

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

We need to look at the biological data. Winter ranges on the cache are depleting due to homes being built on winter ranges and in the summer cattle grazing is not being monitored allowing cattle to eat down the grasses for the elk and the browse for the deer. Scopes were already taken off of muzzleloaders to allow for more opportunities and to take scopes off of rifles will encourage people to be opportunistic and harvest deer that may possibly be smaller in size or younger than if a person had scopes they would be willing to hold out and pass on the easier opportunities in hopes of harvesting a more mature bigger deer. We need to look at decreasing permits to grow more deer rather than taking away our already very invested equipment.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 1:25 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I disagree with the muzzleloader proposal and the rifle proposal. Why are we so concerned on the type of weapons used so much. I do understand the issue with long range rifles and muzzleloaders I'm not a fan of those types of weapons but seriously so with my traditonal 308 semi auto Remington that I got 35 years ago I no longer could use? How about looking at all the people you are in the field opening day is a Zoo on the Cache. You limit the human impact for the hunt and also on the Cache there is hardly any wintering grounds for the deer due to all the housing. And the Cache County Commissioners are also wanting to open up roads for people to drive their ATV/UTV's on that have been closed for 30+ years just so they could go for joy rides. How about advocating and standing up for the deer herds about the impact of recreational vehicles on the herds. You can restrict the hunting weapons all you want but if the deer have no place to winter and are constantly being harassed by recreational vehicles because now there is a road on every ridge the stress from that alone is going to impact our deer herds more than what type of weapon hunters use to harvest and animal. But if you do want to restrict the weapons that a hunter uses to harvest deer along with the loss of winter ranges and recreational vehicle impacts you will continue to loose the deer population. Because it is a fact that shot placement is always open to human error and today's hunters most have no ethics and making an ethical shot is no on their minds. I'm just tired that the first thing that comes up is weapon restrictions to increase deer populations when the real killer to the herds is bad range management and impact of the public that put stress on the animals which will kill them faster than any hunter or type of weapon he or she will use.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I would prefer more weapons restriction hunts. Certain seasons dedicated to traditional weapons. 25% of rifle would be early with flat wall rifle, 25% of archery traditional archery, 25% of muzzleloader traditional. I would love to see these options run before or after the main hunts on all units. Great way to add opportunity and cut 25% of hunters off the main season dates

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I like adding more weapons restrictions, but think we should create a weapon restriction season for every unit

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Rifle hunting elk with long range rifles the entire rut on these CWMUs is crazy. CWMUs are amazing at managing and holding trophy animals. They kill public land hunting all around them. I think we need to match CWMU hunting dates to the same as the public dates to help disperse hunting pressure. 90/10 split does not create enough opportunity for the public to be worth it

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

If you are going to limit applicants to putting in for either DH or General, then you should combine the points they have and just have the DH and General hunts in the same point pool. Having two different points for the same species on the same units just makes it more complicated than it needs to be. Many applicants today have points for both and would not be able to utilize them. Combining the points will allow for them to use what they have, and simplify the process.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 3:43 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Restricted rifle isn't the problem. Scopes have been around over 100 years. Maybe the power of the scope be limited down from the crazy 35x zoom or more that some offer now. But to put restrictions on an any legal weapon hunt means you can do your job and need to resign!

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Instead of an across the board point restriction why not sell 2 permits in units. Any buck, and 4 on 1 side permit. Make the any buck \$10-15 more and decrease the permits over 3 years until you can sustain 3 point or better on the unit. I support the restriction in cache but a hard restriction is going to chase off a lot of hunters including myself. I hunt to pack the fridge and I don't see enough 4 points to bother putting in for that tag. In 4 years a 3 point or better is 100%possible.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 8:17 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Keep muzzleloader weapons the same as 2024 season.  
Myself and other muzzleloader hunters are all for the rifle restrictions.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Wyoming tried and studied an antler Point restriction. And it didn't work, in fact, it made it worse for the population and landscape.

There is NO WAY I would support a restricted rifle hunt! You're asking for trouble with more wounded and un-recovered animals. You impact youth hunters that are learning and older hunters with poor vision. This is an atrocious proposal and it needs to go away just like it did last year! Youth have plenty of opportunities and need to be restricted as adults are.

I hope we can all organize and fight this ridiculous proposal.

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

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Strongly disagree with restricted muzzleloader and rifle on the Cache and other considered units. This should at a minimum be amended to not include youth. We have kids that grow up in this area spending countless hours in these mountains with their fathers excited to hunt and you're handicapping their ability to be successful when they are finally old enough to hunt. with today's muzzleloaders and rifles with an adjustable peep sight guys are still going to be shooting 300-400 yds and most likely wounding deer instead of recovering them. It just isn't going to increase numbers like we think it will unless we cut tags. Cut tags for adults and give youth opportunity. I'd also advocate to do the 4 point or better for adults on all these units as well.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 7:12 am

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 8:31 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I strongly oppose the rifle restriction proposal on the Cache Unit. I think this will only create more wounding loss and create greater dissatisfaction among hunters. I would much rather see a significant tag numbers decrease on general units than I would a rifle restriction implemented.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

My comment is not about the dates, but about the proposal to restrict the rifle hunt to iron sights. I think that the DWR is missing two serious considerations on this point. First is that using iron sights leads to more wounded and unrecovered animals as hunters will be pressured to make more difficult shots in order to fill their tag. Although this may decrease the number of deer harvested overall, having more wounded and unrecovered deer is not something that we want. Consider as well that Utah law allows for hunters to keep hunting if an animal is unrecovered. This can lead to more deer deaths that you are able to measure, an potentially more that would occur without the restriction. The second point to consider is that many hunters do not own hunting rifles with iron sights. This means that in order to hunt on these units, hunters who do not own iron sighted rifles will be forced into buying such rifles which has the potential to put a serious financial strain on many. In light of these, I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposed regulation. Best, Carter Henderson

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 10:27 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I do not want to see scopes taking away from rifles on the cache. It will cause more people to leave to surrounding units. I would rather be able to hunt on the cache unit less with a scope than be able to hunt it more without a scope.  
Thanks

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** Iron sights

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** Iron sights

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?** Iron sights

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Neither agree nor disagree

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Iron sights

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I like the idea of lowering the buck to doe ratio. I'm in the camp of I want an opportunity to go hunt more then have to sit it out every other year just to potentially see more bucks. I know my odds if I don't have a tag, but if I have a permit there is always a chance of finding a mature buck.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** Not really happy about the restrictions on muzzleloader and rifle on the cache as that is my home unit, but do admit it would be interesting to see what happens.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Neither agree nor disagree

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

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Neither agree nor disagree

---

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

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I worry about the elk herd as it is in the Uinta Basin. I have hunted that unit consistently for the past 10 years. Elk numbers have never in my opinion been lower than what they were this year. There has been a slow decline over the years of elk numbers. If you want the elk to be off of private land maybe you should stop flying the helicopter over the forest and dropping "poppers" down on to forest and breaking up the elk herds and pushing them down towards the Indian land which is right next to a majority of private lands. If it's not the DWR doing this, then something should be done about whoever is doing it. I was very dissatisfied with my elk hunt this year. Would be nice to see more than 11 elk over a weeks time. I put in over 30 miles on foot that week. In regards to the antler point restriction, I hunted Pine valley this year general deer Muzzleloader. I have to say I was very dissatisfied with the quality of deer on the unit. But adding further restrictions on an already restricted hunt (the deer hunt) is a terrible idea. If I had waited the three years to draw like I did this year and was not able to fill my tag because I did not see a 4 point in Pine valley I would be upset. I did not see a deer with more than 3 points on one side during my time hunting. I hunted every single day, and scouted a month in advance. Also how am I supposed to get my own children interested in hunting if I am not able to hunt a deer and harvest one with my children there? Restricting pine valley will also limit the hunting units available to us in Southern utah as well. Unlike northern utah we in southern utah have easy access to 2 units Zion and Pine valley. Also strongly disagree with the statement that it is taking 1-3 years to draw a deer tag. I have consistently been at the three year mark to draw a tag. Also my mother had to wait 4 years and same for my father to draw a tag. These numbers are ridiculous. How are we supposed to interest our children in hunting as well as hunt in the state of utah when you realistically look at it with the draw the way it is my own mother will only hunt a deer maybe 5-7 more times in her lifetime?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

It's definitely understandable that we want the youth to be involved. However how's about instead of allocating unused youth tags to "more youth" when you just stated the numbers are not there to even give the allotted tags out to the youth with applications. You take unused tags and give those to adults like myself who have kids who are not yet old enough to hunt. That way I can hunt with my kids and teach them to respect and love hunting the same way I do. Currently I have drawn a deer tag every 3-4 years. How am I supposed to teach my kids to hunt if I myself cannot hunt but every 3-4 years? By the time I draw a deer tag a gain my oldest will be 9, almost old enough to be applying himself. But how am I supposed to spark interest with such limited availability? Also, please don't further restrict our application ability. I was just thinking of applying for dedicated hunter, however if this means I will not be able to collect points on general deer as well then I do not see how this improves draw odds. This just further restricts our ability to apply for and get deer permits.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 9:16 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 9:51 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I agree with the plan to have an extended archery only tag to limit people just putting in for a unit they never plan to hunt.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I don't agree with the weapons restrictions. I would rather see less tags and less opportunity. Would current dedicated hunters be able to opt out of remaining years on units that restricted weapons?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

The restricted weapons rule creates an unnecessary financial barrier for many hunters that do not have enough money to go out and buy new weapons that meet these restrictions. Most of the people that hunt the Cache do not really have any comparable places to hunt without having to drive through the Wasatch metro area into Southern Utah. Thus, I feel it hits the Cache unit hunters too hard. Furthermore, I don't understand why the archery hunters are exempt from these restrictions. I am tired of hearing disinformation about how the archery hunts do not have any impact on the resource.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I understand the science and reasoning behind going to a 15-17 buck-to-doe ratio to rebuild the herd, avoid disease, maximize carrying capacity, and increase hunting opportunities. However, I would love to see more of a balance struck for better bucks to be taken. The science proves that a target of 18-20 buck-to-doe ratios is slightly too high but I would love to see the data in more detail of what a ratio of 16-18 would do over 15-17. I realize that isn't that much of a difference but would it allow the average age class on harvested bucks to go from say 3.5 to 4.5, for example?

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I hunt the Cache unit and have for 20+ years and I would 100% support restricted rifle regulations. I loved the restriction on muzzleloader scopes for the 2024 season being open sights or 1 power scopes only and I would love to see the rifle hunt follow the same restrictions. With technology in optics and guns, it is too easy for hunters to be ultra comfortable taking 600-1000+ yard shots, which in my opinion, takes the fair chase out of the rifle hunt. And on a struggling unit like the Cache unit, those poor bucks need all the help they can get.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Your numbers are wrong and don't have any rhyme or reason. Why are you concerned so much about the "opportunity" to hunt rather than being concerned about the hunters that want to be successful? Cater to those that just want a reason to aimlessly drive/hike around with a tag in their pocket by giving them a cow elk permit. More people are angry over no bucks to hunt than not drawing a tag.

You say there is better opportunity to hunt with lower buck to doe ratios. The only thing it makes better is being unsuccessful on a hunt. Also, you say with higher buck to doe ratios on general season units the more of a chance to spread disease such as CWD. Why aren't we seeing that issue on limited entry deer hunts or premium limited entry hunts? It's the same kind of mule deer....It seems like you guys think that deer in general deer hunt units stay within the imaginary boundaries you set and won't spread disease. Your numbers show higher buck to doe ratio have a better opportunity for a trophy buck. Up the ratio in general season units so hunters can have more opportunity for a buck rather than less.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Why be so focused on guys wanting to be out hunting mule deer every 1-2 years to just be in the outdoors? Im happy to wait 3+ years to draw a general season deer permit if that allowed me to hunt with less people and better opportunity to harvest a trophy buck.

Leave the cache unit rifle hunt alone in way of weapon restrictions. Why not listen to those that actually hunt the cache unit or better yet live within the cache unit.... If people want to hunt without a scope or having cartridge restrictions they have opportunity with archery or muzzle loader. I love hunting the cache rifle general season hunt the way it is in way of what allowed as of right now for what can be used for a rifle and scope. I would rather see an antler restriction in the cache unit for adults to help get better bucks around. I have met multiple men/women during this hunt that are quite older that will shoot the first two point buck that steps out. I long to hunt mature mule deer in the cache unit and have a better success rate then we have at the moment. There are very few mature mule deer bucks around, and way to many people. Cater to the residents of Utah and especially the residents that live within a certain hunting unit. Cut hunting permits back, up the price for permits so you guys get the funding you want and we will start to see better bucks on the general season hunts. All the older people I run into on the mountain say they used to turn every corner and there would be a 4 point or bigger standing there they would pass on. The deer herd is suffering right now with the numbers that are out there. Please leave the cache general season rifle deer hunt alone in regards to weapon restrictions. We want to use the rifle of our choice and the caliber we want. We don't need government control on that. At the end of the day not everyone will be happy. But let us help make the deer herd happy with high numbers, less hunters, higher cost permits, less non resident hunters, and we the hunters will have a better chance at a trophy buck. LEAVE YHE CACHE HUNT ALONE! No weapons restrictions!!

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2024 4:36 pm

**Which best describes your position  
regarding the recommended big game  
season dates?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the  
recommended season dates?**

I don't agree with the recommendations for the cache unit in regards to rifle restrictions and muzzleloader restrictions.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Honestly the Cache unit is already at a point where it takes almost two years to draw a tag. The idea behind a peep site only on a rifle is probably one of the worst ideas that I have heard. I believe you will have people taking very unethical shots and a high probability of wounded deer. Also for those of us that have saved up and spent money to have a nice rifle and scope you are showing that you don't care about hunters. I really would support the four point or better on the Cache unit. However the no scope rule will probably make a lot of my family quit hunting. So if your goal here is to ruin family traditions of hunting. Congrats your on a great path for that. It's sad to say that you will ruin hunting for more family's then I can count.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 10:32 am

**Which best describes your position** Strongly agree  
**regarding the proposed deer hunt**  
**strategies research project?**

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 10:40 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

This directly affects me due to being in the dedicated hunter program. If this passes I will opt out of the program

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Why take away our rights to hunt the way we like? (Choosing to hunt with a scoped rifle, compound bow, inline muzzloader etc.) The only thing taking scopes off of rifles will do is wound more deer. They only way to increase herd populations is to decrease tags(but that results in lost revenue which the state made it perfectly clear they will not go for). The bigger issues is 4 lane highways and vehichle collisions and loss of habitat. Especially if the state wins the law suit and starts selling off our public lands. Look at the trail cam law, there was no facts or study presented, just personal opinion and gain. As a life long resident, I DO NOT support this, and out opinions should be heard and taking into consideration. Thank you

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I don't agree with the weapon restrictions specifically on the cache unit. I also don't think that restricting the weapons used and upping the tags allotted will change the number of deer killed. I get that the division still needs that revenue from tags sold but the pressure especially in the any weapon hunt is still crazy and I don't think having more hunters out there slinging lead with a less effective weapon optics will change the deer numbers that actually die. I don't think we can trust the public to take it into their own hands to only shoot at deer within their own means.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Do not take scopes off rifles! Stop restricting hunters. Why can't we try using different seasons like other states. We just need to face the facts that we can't have our cake and eat it too. Or even try creating premium general season hunts or more limited entry deer units?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Do not remove scopes from rifles. Let's create multiple season hunts so if you just want to hunt and harvest hunt an earlier hunt and if you want to wait and hunt better bucks hunt a later hunt near the rut. You could also create more limited entry buck units or create premium general deer units. People will avoid rifle hunts without scopes people will flee the cache unit for the cache and ogden.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 7:25 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Agree on everything but your proposition for restricted areas and the weapons used I for one am very against. This to me will no way help the cache and its population. We're going to have more wounded animals from people taking shots they shouldn't. There are good and bad qualities with modern enhancements but the good far out weigh the bad. I'd suggest closing it all down for a few years, and if anything take away the ability to take cow elk as part of the otc spike archery tag.



Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 8:35 pm

**Which best describes your position** Strongly disagree  
**regarding the proposed deer hunt**  
**strategies research project?**

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I have been in the Dedicated Hunter program since its inception. I have hunted the same area in the Cache Unit for over 46 years. I have been extremely satisfied with deer hunting. Last year hunters were required to pull magnifying scopes off of muzzleloaders. This change cost \$500 for a new sight system. Under this new proposal I will have to scrap my current muzzleloader and invest \$500 to \$600 for a muzzleloader that fits the restricted muzzleloader definition.

We will also be required to remove our scopes off our rifles. "If only our rifles had iron sights", so back to the store to purchase a rifle with iron sights. Another six to nine hundred dollars. This research study could cost each hunter a minimum of \$1,200 if they are in the Dedicated Hunter program or \$500 to \$900 if they draw muzzleloader or rifle tag.

The Cache unit currently has around 200 Dedicated Hunters. Each hunter completes 32 hours or they buy their hours at \$40 per hour. If half of the dedicated hunters drop out due to the new equipment requirements, it could be a loss of 3,200 volunteer hours. Will other sportsman's organizations step up to complete the volunteer hours? Will habitat projects on the Cache unit not be completed?

What is the purpose of this proposal? Is it to increase the number of licenses sales or is it to increase the number of bucks?

The Cache unit currently has 17 bucks per 100 doe's post season. Objective is 15 to 17 bucks per 100 doe's post season. The Cache unit is very weather dependent. When we have a hard winter we lose our deer. If we have more bucks than objective, it takes longer for the deer herds to rebound from winter loss. The bucks out-compete the doe's for survival, reducing the reproduction and survival of fawns.

Next year I will be 62 and my eyesight is declining. I depend on a scope to insure I make a humane harvest. Open sights including a peep sight with a globe front sight has made precision shot almost guess work. I can't imagine a new hunter using open sights when the hunter education course allows them to use scopes to pass their shooting proficiency test.

Lets wait until the data is collected from this years hunt before significant changes are made impacting the 4,000 plus hunters that hunt the Cache unit.

This proposal doesn't do anything for habitat that will sustain deer numbers.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 9:52 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Great Job and well presented!!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** This is fantastic. Limiting weapon systems, is a great way to provide opportunity as well as the ability to see a few more mature deer. This is the route we should be going instead of constantly going down the road of cutting opportunity to hunt with tag cuts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 7:11 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I believe the cache unit could use more restrictions until the herd recovers. I propose antler restrictions to adults not youth. I propose doing away with the late season draw hunt. I propose installing flashing lights/wildlife crossing signs throughout Logan canyon. Logan canyon has more traffic and speeders than ever before. I propose to improve winter range by setting aside winter range land that can't be developed for housing.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** Cache in particular creates many hardships for current applicants who do not have weapons that would be legal under the proposal. It would also create a hardship for those who can't afford to travel to other units. The Cache has been much more effected by weather than hunters.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** If you are going to convert unallocated youth tags to ALW tags you may as well convert all youth tags to ALW tags to begin with. For a lot of the ALW applicants the ability to hunt 3 weapon types is the reason they apply for them.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 11:08 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

Put those 2,000+ remaining tags that youth don't draw and take the tags out and don't sell those tags. Save some mule deer for goodness sake! That alone will help with the deer population taking those undrawn tags away!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

**\*\*Subject:\*\*** Opposition to Proposed Weapon Restrictions - Cache Unit

Dear Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the new proposal, particularly with the Cache unit, and to register my opposition to any further weapon restrictions related to rifles. Implementing such restrictions is not the solution to improving the health of deer units. Instead, a point restriction on bucks, similar to the proposal for the Pine Valley unit, would be a more effective approach.

Removing optics from rifles will not benefit hunters or deer populations. In fact, it may result in more wounded animals that cannot be recovered, leading to unnecessary suffering. We cannot afford to discover years down the road that these restrictions were a mistake. It began with the restrictions on trail cameras, followed by changes to muzzleloader regulations, and now rifles are being targeted. I strongly urge you to vote against further restrictions.

Additionally, I believe shorter, more defined hunts-such as a 5-day season with an opening date like the 18th of the month, similar to surrounding states-would provide a better structure. It's critical that DWR starts listening to the voices of hunters in the field rather than focusing solely on those proposing these restrictions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will take these concerns into account.

Sincerely,  
Noel Daniels

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I strongly disagree with the season dates for the general any bull units. Both archery and general rifle. We are the only state that does not allow its sportsman to hunt elk with Achery equipment the whole month of September. We don't need to hunt elk with a bow in august. I know the any bull units have the limited entry youth tag in these areas. But Achery hunters will not disturb the elk and make it harder for the youth to harvest. If anything it would

Help the hunt by keeping the elk moving. I would be willing to wear an orange hat to be able to hunt the last two weeks of September or until the muzzleloader deer hunt starts. If our season dates were better more people would be willing to try other seasons and in turn spread out hunting pressure.

let us go back to he 14 day general rifle elk hunt. The 7 day hunt does not help with over crowding. It causes people to congregate to the closest area they know of to hunt elk, in the short amount of time they have. I hunted all 7 days and moved around to several different locations and seen very few elk. If our objective is so far over why are there so few elk in our any bull units? And why don't we allow the three season tags again? We need to have the 14 day rifle hunt back at least. Or allow us to purchase a voucher for the second week so you make money and we get to hunt like we used to.



**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I strongly disagree with the proposed weapons restrictions to the Cache. I would rather see shortened seasons, reduced tag numbers or antler restrictions instead of further limiting weapon options. Also, consider youth as an exception to these rules, they should be able to use a rifle with a scope as their opportunities are already limited.

We have already reduced scopes on muzzleloaders, but moving to a restricted rifle or primitive muzzy is too far. Hunter's are not the main source of the decline in the deer herd, be more creative in the management strategy.

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

Strongly disagree

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

I appreciate what the division is trying to do by increasing hunter opportunity by decreasing the effectiveness of the weapons that are allowed on each hunt. However, a rifle season restriction of "open sights only" is just insanity. When was the last time anyone in the division walked into a gun store? There's likely not enough open sight rifles on the shelves in the entire state of UT to allow everyone with a Cache tag to hunt. It puts 99% of hunters in an economic bind as they will now have to purchase a new weapon to hunt the general season.

If you want to limit "effective" range, please consider eliminating the use of laser range finders instead. The LRF is without a doubt the tool that has allowed effective ranges to be pushed beyond limits ever thought possible 25 years ago. Without an accurate range, long range hunting becomes a moot point. It returns hunters back to the time when they "held 4 feet over it's back and prayed". The likelihood of successful shots beyond 400 yards goes to almost zero without a LRF, especially for the "average" hunter.

I know that patrolling LRF use in the field would be difficult, but make the penalty for breaking the law extremely harsh and people will comply. Just like the trail camera changes that were recently implemented, not everyone follows them, but the vast majority have.

I have similar thoughts on muzzleloader hunts. The division allowed technology into that season and let it grow in popularity. Many people purchased weapons to go hunt that season, and now their weapons will be "useless" to them. If the board decides to send the Cache back to primitive muzzleloading, I hope they consider moving the season back to November like it was in the old days.

One last thought, I'm all for "open sight" only tags to increase opportunity, but a certain number of normal tags should still be given each year to allow people to hunt with the weapons they already have. Possibly doing a limited number of tags on an early season for "normal" weapons and then a bigger number of tags for the open sight season at a later date (or vise/versa) would be a good compromise.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

It seems the theme for Utah is taking rights away from individuals because of the preferences of one group. First we lost trail cams. This year scopes were removed from muzzleloaders, and a mandatory harvest report was put into place. Before we have received any data from these. More restrictions are being imposed on the sportsman.

I have lived in and hunted the cache unit my entire life. It is crowded and the hunting pressure is very abundant. But with that we have had very good success, on mature deer. What matrix was used to decide restrictions for this unit? From comments by members of your mule deer team it seems most of it was done because of social pressure from groups that it fits their agenda. Harvest data we have doesn't seem to back this up. But in reality until this year how could we possibly expect that data to be correct.

So because of someone's idea, we are going to seriously impact thousands of sportsmen, many of them kids with this new restriction. Just to see if it has positive affects.

I have 2 new hunters in my family. One that will turn 12 this year, and another that has had 2 hunting seasons. With your proposal, both of these young men will have their whole youth hunting season taken from them. We could move to open sights, but this would take a huge investment of both time and money. Many of these youth are limited on time. And further handicapping them with these limitations will make it even harder for parents to get them out in the field. So something that was loved and looked forward to will be turned into frustration. This will also severely impact our older generation that rely heavily on optics to continue their love for hunting.

The cache unit for elk is already divided north and south. With the north being a restricted weapons hunt. If an experiment is to be done wouldn't it make sense to do it the same as the elk? You split the beaver why not the cache? Couldn't this experiment be done on all hamss units instead of impacting the general season.

With many other things I feel that the average sportsman's concerns will fall on deaf ears. And like other times restrictions will be passed to please the ideas of a few. With that I would still like to give my disapproval for the proposal that you have set forth.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

In general, hunting has a very small impact on a mule deer population. Instead of shooting from the hip and trying unproven things, why not focus on the things that kill mule deer? For example, winter, predation, habitat, and vehicles. Additionally, the non-magnified scope rule was just implemented for muzzleloaders. Do you really have data that tells you whether that was successful, or not. Perhaps there should be a proper sample size before implementing more changes. Additionally, if any population estimates are derived from check stations, why is it only available for 2 out of 9 days?

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

In general, hunting has a very small impact on a mule deer population. Instead of shooting from the hip and trying unproven things, why not focus on the things that kill mule deer? For example, winter, predation, habitat, and vehicles. Additionally, the non-magnified scope rule was just implemented for muzzleloaders. Do you really have data that tells you whether that was successful, or not. Perhaps there should be a proper sample size before implementing more changes. Additionally, if any population estimates are derived from check stations, why is it only available for 2 out of 9 days?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

In general, hunting has a very small impact on a mule deer population. Instead of shooting from the hip and trying unproven things, why not focus on the things that kill mule deer? For example, winter, predation, habitat, and vehicles. Additionally, the non-magnified scope rule was just implemented for muzzleloaders. Do you really have data that tells you whether that was successful, or not. Perhaps there should be a proper sample size before implementing more changes. Additionally, if any population estimates are derived from check stations, why is it only available for 2 out of 9 days?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** If overall population is at the forefront, why re-allocate unused tags?

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** -1280 acreage change and no tag allocation changes?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

NO weapon restrictions on the Cache unit. The topography of the mountains in Cache make it hard enough with a scoped rifle.

Yes to an early rifle in box elder. I was out there this year for 5 days and it was a zoo.

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

Strongly disagree

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

I think every CWMU should give out 2 tags to the public so it's not a pure lottery system. 7 or 8 tags to the private but only 1 to the public? Should be a requirement that a CWMU must give atleast two tags to the public hunter.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

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Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Restricted weapons hunts on the Cache unit would again be a strain on hunters' pocketbooks as they are forced to purchase yet more new equipment to comply with new regs. My family hunts the unit so we can enjoy our family property in the cache. Maybe you would like to purchase the four-hundred-dollar muzzleloader scope that now sits in my drawer as I use my 1x scope from last year's change. Come on guys there are better management tools than this.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 5:23 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

The restricted weapons hunts are a great idea! You have to include the archery though. Limiting the rifle and muzzleloader is good but not limiting the archery will just push everyone to apply for the archery hunts- which will make the archery tags harder to get. If the true purpose of these restricted weapon hunts is to increase opportunity then do it across the board!



Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 6:26 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 8:26 pm

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

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

I am sincerely asking to not go forward with restricting scoped rifles on the Cache unit general deer hunt. I'm a proud owner of 3 daughters who all have an extreme love for the outdoors and backcountry rifle hunting in particular. Our "general" deer hunt which is not all the general anymore is everything to us. The memories, the laughs, the stories that get told over and over. As a father I've enjoyed watching them work their tails off, whether it be honing in their shooting skills, getting in shape to make those pack-ins and especially the pack-outs a little easier, to watching them all battle with just good old fashion patience which is rough for these youngsters. I tell you what.

Taking scopes off of rifles on a general unit is going to let the wind out of this sail like you wouldn't believe and I'm willing to bet every cent I have that I do not stand alone on this. And furthermore I can not perceive any possible way of financially getting into 4 new deer hunting only rifles and stating clear back at ground zero for their shooting skills. They passed hunters safety with a scoped .22 for crying out loud!

There are better ways, not so extreme ways. You are going to loose countless hunters and you know as well as I do that's exactly what we don't need at the moment. Youth recruitment we be undoubtedly effected. It's plain and simple not the solution and I'm asking you as a council to reach down and do some soul searching and ask yourself is this really worth it? Is it truly needed? Do we need to make such an extreme decision? Derailing so much for what? To have a few more bucks with an extra year or two on them and families sitting around the house the week of the deer hunt staring at their phones and not making lifelong memories on the hill? And to implement a such a knee jerk reaction in an extreme northern unit that always has the potential to have well above average winter mortality at any time zeroing out what ever ground you feel you gained letting more bucks walk for no other reason than pure selfishness and absolutely no biological advantage to the overall growth of the herd what so ever. Who are you to tell my 73 old father whose eyes are not once they were and only has a couple more seasons left to enjoy hunting with his grandkids he has to shoot an open sight rifle?

What if we as a family group are content with what we typically encounter? What if me and mine realize that hunting is gamble, you never know how each day is going to unfold when that alarm goes off at 4:00 AM, you truly never know before opening day is this season is going to be the worst on record or one you're going to talk about around the campfire for ever more. That's hunting. And we accept the good with the bad. How it goes. Hunting isn't all about seeing trophy bucks. There is so much more. This proposal will attempt to do nothing more than put small percentage of bucks into an older age class period.

I for one am not going to sit idle and let "entitlement" and the mentality of "what works for me works for everyone" make the regulations for the majority of us you would much rather a different route taken to get to the same end goal.

In closing, I'm begging you to reconsider this proposal.

Jeremy W. Howard

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I just wanted to give my feedback on the proposed changes on the cache unit. I have been enrolled in the dedicated hunter program for 15 years. I like to hunt mainly the muzzleloader season and rifle hunt. I occasionally get my bow out but I feel like I am not accurate enough with it and my eye sight is not as good as it once was. I think these changes you are proposing is doing nothing to help the deer herd but instead will hurt it. Open sights or peep sights on muzzleloader and rifle both will cause more lost or wounded game. It is all about money for the division and not about deer numbers. I choose to hunt with a scoped rifle because I am confident I can make an ethical shot. You have zero facts to go on with this proposal. The truth behind the curtain is by issuing this proposal you can sell more tags. All about the money like I said.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I really like the point restriction, specifically for adults, I saw multiple older gentleman kill small 1x2 or 2x2s this year when I met other hunting groups with young hunting age children who had not had an opportunity at a buck. If we limited adults to not killing these younger bucks during muzzleloader and rifle hunts, but allowing the youth to be able to harvest young bucks during any season, this would excite the next generation to get out for the next season, knowing when they turn 18 years of age they have to play by the 3 point rule. This will drive some adults from hunting, but as it sits a fair amount of my friends and family have missed a year of hunting deer due to the amount of influx in people wanting to hunt. The research behind point restrictions found that this does not help the deer population or mature buck population as I have read. That said I would much rather see a young 12-17 year old juvenile harvest their first deer then a group of middle aged adults harvesting a young deer. I want the next generation of hunters to have opportunities while young to keep them interested in hunting, conservation, and ethics in the field.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I agree with getting the youth out hunting, this also is going to play into them having opportunities, this is why youth hunters should be allowed any buck deer while adults would be restricted to 3 point or better bucks. With the demand for hunting tags we should want people out hunting to follow the 3 point rule for adults.

When it comes to dedicated hunters not being able to put in for regular deer tags in the same year I am NOT satisfied with. The dedicated hunter can only kill 2 deer in 3 years, has to either pay the DWR a fee every year or go out and perform projects to earn their hours to hunt. Most hunters do not put in for dedicated hunter as they do not want to do the hours or pay for those hours just so they can hunt. Dedicated hunters are out being picky about what animal they harvest while giving more then a general season deer hunter.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

As a 19 year old girl, hunting with a scoped rifle is something that is very important to me. I live away from home attending college. The scoped rifle deer hunt is my most favorite time of the year because that means that I get to go home and spend time with my dad grandpa and sisters and build a relationship and make memories with them. The memories I have made with them are the ones that I would not trade for the world. And those memories come none other than sitting on the hill side in the back country. These past 2 years I have been lucky enough to be able to kill 2 bucks with my scoped rifle. Seeing how proud my dad was of me both times is so worth waking up at 4 am and the hard work it takes hiking up to our spot. Now that my grandpa is old enough he can't hike with us, he will wait all day at the bottom waiting to see if I had got one yet. The look on his face and the excitement he shows when he sees my buck is priceless. You want to take this all away for 6 years? For what? To lose more hunters? To make me completely restart my progress of learning how to shoot a different rifle? I have taken years to fully master shooting my scoped rifle. Completely taking away our scoped rifle hunt seems utterly wrong to me. So therefore i STRONGLY disagree with this proposal and I know that I am not alone.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly disagree

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

Strongly disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I'll save most of my thoughts for the in person meeting, but I support this new plan 100%. I'm especially excited to see the lower buck/doe ratios. This will provide the deer with a much more sustainable population dynamic allowing for more animals on the landscape while also allowing more people to enjoy the opportunity to hunt.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** FINALLY! I don't know if you know this, but these research proposals are something we've never tried before, and I'm super excited to see us give it a shot. I'm not a fan of antler point restrictions, but given that we've never tried a 4-point or better restriction, it's only fair that I support that if I'm going to support the weapon restrictions.

On the weapon restrictions, for the muzzleloader, this essentially just takes us back to what it used to be only 15 or so years ago before the inline muzzleloaders became popular.

For the any weapon hunts, there will be a lot of comments saying that this will only increase the wounding loss, and I say two things to that... #1: That's part of what we want to measure, and #2: If it increases the wounding loss, that fault is on the hunter, not the weapon. Wounding loss wouldn't increase if the hunters made sure they only took shots that are well within their personal skill set. This argument is true regardless of the weapon type, and is simply a smoke-and-mirrors argument made because people don't want to change their weapon.

For the Thousand Lakes portion of this proposal, I'm personally excited for the opportunity to burn my deer points to have the chance at a LE hunt with my longbow. (in a place where only other restricted archers are participating), and I hope this brings more hunters over to the "traditional" archery side. It's a small group in the state currently, but this opportunity might bring more archers to give it a try, and they'll quickly learn that shooting a "stick and string" is a lot more fun.

Please don't let the naysayers sway you from approving these research hunts. We need to try this to get the data, what we learn from this is super important for the future of deer management in the state.

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<b>Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?</b>	Somewhat agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?</b>	<p>I'll elaborate more on this in my comments at the meeting, but I support this proposal with one exception, and that's the automatic preference point for first year youth hunters.</p> <p>This sounds great on the surface, but the reality is, it only helps one very tiny group of hunters, and that's the first time youth hunters that put in next year. After that, it just raises the bar for all youth going forward, and it immediately hurts all of the existing youth hunters by basically taking them back a point.</p> <p>My view, approve all of these changes, with the exception of the automatic preference point for youth.</p>
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	<p>On the CWMU that the division is recommending denial, I side with the division on this. My opinion is formed more based on the CWD portion of that denial. If the landowner isn't going to cooperate with the biologists and their management recommendations, they have no business being in the program. With the previous conviction, it just drives home the point to me that they have a disregard for the rules, and feel like it shouldn't apply to them. This type of attitude gives a bad name to a very good program.</p>

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I hunt Cache unit exclusively, I am supportive of antler restrictions and tighter tag numbers for rifle hunts. The research is not provided in the presentation. More information to inform this strategy needs to be presented that this would be effective. The DWR will need to demonstrate with statistics from other states or with data from previous changes in other units in 2023. The proposal seeks to address hunter perception and deer management which these strategies are contradicting. Making it impossible to achieve both objectives. This is an expensive solution to the hunter and increases the profits of price gougers selling equipment. There are hardly any modern rifles in common calibers that are equipped with open sights or peep sights. Given the governments anti-gun position and the firearm industry bottle neck on both arms and ammunition, many people will not be able to acquire a new firearm prior to the season. Ammunition will be the most limiting followed by access to a rifle that meets the requirements. This is a step backwards in effective take and will likely result in wounded animals. A moderate approach would be to limit the power of the rifle scope to 3x. With the current proposed changes, people with visual impairments will be excluded unless exemptions are allowed. Using a percussion cap or flint lock is dangerous to the hunter and the animal. Misfires and the delay burn will result in wounded animals. The 209 primer is a much safer and ethical mechanism for muzzleloaders. A moderate approach would be to restrict the powder form to loose powder only instead of pellets. I support the 1x current rule for muzzleloaders. I do not support the restrictive definition noted in the proposal concerning muzzleloaders.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I have been in the hunting and firearm industry for many, many years. In my professional opinion, technology restrictions when it comes to hunting is just plain unethical. If you take away scopes or limit magnification on a rifle all it does is wound more animals. If you take a step back and look at the ethics we all want to use when taking the life of an animal, we want to do it as humanly as possible. Allowing me to use a decent scope and a decent rifle will give me the best chance at making a quick and ethical kill. So, the idea of restricting the technology allowed just to create "more hunter opportunity" is just plain wrong and unethical.

With that being said, looking at the idea of antler restrictions through the same lens, it is a much better solution. We as hunters can still have the opportunity to get out and hunt for a mature deer and if we find one, we have the ability to use a modern rifle and scope to harvest the animal quickly and humanly. I also like the idea of allowing Youth to take any buck to get them into hunting.

To recap, in my professional opinion, technology restrictions to provide more hunter opportunity is ethically wrong. While an antler point restriction, does accomplish the purpose of providing more hunter opportunity while not sacrificing ethical hunting.

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

Strongly disagree

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

Junction Valley with 2023 Harvest Data shows that 0 bull elk were harvested and that satisfaction was a 3.0 which is low if you compare it to other CWMU's. 2022 they have a 60% harvest rate, 2021 they have a 60% harvest rate, 2020 they have a 40% harvest rate, 2019 they have a 60% harvest rate. You have to go back to 2018 for them to have a 100% harvest rate with 5 bull elk permits. If you average it out over the history of the CWMU this CWMU is on the lower end of rates for CWMU's.

Why should they be rewarded with 2 extra bull elk permits if they are not harvesting and have low hunter satisfaction rate. Even if it is split and 1 goes to the CWMU operator and one to the public you are just setting up these hunters to fail and in the end will have a sour taste for the CWMU program which is so great in reality.

I DO NOT THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE JUNCTION VALLEY 2 EXTRA BULL ELK PERMITS.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I'm very frustrated with the yearly change in optics and weapons. I have been hunting the Cache area for 57 years. With the past two winters the deer hunt should have been closed on this area. I realize you have to raise money but there should have been another way found. I hunted every day of the muzzleloader and rifle hunt and saw three bucks worth shooting. Not trophies but 3 points or better. Now you want to go to open sights, how many people will spent the time and money to be able to accurately shoot open sights. There will be more animals wounded and lost than killed. Proposal is totally absurd.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I do not agree that you select the units that have the most access to public land to implement all of the weapons restrictions. Will these weapons restrictions apply to CMWU units that are located within these units. What about outfitters that have clients that are booked years in advance for any weapon hunts in these units. Will they be limited to restricted weapons? Looking at the data in the presentations, weather, habitat and predators seem to have the biggest impact on deer herds. Not the hunters. People are always complaining that there are no big deer to hunt. I disagree with that mind set. There are big deer to hunt, but it takes time , effort and patience to find them. They are adapting to the environment around them. They go to places where there is less pressure. Those places most often are hard to get to and take effort and time. Over the last several years, I seen more mature deer than I ever have previously, but I have also had to change the way I hunt. Let's focus on the key factors that we can help manage such habitat, predator control, fencing to have less deer killed by automobiles and things of that nature. Restriction on weapons will require a major portion of the hunting population to have to purchase new weapons that will meet the weapons restrictions. For some people it's not an issue, but for others it's a significant investment. Go to a local sporting goods store and see how many rifles you can find that have open sites. Last time a looked there were very few. I hope that the public comments that are submitted for these changes are really taken into consideration. There is very strong sentiment amongst the majority of hunters that their comments and feedback are being pretty much ignored by those making the decisions based on changes that have been made the several years. Thanks.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 2:48 pm

**Which best describes your position** Strongly agree  
**regarding the proposed mule deer**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I believe there needs to be a change in the way mule deer are hunted, especially in the northern region around Cache County. I've hunted this area for over a decade, and the drop in deer numbers has been hard to ignore. When I was a kid, it wasn't unusual to see 30 deer in a group, with a few good bucks mixed in. This year, though, I spent three days backpacking and covered about 40 miles on horseback, and I only saw one mature buck. That's just not normal.

Because of this decline, I strongly support efforts focused on predator control, access management, winter feeding, and restricting firearms to open sights for five years.

From what I've seen, mountain lions are having a big impact on deer numbers. Every time I've gone out this season-which is at least 25 times-I've either seen a mountain lion or come across their tracks. I've spotted them in Logan Canyon, around Mount Logan, and near Mount Elmer. In the winter, I've even seen them following deer herds. So, when people say there aren't many mountain lions out there, I know that's not true. The recent change in the law that allows hunting them with combination permits might help, but I still don't think it's enough to protect deer and elk populations. We need more efforts on both sides-effective predator control and responsible hunting practices.

I also think access management plays a major role in protecting wildlife. For example, behind the Hardware Ranch area, most roads are open until hunting season starts, and then they're closed. That limits access to people on horseback or on foot, and it's made a noticeable difference-though not a huge one-in the deer and elk numbers. I don't believe all roads need to be closed, but shutting down key roads that cut through deer habitat during hunting season makes sense to me.

Winter feeding is more complicated. On the one hand, feeding deer during the winter helps them survive and grow stronger. But it also creates issues by drawing predators to a concentrated area and increasing pressure from shed hunters. If winter feeding is expanded, I think it's important to have clear rules in place to deal with these problems, including managing predators and regulating shed hunting. If that can be done, I think increasing winter feeding would benefit both deer and elk herds.

I'm also in favor of limiting firearms to open sights or low-power scopes for five years. There's proof that this approach works. The North Cache Unit, where the only tag available is the HAMS tag, is a great example. Since implementing that tag, the elk population has bounced back, and now it's common to see impressive bulls in the area. I believe the same approach could work just as well for mule deer in the Cache Unit.

I think another issue that needs to be addressed is archery hunting. In my experience, I've never seen an archery hunter drop a deer on the spot. Even with a good shot, the deer usually runs several hundred yards before



it finally beds down and dies. More often than not, though, the shot isn't great, and the deer ends up running much farther, dying without ever being recovered. This allows hunters to wound multiple animals over a season. I'd be curious to see how many deer are wounded and never recovered during archery season compared to muzzleloader season. I'd bet the numbers show more unclaimed animals during archery season. If that's the case, I think archery tags should be reduced, and those tags should be reallocated to youth hunters using muzzleloaders or open-sight firearms for the next five years.

Overall, I think these changes-predator control, better access management, thoughtful winter feeding, and restricting firearms to open sights-would go a long way toward rebuilding the mule deer population. If we can also address the issues with archery hunting, I believe we'd see healthier deer and elk herds in the future.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

we do need to really work on getting more deer in the northern unit. the past few years have been tough to find mature bucks let alone younger bucks. we are coming across more predator sign than ever before. Mountain lions are every where on the cache unit. less than half the does seen a field had fawns and lots of carcass found while hunting. the draw is about right as far as getting a tag every other year. youth should be a top prior for sure. long range rifles and trail cams she be banned. man up boys and scout with out the tech. less family in the field and more groups of guys looking for horns vs the old family gatherings. most people i feel would take a few years off to help the population? iron sights are a great idea as well as the point per side of deer. something needs to change for sure hopefully we can find some common ground and move forward.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I had to get a new scope this year for my muzzleloader, because of the new 1x restriction and now the state want's me to have to get a new rifle or muzzleloader to hunt the cache unit, because of new ideas. No thanks! Taking a step back in time because someone has an idea, means more animals not recovered and less youth getting the opportunity to go hunt because family's don't have the resources to go buy a new rifle or muzzleloader to obey the regulations. Make better choices state of Utah!

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 7:14 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 7:18 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Neither agree nor disagree  
**regarding the recommended big game**  
**season dates?**

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Please include the traditional archery restrictions in the thousand lakes unit and if possible include the Cache unit also. Making allowance for youth to use modern equipment.

One unit in general and one in limited entry would be ideal.

My name is Michael Arnette, Nonresident so take that as you will.

I'm a die hard Traditional bow hunter, have been for a couple decades. I'd like to take a minute to voice my opinion on the need for small traditional archery opportunities aside from compound bowhunting, specifically for mule deer. One great example this is the trout creek area in Oregon, where traditional archery is required. Another is the McAlester Army Ammunition plant in Oklahoma. Both allow for significant numbers of Bowhunters to enjoy great draw odds due to the limited equipment.

With a traditional bow my ethical range is within 25 yards. I can shoot out to 30 yards but am not able to hold an ethical group on deer sized animals.

For most the traditional bow is ethical 20 yards and in. This severely limited range makes it the perfect tool for maximum tag opportunity.

I've been following this issue for awhile and last year when the department at the last minute dropped the primitive archery restrictions in your plan I was very disappointed. I understand the reasoning was youth being restricted. I believe this could be an easy fix by allowing youth to use compound bows. Similar to the antler restrictions in Pine Valley.

When I read the news I went out and bought a compound (I haven't shot one since 2005) and within 3 weeks was able to hold softball sized groups at 60 yards and have a max ethical range of 70 yards. This is not uncommon as you well know and nowadays you rarely hear of an archery mule deer taken below 50 yards.

Hunting with a recurve, I've been within 50 yards of countless mule deer I wanted to shoot on every single hunt, in most cases several times. But the difference between a 50 yard effectiveness and a 25 yard effectiveness is massive when it comes to mule deer. They are one of the few animals that has adapted to a singular predator; the mountain lion by being incredibly adept at evading danger within a 50-60 yard distance. However this came at a cost and when they are able to be taken at further distances they become extremely susceptible to harvest.

It's time to separate a very small portion of tags between modern and traditional archery. We don't need much, after all we represent less than 5 percent of Bowhunters.

I ask for one unit, two would be even better. Give us a chance to show the benefits our limited equipment can provide.

One more consideration, a draw blood=punch tag rule for this equipment. Hard to enforce but easy to follow for the majority and will make a push towards ethical shots. The traditional archery community is one of the few who would wholeheartedly accept this.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Arnette

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 8:49 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I think that restricting the scopes on rifles in the proposed units is a very poor idea. There are multiple ways that we should manage the deer before we restrict scopes on rifles. Such as, making these units a 3-point or better and let the bucks grow up a bit. Taking scopes off guns will lead to many more wounded animals. Most hunters will not be capable of taking a lethal shot with iron sights. Limit what animals can be harvested with the capable equipment before we take off the equipment away.

It is also a bad idea for the hunters that are already in the dedicated hunter program. I did not put in for the dedicated hunter tag to have the scopes taken off of my gun after year 1. If that is the case I would have spent my money and service hours time elsewhere.

Also, for the youth hunters. Youth have a hard enough time getting on animals with scopes. Take those off and it becomes nearly impossible. Think of the youth and the future of hunters. Youth should be excited about getting in the field and hunting, but moving to iron sights will drive that away.

That being said, taking scopes off rifles for the proposed areas is a VERY poor idea.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I disagree with the no scope on rifle units. My family hunts on the cache. I am fine as an adult to only have a tag every few years and think youth should have more opportunity. We (as a group) have learned to spread out our tags for hunting opportunities. That being said, when we do draw a rifle tag we don't need to be told what we can or can't hunt with. I also feel like this would result in more wounded animals. If we are looking for changes I would agree with  
-point restrictions for adults ( like proposed on th pine valley unit.)  
-shorten the hunt to 5 or 7 day.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I totally disagree with taking scopes off of rifles. It will not save or improve the mule deer herd. It will only wound more animals. Please make it a 3 point or better unit (the cache) for 5 years and try to get donations to feed the deer in the winter and I know you would see so much improvement. The hunters that have the long range guns are not the ones that are hurting the deer herd. We hunt hard and only shoot mature trophy deer. 2 points need to stop getting shot at the rate they are. If the average cache survival rate for fawns is 40% 1/2 of them are bucks and I'd dare say 70% of all the deer harvested every year are 2 point bucks. That is not putting many bucks on the landscape every year. We need to all step up as hunters and sportsmen and be proactive in improving the winter habitat for these deer to survive the winter. Restricting hunters is only going to make the public pissed off and not want to help. Everyone I talk to is against the weapon restrictions. Please consider this feedback. I know you have a lot to look through.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Very supportive of the extended archery only option as long as the rest of the archery hunters still get to hunt it. I know plenty of people who regularly draw archery tags for the sole purpose of only hunting the extended and it would be nice to allow those unit tags to go to people who want to use them.

Very Supportive of the 30% +/- automatic tag changes. I believe in the past few years the wildlife board has shown they are very susceptible to political pressure to move away from our agreed to, biologically sound permit recommendations. I think this new policy will allow us to manage to plan and biological needs better.

Very supportive of the lower buck to doe ratio that was proposed for better herd management, health, and more permits.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I'm against the restricted weapons definitions for any general season hunt. Restricted weapons hunts should be a separate, stand alone season. Doing research on this topic makes me feel like in the future all general season hunts in Utah will be restricted weapons which is something I would hate to see.

I'm against the antler point restriction for pine valley. There is extensive data on antler point restrictions in other states that show they don't work. Saving bucks for future years only to have them wiped out by drought or a hard winter doesn't seem like a good management plan. There are already plenty of big bucks out there on every unit. People just need to get off the roads to see them.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I agree with making thousand lake a limited entry unit. I disagree with antler point restrictions and restricted weapons definitions for general season deer hunts.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I strongly disagree with the recommendations to restrict people from applying for both general season and dedicated hunter deer permits. This proposal has already been rejected in the past and I believe it should be rejected again. While the percentage of people applying for dedicated hunter tags and general season tags is high, its not a large number when looked at the other way around. There are far more people applying for only general season than are applying for general season and dedicated hunter. It is a very small group that is applying for both. Dedicated hunter already requires alot. Making it so now dedicated hunters can't also have a chance to apply for general season makes it harder to even want to do it. When dedicated hunters are on the program they can't get general season points anyway so they typically only come off the program with 1 point and it doesn't make that large of a difference. Please don't pass this recommendation concerning the dedicated hunter/general season application.

I fully support the recommendations surrounding the youth applicants. I think its going to give them some more opportunity without sacrificing to much of the opportunity of the rest of the hunting public.

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

Strongly agree

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

I agree to deny the JB Ranch CWMU Application.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

We should take in account how we issue buck tags not based on sex ratios but rather overall deer population and consider how many bucks are actually available on the landscape. for example in the Kamas unit based on the 2022 annual report the kamas unit had 7700 deer. of those deer based on the 3 yr buck to doe ratio there were 1,617 bucks on the landscape. we harvested 491 of those bucks with putting 2,781 hunters in the field. not taking in account predation , motor vehicle loss, public access and inflated buck populations on private lands which public hunters do not have access to like promontory and etc. Its not a real opportunity if there are no bucks available to even harvest. The buck to doe ratio in the kamas unit is not a true factual representation of what's present on the landscape and definitely not available to public hunters. Based on my findings its 6 bucks to 100 does and the deer population is not correct either. We need to get better and counting deer and take consideration on human encroachment on habitat loss. how we hunt bucks is not going to help "grow" more deer. It will provide a better experience for those who do have a buck tag if we out less hunters in the field for the bucks that are actually on landscape. and put more focus on habitat, migration corridor's and human encroachment.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

We need to focus on human encroachment and habitat loss

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I think we are missing ALOT of opportunity based on season structure and missed youth opportunities. The DWRs and the wildlife boards perspective on a lot of topics do not coincide with the general public

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?**

would like to see more opportunity for weapon type to help spread out applications and drawing odds

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**      Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**      none

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**      none

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I am very supportive of the recommended study and research strategies outlined in the proposal. I live and hunt in the Cache Unit and am excited to see the potential outcomes of the restricted weapon rule. I am, however, unconvinced that the reduction in the buck to doe ratio will help "grow deer." The graph that was displayed had huge variation and I would suspect any trend line selected would have a coefficient of determination small enough to demonstrate a lack of correlation. In other words, I believe there are many other factors that would impact herd health to a much greater degree than buck to doe ratio.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I personally live and hunt in the Cache Unit. I would love to see the results of the research project specifically in this area. I stopped hunting the general rifle season years ago due to several experiences of people shooting over me while I was trying to close the distance to what I felt like was an ethical shot on deer. In one instance specifically, I felt sincere concern for my safety. I believe the elimination of scopes on rifles benefits the average hunter in that they are no longer competing with persons willing and able to spend several thousands of dollars on equipment to shoot at an animal at unreasonable distances. I also look forward to the survival of more bucks through the season when they can no longer be shot at distances outside of their realm of observation. I participated in the muzzleloader hunt this year following the elimination of magnified scopes and had the most enjoyable season I have ever had even though I didn't end up harvesting an animal. There were several animals I would have harvested had I been able to use a magnified scope and those deer are still roaming the hills because of the introduced restriction.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I am apposed to having this change made. I come from a family that has been hunting for many generations. Some of my fondest memories with my dad involve hunting. I have memories from a young age to current. This year I got the opportunity to hunt with my 16 year old daughter and my 73 year old father. Both tags were not only filled, but filled with memories. I was able to watch my dad make an amazing shot. And was able to share my knowledge and experience with my 16 year old daughter. I have over 30 years of memories. The constant in all of them are the rifle and in extension the scope. I shudder to think how different these memories would be without a scope.

Scopes have been around since 1909. Scopes have been a part of guns for literally a 100 years. A century of using Scopes and you want to take that away? They are such a major part in teaching these new hunter how to properly use and respect guns. How to be accurate and make kill shots. So as not to make game suffer. The struggles and challenges of an open site are endless. How often are you able to come within 200 yards of game and have them hold still long enough to make a lethal shot. Making the general deer season "open site" only will only cause frustration. The older generation will have to not hunt (because they can't) and the younger hunters getting so frustrated they lose interest in hunting all together. This proposal doesn't just remove scopes. It removes the opportunity to create and share memories together as a family. This proposal has the potential to put a halt to generational gatherings and traditions. All because people want bigger bucks. At the end of the day its not about the size of the buck. Its about the memories you make while succeeding or trying to succeed in filling your tag. To remove scopes. You are potentially wiping out multiple generations of hunters. The older and younger hunters. I strongly oppose the removal scopes during the general season deer in the Cache unit or any unit for that matter.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 30, 2024 4:34 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I support the iron sites proposal

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 30, 2024 4:36 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

We need to continue changing hunts from the standard ways of the past. Removing scopes from muzzleloader and RIFLEs would be highly recommended and needed. Keeping high pressure off bigger bucks and making it fair chase again. All my kids learned to shoot iron sights. And are just as equipped too shoot a deer with iron sights as with a scope.

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I am tired of, and generally opposed to the constant rule changes.

I oppose the changes to make muzzleloader restrictions different from one unit to the next in the same state. It will lead to further confusion. I was opposed to the rule change in 2024 to remove high power scopes from muzzleloaders. I don't believe hunters became more ethical simply due to a rule change. Regardless of technology advancements with inline muzzleloaders, muzzleloaders remain single-shot, limited range weapons regardless of whether they have a scope. Having a scope simply makes the shots taken more likely to be lethal sooner, rather than resulting in an unrecovered animal.

I oppose the proposed changes to enforce sidelock muzzleloaders in certain units and believe that it will only lead to more wounded/unrecovered deer.

It seems very clear to me that selling more tags and creating rule changes designed to decrease harvest rates can only serve to decrease hunter satisfaction, not increase it.

If herd numbers are too low in certain units, I suggest you decrease permits or make even smaller units.

If decreased permit sales are a necessity due to herd sizes, and this means less hunting opportunities, I believe most hunters would prefer to have fewer opportunities in favor of better opportunities. More hunting opportunities just means hunters see more orange in the field when they do hunt. If revenue is the issue, I suggest you raise fees. Start with out of state tag fees. Fee rates have not come close to keeping up with inflation year over year. Virtually nobody in Utah hunts solely for the "food."

Please, don't change the muzzleloader rules for certain units. Don't change the muzzleloader rules to be more restrictive anywhere.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I like much of the proposal. I would like to see expanded use of GPS collars and possibly looking at increasing the number of units in the state (Most notably splitting up the West desert and box elder units) to allow for more localized management of the deer herds. In the presentation it was talked about for Mountain lions of not crossing the 7% predation mark. I view Hunters as part of that predator "top down" management and would like to know what percentage of bucks taken is optimal for population growth. I am also VERY supportive of the 4:1 habitat ratio.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I strongly support the rule change of not allowing collar data to be used in retrieving animals. For the weapons restrictions, I partially support trying it out. I feel that exceptions should be made for youth and senior hunters. Same goes for the antler point restrictions. but I feel that that rule should allow for the taking of 3 points on either side. I would also like to be discussed why you chose the 5 units you did to implement those restrictions ( I myself hunt cache unit and would like to know). I also feel that overall tag numbers should be reduced and that hunters need to get over the fact that you may not be able to hunt every year.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I'm sure you have many complaints coming through about the restricted weapons changes on the three specific units (I myself hunt Cache). Though I do agree with their sentiments that we should look at lower tag numbers foremost, I do agree with restricting Muzzleloader to iron or peep sights only. I also believe that if you are going to restrict any legal weapons to iron sights only an exception should be made for youth AND senior hunters. I am also in support of trying the antler point restrictions and fully support an exception for youth hunters, but I believe that once again an exception should be made for senior hunters as well if this idea spreads to other units in the future. I also am very adamant that Muzzleloader deer season dates were adjusted to include two weekends.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?** I support these suggested changes.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** I support the change in dedicated hunter vs general season applications. For the youth hunts, I don't believe that all of the unrealized tags be converted to Any legal weapon permits. My concern is that would make the success rate too high and have a negative impact on the deer population. Unless the success rate is already so low that it wouldn't make much of a difference. I would like to see that data.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** I appreciate going through the breakdown of why CWMU's include public land sometimes. Transparency is always a good thing.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** This is fantastic! A possible way to provide MORE opportunity for deer tags, while increasing the amount of mature bucks in the population! It seems like a win/win. Why not give this a fair shake and see what happens!

Change is hard, but going multiple years without the opportunity to even get a general season deer tag is worse.

Way to think outside the box and try something new!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** It's very hard to see federal public land inside the CWMU boundaries. And some of these acreage breakdowns are truly mind blowing. CWMU's with nearly 50% public land???? This is a giant issue that the general hunting public despises and is a giant black eye for the Division and the CWMU program. Why allow this? The majority of sportsman completely oppose public lands inside CWMU boundaries... Is it worth it?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I have concerns with going to iron sights (only open sights or peep sights) for restricted rifle in Beaver, West Boulder/Kaiparowits, and Cache units. I fear that this will cause more deer to be wounded and not harvested. Scopes provide a more accurate and clear (for people with bad eye sight) shot on an animal. By limiting everyone to iron sights only, I fear that more hunters will be taking very risky shots at 200-->400 yards because that's what they might be used to with a scope mounted rifle. This will most likely cause more wounded game. My proposal is to limit the magnification power and maybe reticle type on scopes instead of eliminating them entirely. I am both an archery hunter and rifleman, and I understand the concept of limiting long distance (500 yards +) shooting to keep the hunting sport more sportsman like, but eliminating a tool (scopes) entirely from units that have always had scopes is like removing someone's hand and saying, "okay now, go do your every day job like you always have." It will cripple a lot of hunters if not completely eliminate them from even applying to hunt rifle. Also, modern hunting rifles for a while now don't come with iron sights at all. Most hunting rifles these days are sold with the understanding that a optic (scope) will be mounted to it. This will also completely eliminate those hunters who don't own a rifle with iron sights (open sights). How is this proposed rule going to help the deer population? What's the idea behind this proposal? And was any thought put in to how this proposal would impact/effect hunters who have used optics (scopes) for generations? I bet if the DWR conducted a survey of all hunters in these units for who used optics (scopes) vs who used iron sights (open sights), you would see percentages like: 100% use optics (scopes) and 0% use iron sights (open sights). This proposal is a HUGE change and will have a drastically negative impact on the hunting communities in these units. Again, my proposal is to NOT completely eliminate optics (scopes), but to limit the optic (scope) magnification and/or reticle type. This should have the same/similar effect without such a drastic impact on the hunting community.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I have concerns with going to iron sights (only open sights or peep sights) for restricted rifle in Beaver, West Boulder/Kaiparowits, and Cache units. I fear that this will cause more deer to be wounded and not harvested. Scopes provide a more accurate and clear (for people with bad eye sight) shot on an animal. By limiting everyone to iron sights only, I fear that more hunters will be taking very risky shots at 200-->400 yards because that's what they might be used to with a scope mounted rifle. This will most likely cause more wounded game. My proposal is to limit the magnification power and maybe reticle type on scopes instead of eliminating them entirely. I am both an archery hunter and rifleman, and I understand the concept of limiting long distance (500 yards +) shooting to keep the hunting sport more sportsman like, but eliminating a tool (scopes) entirely from units that have always had scopes is like removing someone's hand and saying, "okay now, go do your every day job like you always have." It will cripple a lot of hunters if not completely eliminate them from even applying to hunt rifle. Also, modern hunting rifles for a while now don't come with iron sights at all. Most hunting rifles these days are sold with the understanding that a optic (scope) will be mounted to it. This will also completely eliminate those hunters who don't own a rifle with iron sights (open sights). How is this proposed rule going to help the deer population? What's the idea behind this proposal? And was any thought put in to how this proposal would impact/effect hunters who have used optics (scopes) for generations? I bet if the DWR conducted a survey of all hunters in these units for who used optics (scopes) vs who used iron sights (open sights), you would see percentages like: 100% use optics (scopes) and 0% use iron sights (open sights). This proposal is a HUGE change and will have a drastically negative impact on the hunting communities in these units. Again, my proposal is to NOT completely eliminate optics (scopes), but to limit the optic (scope) magnification and/or reticle type. This should have the same/similar effect without such a drastic impact on the hunting community.

As for limiting the antler point proposal, there are many mature (older) bucks with 3x3 or even 2x2 racks (excluding eye guards). If this proposal becomes law, then many mature (older) bucks (3x3 or even 2x2 racks) will grow old and pass on their bad genes instead of the good bucks (4x4 or better) passing on their genes because more 4x4's will be harvested.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Okay with these proposals.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?** Okay with these proposals.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

---

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** Okay with these proposals.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Okay with these proposals.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2024 11:35 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I'm really not sure where the "Restricted Rifle" on the Cache comes from, any data to support this change? I'm sure a small group of people with their own Agenda. It will get pushed through and if it does I would only recommend that youth are still permitted to use a scoped rifle (with restriction if you wish). I am more open to the idea this if only for a period of time and not a permanent change.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I really like the weapon restrictions and think it will provide more quality bucks and more opportunity (more tags). win win!  
I do not think antler point restrictions work. it has been proven.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?** many of the sheep hunt dates are to long. the old november ending dates are long enough.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** First year deer hunters should be gauranteed a tag.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Do Not make the cache restricted! The cache is doing much better thanks to the predator control guys! (Steve S.) If you want to take scopes off rifles only apply that to the North cache and leave the south cache how it is. Shut down spur roads before taking scopes off!

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

Neither agree nor disagree

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

Do NOT do land swaps with CWMU's. It NEVER benefits the public. We are also losing public ground to gain worse ground.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Everyone needs to understand this proposal of taking scopes off of rifles is not going to help population growth! It is a proposal for opportunity.

Take scopes, give more tags= more hunters happy that they were able to obtain a general season deer tag?

Satisfaction from sportsman will plummet with this change.

The goal for most all sportsman is to harvest. Killing a buck usually is hard enough as is, and taking scopes off rifles will only make the success rates decrease greatly.

Wound rates I would assume would rise.

The thought of new hunters and youth especially walking around with iron sights is a sad one. If the board does decide to pass this proposal, please be aware of the youth!! Allow them to use scopes at the very least. It is important that they experience success so they continue to hunt and pass the tradition on to their children.

I do fear that if this passes we may never get it back. Once things are taken it's much harder to get it back.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

You will lose lots of support from hunters if you take away the ability to use scopes on rifles and you will have more wounded animals and accidental shooting of non target deer. Why take away the ability to confirm it is a specific animal and restrict vision? What should happen if you want to lower ability to kill bucks is make it all 3 point or better unit and allow kids to keep hunting. We have hunted cache for many years and now we are looking more out of state to get tags. Things are turning too ridiculous and it has become a money making joke from a public resource. I think restricting the ability to use scopes on a hunt is overreach of government. You are appointed to protect and preserve a species and have been entrusted to do so for future generations...that's not gained by selling more tags, creating more hunts for more tag sells to generate more money then turn around and make it very difficult to be successful in harvesting animals. People aren't going to stop taking ridiculous shots instead they will be doing it with less visibility and ability to confirm it's the right gender or animal. I believe you will have more wounded animals and more incidental buck and doe deaths. I love the idea and support fully restricting the animal size for adults. Like three points or better for adults in cache and the other two units. Please don't ruin our wonderful general area. I don't have good vision and it's hard enough to get my kids out hunting...this will kill their desire to deer hunt.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I'm disappointed in the survey returned. Only 29%? I would not consider them hunters. Not involved hunters anyway. Those results show me they do not care. I think the buck number to doe ratio should be higher-26 bucks to 100 does in General Season Rifle Units. Premium Limited entry permits for obtaining a mule deer permit in Utah should not take as many years as it does/currently and I don't have a solution to this. Where I prefer to mule deer hunt-Manti LaSal, I've heard there's too many cougars. Not sure if that's TRUE. Realize UT has been in drought the past 10 years, yet, the quality of bucks (size of antlers) seems to be dismal in the bucks I see in recent years when scouting and hunting.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

In recent years, while hunting Manti LaSal Unit, I allowed a few 2-pt. bucks go (as I do not kill young deer), only to witness them shot by hunters who were road hunting in their side-by-sides or heated trucks, who arrived late in the morning. Sad sad. In some units where 4 points are in greater numbers, I'd agree with a 4-pt. or better requirement. I do not think youth hunters should be given any preference/advantage, or special privileges (availability of permits) over that of adults. A hunter is a hunter in the field. Especially since they most likely have their brother, sister, mom or dad with them. Pressure is pressure. I think a hunter should be able to build bonus point, by applying for: BOTH Gen. Season Rifle mule deer and Dedicated Hunter for mule deer. Finally, I objected to the 1X scope rule on muzzleloaders (being only a 2.67% increase in harvest), and know many other hunters who objected also to this rule also. I wrote to you people and my voice was NOT heard, or the UTDWR simply does as you want for whatever reasons deemed. Why was that law passed? Was it to join CO, or some surrounding state, wildlife regulations? In doing so, were there more unrecovered animals by muzzleloader hunters that shot beyond their weapons (and themselves) capabilities?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Like the idea of Gen. Season any weapon deer opening on a Saturday. Traditional. I wish opening deer MZL opened on a Saturday. I understand, the UTDWR tries to allow public opportunity in different seasons/species, however, In the past few years, while MZL deer hunting, run into elk hunters (either Lmtd. Entry or Archery) & there's many a hunter afield, which is annoying. Don't agree with youth having more days than that of an adult to hunt. Afterall, they're in school. Many say, for youth to have a longer time period than adult hunters, this is an attempt to instill interest in hunting for future revenue to UTDWR.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

Think that a hunter should be able to apply for both General Season Deer Permit and Dedicated Hunter Permit and earn a point in either. Afterall, if a Dedicated Deer Permit, only allow 2 deer in the 3 years.

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