunting before the opening day. Last year opening day me and this other guy (don't know who he was) showed up at daylight hiked the exact same area. In 1 hour he found 10 and was already leaving and I didn't find anything. Kind of suspicious. The penalty was nothing for them to worry about so they didn't care.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

The deer herds are down and all you guys are worried about is money. I'm a lifetime license holder, and have hunted the southwest desert my whole life. 150 more tags to a unit that has struggled since the 90s is crazy. That unit should not be touched with more tags. It's laughable to see you guys just add tags to certain units that do good for a year, just to kill them off. Your greed of money is the reason this state has gotten worse every year. Last year you had to cut tags in northern regions because of the bad winter, just to add those "cut" tags to southern units and wipe out the deer herd. Stop worrying about money, Do not add tags to the southwest desert. There isn't even enough bucks on that unit for the tags you are recommending. Not even close.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I support this proposal because it gives more opportunity to some of the GS units. Some of us just want to have a tag in our pocket to have a chance at finding a big deer we dont want to wait 5 years for just a little bit better chance at better quality. Thats why we have limited entry units to manage for high quality. General units need to be kept at a higher opportunity hunts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 4, 2024 11:19 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** 600 permits increase on the Beaver is to many, 200 permits would be better, last year the Beaver was one of the worst unit in the state

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 4, 2024 5:08 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

Having spent time on each hunt on the Zion and Pine Valley I think it's out of hand to increase tags. Every single hunter complained about how bad the herd is looking and how it was the worst year they have ever seen. Not to mention the amount of people in such a small area on the zion for the rifle. It's unsafe to put so many tags for one season in one little space. Please listen to the sportsman when they plead the case of how bad things are looking and actually have boots on the ground year after year.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 4, 2024 8:49 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?**

Don't like doe hunt, I would like to see the DWR trap them move them to a unit that low in does

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 5, 2024 7:10 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

In my opinion the biologists aren't on the mountain enough.. compared to a lot of these outfitters that spend hours and hours on the mountain looking at these animals!! I would like to see an hourly chart of the time these "biologists" are physically on the mountain gathering "DATA" as they call it!!

The proposed increase in GE tags is a ridiculous proposal and I'm 100% against the proposal!!!!

More permits to help deer population makes no sense no matter how it's put on a graph or in "data"!!!

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 6, 2024 1:02 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly agree

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

I'm 25 years old and I haven't been able to draw a tag for almost 5 years. It is very frustrating that the division has great data and studies to present their recommendations and show that we have plenty of deer to hunt. I do know that without proper regulation of the deer herds then predator numbers will increase and the farming community will have an overabundance of deer decimating their crops. Please support the division's recommendation to increase deer permits.



Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 6, 2024 7:50 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Are deer herds keep decreasing in southern Utah the Boulder unit and Thousand lake units especially. Thousand lake unit has had way too many tags for 20 years it's pretty much been ruined every since it was taken out of a limited entry unit went from 60 permits to around 400 a year there's not even 400 deer on the whole unit our hunting needs to be managed for the sake of the animals not for money for the dnr I think big cuts need to be made to save our deer herds state wide close some units for a few years before there's nothing left in the state to hunt.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** Are elk numbers are going down hill in the southern part of the state I don't think fish lake can handle anymore increases maybe try decreasing some permits to bring elk herds back.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 8, 2024 11:35 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

If what you say is correct and the deer are coming back in the South, why slaughter them by increasing tags Cut them some slack and keep the number of permits as is. Ive walked over 30 miles hunting elk shed horns and have not found one brown deer shed. I have found many dead carcasses from either cougar or coyote predation ..

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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

With the collar data we have to use now it gives the division more data to better understand how our deer herd is currently and gives them much better tools to be able to be proactive in making tag cuts as well as when there is a need for tag increases. Some units have taken some pretty steep cuts over the last 5 years due to extreme drought and with better moisture has now seen some increase in B/D ratio as well starting to see herd population start to slowly grow as well. I have to agree if we want the division to aggressively cut tags when needed we need to allow them to increase tags at whatever rate is necessary to try and keep the management objectives with in the side boards of how the plan is passed. It is unfair to the division to give them a plan to try and manage to and then when the data shows we are outside the parameters of it meaning above the B/D ratios not allow them to increase tags appropriately to stay with in guidelines given.  
As long as the division can demonstrate that there is data backing the tag increases I would have to encourage the RAC to approve the increases proposed.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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

I like the direction we are headed in being able to give more tags by offering additional hunts with primitive weapons. I don't want to see high success rate hunts removed just adjust tag quotas higher on the primitive weapon hunts that has lower success rates to give more opportunity without sacrificing opportunity for quality.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

My comments are based on my experience hunting the Zion unit exclusively for the past 12 years, so I will say that I don't know what may or may not be going on with deer herds on other units with proposed tag increases.

I recognize that deer management is a complex and dynamic undertaking and there is a need to use models to supplement what can be observed on the ground. I understand as well that I will probably not see the same amount of bucks during a hunt as I would doing winter deer counts, due to migration from other units (Panguitch, Paunsaugant) or out of Zion National Park and the large amounts of private property on the northwest corner of the unit. But I do not feel that there are enough bucks on the unit to support another 1,100 tags.

The last two seasons I have spent most of my time hunting with new hunters that are mostly just looking to have an opportunity to harvest a legal buck. It has been difficult to get these hunters that opportunity as there just are not the bucks on the landscape as there were pre draught. I know that these general season units are not meant as trophy units, but it is discouraging to not even have opportunities at younger bucks. If tag numbers are held low for a few more years it would give the herd a chance to continue to rebound and create a much more enjoyable hunt with more opportunity.

I also understand that there is a need to generate revenue to manage our herds. I don't want to think that these proposed tag increases are to make up for the winter kill of last winter on a few of the northern units, but if it is, maybe it's time to consider increasing tag prices instead of tag numbers. Or possibly offering hunters the opportunity to purchase another "conservation tag" which would be nothing more than a \$45 donation, but takes the place of one of the proposed increase tags.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Thanks to the biologists' hard work. Let's hunt the surplus bucks.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 10, 2024 9:56 am

**Which best describes your position** Strongly disagree  
**regarding the buck deer permit**  
**recommendations for 2024?**

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

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the southern general season deer permit recommendations.

I feel my comments are a broken record, a rinse and repeat from my comments in 2023. I am again, surprised to see the dramatic proposed general season permit increases to many southern region units in some cases I'll outline below there are proposed to double in just the last two years (Pine Valley). I can only assume that the DWR feels that the yearling buck recruitment will be so incredible that they can justify increasing permits now, immediately after years of healthy tag cuts and years of drought. This is despite many units that they are recommending tag increases on being below the approved buck:doe objective or directly at objective. I find some glaring inconsistencies in units I'd like to illustrate. I might emphasize that we hear all the time from the UDWR that we manage according to the management plan in place and approved by the RAC/ Board process, not to speculation or gut feel. I strongly feel that a slight upward trend in fawn production does not yet warrant the level of increases that are proposed. I believe the UDWR is simply moving too fast and trying to re-claim lost tags/opportunity at the expense of only the Southern Region, where we have big public land units where they feel they can cram more hunters into. We should not be looking at one better fawn/yearling recruitment year and possibly a second year in 2024, as a monumental trend, or basis for "feeling" that in 2024 units will see increasing post-season buck:doe ratios in November 2024. We manage to the plan, and the plan says we manage for a 3 year average buck: doe ratio of 15-17 or 18-20 bucks per 100 does on all general season units. Furthermore, the presentation by the BYU professor indicating that buck numbers in excess of 6-10 per 100 does in Utah and around the West have been, or are a limiting factor in Mule deer population growth, is laughable and insults the intelligence of many Utah hunters, and all hunters around the West. We are so far from being at population objectives or carrying capacity on most of deer herds that the notion of "bucks stealing forage from does/fawns resulting in lower productivity", and thus we should kill more bucks to "stimulate" our herds, is so far off from our real problems with our deer herds, that it's scary to hear such a touted claim by someone in authority.

Here are some things I have concerns with the UDWR proposals.

Last fall the UDWR presented many units in southern Utah have weapon restrictions of single strand bows, primitive muzzleloaders, and no scopes on centerfire rifle on a handful of units in an attempt to reduce harvest, but increase opportunity. This would lead one to believe that the UDWR realizes they can just pour the tags into units recovering, or on the verge of recovering after drought. However, now, in a most conflicting manner, the UDWR is proposing incredible tag increases on these very same units with no restrictions to method/weapon of take. What changed?? No consistency here. Do we need to limit buck harvest or have an overabundance of bucks?? Stark conflicting proposals from the UDWR in just a short 5-6 months time!



1. The Beaver unit shows an average buck:doe ratio over the past 3 years at 17.5 bucks:100 does. This unit is not in compliance with the current 18-20 bucks/100 does in the plan and only 1 individual year within the last 3 was over 18/100. So it should NOT be a candidate for permit increases, however the UDWR is recommending a huge 600 permit increase from 1,200 to 1800 for 2024. How is this justified?? I believe the Beaver unit should see a no change for permit numbers for 2024.

2. The Pine Valley Unit 3 year average buck:doe ratio is sitting at 19.4 bucks per 100 does, which is directly in the middle to slightly above the acceptable range in the approved plan of 18-20 bucks per 100 does. Yet an enormous 1,100 permit increase is recommended from 2,300 to 3,400? This is after a 600 permit increase in 2023. The permit numbers from 2022 were at 1,700 to the 2024 proposed number of 3,400 is a DOUBLING! This proposal is without the buck numbers or buck/doe ratios showing a doubling or even significant increase, again the current 3 year average sits at 19.4 remember? How is this justified?? One can only conclude that the UDWR is anticipating a good yearling buck crop next fall and so the recommended permit increase is justified. But an anticipated yearling buck recruitment, is not a metric the plan calls for when setting permit recommendations. I believe we should leave the Pine Valley with no permit change, or a slight increase for 2024. And I believe the population model for total deer numbers and thus total adult doe numbers are grossly over estimated which results in a gross over estimation of the number of buck fawns entering the population as yearlings in 2024. I believe the over estimation (modeled population) of overall deer population numbers is the cause of so many of these extreme permit recommendations in the southern region. Overestimating the total population of a deer herd, and therefore the number of adult does, repeatedly over and over each year can result in inflated numbers of fawns, and bucks "supposedly" entering a population. There is no solid ground truthing mechanisms to verify deer populations on our units like we have when we aerial survey elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, etc every 2-3 years, to validate or refute population models and tweak them. Deer population estimates used in models were "best guesses" and I've contended for years are far too high. This is a big factor when then putting too much stock into a big yearling buck cohort the model says you have coming. You can't with any degree of certainty say there are X number of yearling bucks coming into a population this year and set tags accordingly, when you don't really know closely the number of adult does you have on a unit. A best guess with deer is all we have, and a best guess that is even 10-15% off, over 10-20 years can cause population estimates to drift far from reality. I give this feedback from the perspective as a former UDWR biologist myself, knowing the intricacies and difficulties of estimating deer populations. It is not an easy task, but I feel. like many southern Utah sportsmen do as well, that our experience and time spent across most units in southern Utah, that there are no where near the total number of deer present that current UDWR populations estimate them at.

To further illustrate the inconsistency among big public land southern Utah units lets look at another unit.

To use the San Juan Abajo unit as an example The San Juan Abajo unit shows an average buck:doe ratio over the past 3 years at 20 bucks:100 does both in 2023 and 2024. As you can see, this unit is in compliance and at, or even slightly over objective. It is in compliance with the approved management plan of 18-20 bucks:100 does postseason, and could even be justified for a permit increased. But even with a 3 year buck:doe ratio of 20.9 in 2022, and 20.0 in 2023, the UDWR is has and is NOT recommending any permit increases, and it recommended to leave as status quo again for 2024. How is this justified?? The Central Mtns Manti unit 3 year buck:doe ratio currently sits at 20.3 bucks/100 does with individual years of 20.1, 22.0, and 18.9 bucks:100 does, but is only seeing a proposed permit increase from 7,800- 8,000 tags. Why so little for a huge public land unit that is over objective?

Why is the southeastern region units not targeted for permit increases like the Southern units? I have my theories, but I'd like to hear the UDWR explain it. If we manage all public land general units the same, then why have we not seen increases to the San Juan Abajo Lasal Mtns, Or Central Mtns Manti at all, or near the extent we do in the southern region?? Very inconsistent, again reason to point out the Southern region is always asked to bear the brunt of public land permit increases. Always!

There is no consistency in following the approved plans when comparing one unit vs another. Why?

The UDWR seems too eager to increase tags in the southern region with just one, and possibly a 2nd year of positive precipitation and fawn recruitment, but not actual population or buck numbers dramatically increasing yet.

I highly suggest that the southern RAC consider the data presented against the approved UDWR management plans that are IN PLACE, and do not increase permits, or to the extent proposed by the UDWR where there is not a basis for doing so.

Thanks for your consideration and for your time and efforts in serving southern Utah Sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Adam R. Bronson

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

April 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
April 10, 2024 9:57 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Disagree with Southern Region General tag #'s

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** I guess we should follow the somewhat accepted movement to restrict nonresidents. Sad it's come to this.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** Please support the DWR recommendations on the permit numbers on the Southern units. We need to provide the opportunity for hunters to hunt. Political interference or the threat thereof, and a failed proposal last year, kept permit numbers at drought level lows. Now that there is opportunity to increase permits lets give hunters a chance to hunt.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations?** Why is there so much fluxuation in bison permits from year to year? Bison are hardy animals, it seems that there should be more consistency in herd numbers and permit numbers.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** Age Objective Management and trophy expectations have adverse effects on the elk herd and has restricted hunting opportunity. example: Bull -- cow ratios on the Beaver Unit.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** Need more opportunity to take more cow elk on public land.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** Don't over regulate.

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**Which best describes your position  
regarding the CWMU antlerless permit  
recommendations for 2024?**

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Neither agree nor disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** As permit numbers fluctuate so should land owner tags. For example: If the Pahvant tags increase from 1400 to 2100 tags then the amount of available land owner tags should increase as well. Also, the deer herds need to recover a little more before we make such drastic tag increases like going from 1400 to 2100 in one season. That is a large increase. I do think the predator control with lions and coyotes is helping the deer rebound slowly, so keep up the great work there!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the bull elk permit recommendations?** It is my opinion that we are harvesting too many bulls, spikes included. Opportunity to hunt is not great but when the opportunity comes, the quality is very poor compared to previous seasons. The Pahvant is really struggling.

Also, I propose that we make it so that the youth only any bull units are more favorable draw odds for resident youth. Last year a youth had a 1 in 10.4 chance of drawing while a nonresident youth had twice as good of odds to draw at 1 in 5.1. Could that be evened out a by giving 700 resident youth permits and 50 nonresident youth permits?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?** We are harvesting too many cow elk on premium units like the Beaver and Pahvant. I think this is part of the reason why mature bulls are getting harder and harder to find. Too many cow tags and spike tags. Its sad to see what is happening to our elk herds. Same in the any bull units in the Uintahs. That is a difficult hunt but a great opportunity for archery hunters and OTC hunters. I think we should reduce the amount of rifle cow tags to preserve that herd a little better.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about the buck deer permit recommendations?** I feel that the deer populations have not recovered from the bad winter last year. Some of the southern units are healthy but not as healthy as they should be. I feel your finding of the Buck to doe ratio in most southern units is inaccurate. I spend countless hours in the mountains and it has become alarming difficult to find even a 3 year old buck. Healthy deer herds need to have mature bucks also.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the once-in-a-lifetime permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?** Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.** I was glad to see that a permit/license was not recommended to shed hunting. I believe the ethics course serves as a good way to inform people. A shed hunting permit would provide no benefits. I was glad to see that a shed season was not recommended to residents unless it is needed due to winter conditions.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?**

Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommended rule changes? Please specify which rule.**

i never understood why there would be a antler shed closure for example when there is a closure you can still go onto the land and hike and ride bikes and ride ohv's and those are not closed off but hey if your riding an ohv and see antlers and its closed and then its like hey i cant pick that up it will disturb the animals but my loud ohv is just fine

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**Which best describes your position regarding the buck deer permit recommendations for 2024?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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

Buck to doe ratios don't determine the carrying capacity of a unit. I would like to see the state managing units by the number of animals on the landscape along with a buck to doe ratio. I understand bucks do not create more bucks, and we are looking at opportunity for the public to hunt. I don't have an answer for creating more does, but I feel like we are jumping the gun raising tags too soon. We have become so slow at cutting tags when needed, but the second we have a good year of fawn survival we raise the tags and slam a good majority of the 1-2 year old bucks that we just created.

**Which best describes your position regarding the bull elk permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

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

No premium LE elk unit should have an open spike hunt every year. I think the spike hunts need to be unit specific and not statewide. That way it gives the biologist the opportunity to manage the unit by both spike permits, and bull permits. Units like the Fillmore Pahvant are way too accessible to hold an unlimited amount of spike hunters every year. I believe this has directly impacted the number of bulls/Quality of bulls on the landscape.

I don't agree with lowering the age class objectives on LE units. We are moving the goal post to push more tags.

**Which best describes your position regarding the buck pronghorn permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the antlerless permit recommendations for 2024?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any additional comments about the antlerless permit recommendations?**

Many units are struggling with their elk herds. Why are we issuing more cow tags?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to shed antler gathering rules and the big game rule?**

Somewhat agree