

**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?** Leave the buck to doe ratios the same as they are for the 2024 hunting season. The current buck to doe ratios have been discussed for years at RAC meetings. The reason they are currently set as they are, was a result of RAC and wildlife board discussion.

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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?** Why are all but one of the study areas being done in the Southern region?

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

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** You are giving archery elk hunters the extra days back on the front end of the hunt to eliminate confusion? Maybe give the early elk hunters their five days back. I'm sure they are confused also. Those dates were part of the plan approved last year. Part of the concession from archery hunters was to give up the days on the front of the hunt to get days more in the rut. A year later they are getting both.

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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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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 4:18 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?**

Unpopular opinion: You need to cut off the late muzzleloader or cut the time in half. You should also put the rifle hunt back to five days and cut the bow hunt in half; all of these hunts are too long. That would create real change.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 4:26 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 5:45 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 5:52 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 would recomend splitting the south west desert unit into 2 separate units due to wing able to manage the unit better. From cougar spar road south and north.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Only can speak from over a decade of experience on the beaver. The deer numbers just aren't there. I'm not one to road hunt. I glass across big canyons and spend a lot of time on the unit and the deer numbers just aren't there. It's frustrating to see an increase in tags this year because supposedly we have a good fawn cropping. Please keep beaver to the higher buck to doe ratio. There is a predator problem of bears and cougars on this unit. During spring my buddy I was with while shed hunting was stalked by a lion and came within 40 yards of him. Control predators. At least keep the tags the same for a year or two to let these bucks grow and give the a chance. Im also not liking the idea to not be able to put in for dedicated and general at the same time.

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

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I'm in favor of doing research projects and like the idea of splitting the beaver unit as long as you just split the tag numbers. Don't give out the same amount of tags for each side of I-15.

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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?** 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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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 7:29 pm

**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?**

Not the dates, but I strongly disagree with the weapon restriction on the Beaver west unit. This is an area close to rural towns full of youth. This area is heavily used for opportunity to these youth, and creating weapon restrictions inhibits these opportunities. Something like this should be done in areas that are designed for the advanced hunter, not the common weekend hunter. To do something just for an experiment should not be done in this area. Strongly strongly disagree!!!!!!

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 7:45 pm

**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 also disagree with how the restricted weapon change will negatively affect the beaver East unit and its draw odds. As someone who has hunted this area for years, I want to have equal opportunities to hunt my favorite places as everyone else in the state. By implemented the changes to the west, it will overload the draws on the east. This is obvious and unaccounted for.  
**DO NOT APPLY THE RESTRICTED WEAPONS CHANGE PLEASE!**

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

Somewhat agree

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

For the most part I agree with a lot of the stuff that is in the new proposed plan. Regarding the unit boundary changes for the Beaver East and Beaver west, I don't love that idea but If it does go through I would like to see the west boundary moved from Minersville highway. The mountain range just north of minersville, which includes dry willow peak, Baboon peak, and out to badger peak I think would do well being included with the new proposed Beaver west unit. The west unit boundary could be moved to the railroad tracks from Milford out to Lund highway, then from Lund highway into Cedar City. The mountain range is mentioned above is pretty far outside of the rest of the Southwest desert unit and it would make a lot more sense to have it be part of the new Beaver West unit or even just the Beaver Unit if the split doesn't happen, I understand that this is the proposed Mule deer plan but I think I would also consider moving the boundary for the Beaver West Any Bull elk unit. My family own property west of dry willow peak and we run out cows out there and there has been a significant increase in Elk numbers. And those elk do not get hunted by the Southwest Desert Limited entry elk hunters as it is far away from the rest of the unit.

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

Somewhat agree

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

If the change to the Beaver unit does in fact go through I would prefer to keep the rifles scopes legal on the unit. I personally do not think it will make a significant difference. People are still going to take long shots and overall open sight shots are much more difficult to execute and more deer will get wounded. Leave scopes legal and people will be able to make more accurate shots and wound less deer.

**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?**

How big of a difference is it actually going to make to not allow us to put in for general deer and dedicated at the same time? How much more opportunity is this going to create? The people of Utah want deer on the landscape. They want opportunity at mature bucks. They are sick of seeing 1000 other hunters and very few deer. Do something that will actually make a difference

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 10:51 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?**

Don't penalize people trying to put into the dedicated hunter! We're trying to make a difference. We should be able to put in for that and the general season at the same time, don't be ridiculous, we just want more opportunity to hunt every year and kill bigger bucks! No one wants to kill spikes, ban that statewide!! They are dumb, and need to grow up and become smart

**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 think getting rid of scopes on rifle hunts is straight up bogus!!! A hunter will take the shot regardless of if it's too far away. This will injure more bucks and lead to waste. I think we should focus on the Boulder, on 4-points or better, that would make a huge difference. I just killed a 4-point there on Saturday, but I saw so many stupid spikes and 2 points get killed and I passed up a few, spikes and small 2 points should be illegal to kill statewide. Let the bucks become smart and grow!!!

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 9:25 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?**

20 Bucks to Doe should be the baseline number to provide adequate breeding coverage of the does, synchronize the fawning births better, and provide better age class for the bucks before they're harvested. My time in the field this year, I've seen many fawns that appear to be undersized, which I attribute to late birthing dates since the moisture and feed appear to be good. I don't think the breeding coverage is adequate right now which is going to lead to unsynchronized births (late births), undersized fawns, and reduced overall fawn survival - the key to continue providing tags while maintaining age class and overall herd size. 20 bucks to doe is supported by the research as well. I think the buck to doe ratio needs to be 20-22. Also, I like breaking units up into smaller units and adding more season dates to reduce the density of hunters in the field at the same time. The congestion on the mountain is hard for hunting, camping, and stressing the deer out. I think more seasons, even if it extends the overall hunting year longer, will reduce the density on the mountain at any given time and actually reduce the stress on deer even though the overall dates will be longer.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 10:05 am

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

Somewhat disagree

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

They need to implement the 3 or 4 point or better on the panguitch lake unit and decrease the number of non residents tags and cut the early rifle hunt out of this unit the deer population down there are suffering so much with all the pressure and all the hunters out number the deer by almost double and start cutting out some of these side by side trails

**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 am 100% against the Beaver West going restricted weapons. I feel with this proposed idea you are going to run into more deer getting shot and wounded with no recovery. The terrain in that area is going to make it nearly impossible to get within and shoot 100 yards and closer. The success rate will be minimal in my mind. I am personally from that area and I don't picture many people applying for that hunt. Its going push people to the Beaver East side which in turn is going to make it nearly impossible to draw and overcrowded. Another thought I had is if you are wanting to get the youth more involved with hunting why are you tying their hands with these restricted weapons? I cant imagine a youth hunter let alone an adult hunter having much success using these types of weapons. I personally feel you are crippling the youth by making this a restricted weapon hunt. I have a nephew who missed a buck a couple times this year in the muzzleloader hunt. He got pretty down on himself and bummed that he had missed. This stems from no scopes being on muzzleloaders but that's a whole different topic, the reason I share that story is to make a point that if you are wanting to go to weapons that make it more difficult to use, more difficult to execute a kill on an animal you're going to push a lot of future hunters away and they are going to lose interest pretty quick. I know that misses happen and that every kid isn't going to be successful on a hunt. I had my fair share growing up, but if you are wanting the youth to have memorable hunts then don't tie their hands with this weapon restriction. Don't make it harder to kill a wild animal that it already is.

I hope you really consider not sticking with this proposal.

Thank you!

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 11:40 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?**

Why? Why can't we just not split units and keep things the same? Nobody wants to hunt a rifle hunt with open sights. No one wants to split units.

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

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Strongly disagree

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

Restricting rifle and muzzleloader and archery on an entire unit is completely ridiculous and a slap in the face to people that have hunted these units their whole life like myself I have no desire to hunt any other units besides the boulders and the thousand lake and to have all weapon restrictions completely ruins my way of hunting and many others I would rather wait 5-6 years for a tag and be able to hunt the way I want to than have weapon restrictions so that you can decrease success rates to increase tag numbers

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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?** Better than what I've seen in the past

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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?** Add a second unit with antler restrictions

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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?** Add a few more rut days to the end of the LE archery elk

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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?** Strongly agree

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**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 proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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

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.

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

Strongly disagree

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

Buck to Doe ratios are a concern, but the Division is putting more emphasis on the number of bucks instead of the real concerning number which is the low number of does. Buck numbers are low but it is alarming how low the doe count is. The DWR is pumping fake numbers based on poor math calculations, predictions and biased deer counts to inflate numbers to show inaccurate results in favor of continuity of funding. The numbers are in constant decline and we are trying to blame the deer for this issue when it is sheer mismanagement. To date, on the Pine Valley unit, I have spent countless hours glassing and well over 50 miles of hiking this hunting season, this is by far the worst year for deer I have ever witnessed. The hills are barren. We need to back off and allow numbers to recover. We have done so much damage in the past, it's time we answer for this by limiting hunting and hunters. Less tags, shut down units for study, create more safe habitats, etc...

CWD is not a disease only spread by bucks but you are trying to add that to the plate as if high buck counts are responsible. Does are to blame more than bucks. Does congregate far more than bucks, if CWD is going to be presented as a threat, we need to discuss total eradication. It's a difficult task I understand but trying to contribute this issue to your "High buck to doe ratio" is disgusting.

At what point will the Division start talking about the impact of livestock on government lands affecting carrying capacities? Livestock impacts carrying capacities far more than "High Buck to Doe" counts. But we're not talking about it?

Lastly, it is known in the community here in Southern Utah that farmers shoot trespassing deer on their property. The Division has swept this issue under the rug for far too long. We need to build fences and compensate farmers to save winter range deer. We need to incentivize farmers to stop hating the deer.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 25, 2024 10:23 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?**

Give the archery hunters two weeks. It's crap we give them so long. Also instead of all the restrictions why don't you have your officers get out and patrol. The Boulder unit above Antimony from Poison Creek to Pacer Lake is full of poachers every year and nothing is done.

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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?** overall looks like a decent plan, however there isn't as much change as we need. This may have been discussed in committee, but lets change all limited entry deer units to general season. There is so much wasted opportunity on LE units to only kill a handful of great bucks. lets change them all to GS, and then the LE points can be used for a premium season, ie a rut hunt or August rifle hunt. There are great bucks on all general units that a near impossible to find until the rut or after they strip velvet. Doing so would increase overall available tags and spread hunters out. you could draw a Pine valley muzzleloader with general season points, or a pine valley November rut hunt with limited entry points. Our current LE units are cool, but honestly a waste of opportunity.

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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?** Definitely some interesting ideas being tested. But I guess they haven't been tried for a while so it may be worth trying for a couple years.

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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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**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 agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 25, 2024 11:58 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?**

Splitting the beaver unit into 2 units is a joke of an idea, especially making the one unit open sight rifle. that west side is a hard unit to hunt and adding that would cause my injured deer. beaver has thrived off having 1 unit because some people like to hunt archery and muzzleloader on the east and then hunt the west in the rifle. splitting beaver up is a terrible idea and should be reconsidered.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 25, 2024 2:07 pm

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

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

I watched the video and read the entire management plan document. I'm passionate about deer, and I studied wildlife biology in school before changing degrees and going into education. I have also participated in the dedicated hunter program five different times.

First of all, I applaud you for tuning out some of the public comments on social media calling for tag cuts and a complete reset. Cutting tags does not grow more deer. I am in the opportunity camp. I would love the opportunity to hunt every year, even if the chances of success go down. There are big bucks on every unit if you are willing to put in the work. I see the drop to 15-17 bucks per 100 does as a great move that should increase my opportunities to hunt and increase deer available in the long run. All our conservation efforts should be on doe and fawn retention and you guys nail that in the video/plan.

I also agree with the habitat improvements and look forward to seeing 600,000 acres improved and the changes to prevent chronic wasting from spreading.

One concern I have is depredation hunts. We own 80 acres of alfalfa and have a few landowners on neighboring farms that shoot a lot of does on the Thousand Lake unit. That unit cannot handle having does harvested in the name of depredation. Is there not another way to compensate landowners for their losses? I think of all the money paid out at the hunting expo and can think of no better use than to buy the life of does on struggling units. Or simply issue them buck tags instead! Bucks don't impact the unit's population like a doe does. I know that the same thing happens on units throughout the state. Please try something else!

Predation seems to be a big issue on these units as well. I had a Fishlake bear tag in 2023 and hunted Thousand Lake. More than a dozen bears hit my bait sites, and I also got a few lions on the cameras during that time. More bear tags and some sort of Cougar bounty would help these units out immensely. There just aren't enough houndsmen willing to harvest lions for the sake of the deer herds.

I also feel that if we really want to increase opportunity, we should make people choose between limited-entry deer hunts and general season. Those who cry for tag cuts can apply for limited-entry units where the tags are cut and the buck-to-doe ratios are higher. They can then deal with the consequences by only drawing a tag once every decade or two. That would address the point creep issue on limited-entry units and make drawing a general season tag much easier.

Thanks for the opportunity to give input!

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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 watched the video and read the entire management plan document. I'm passionate about deer, and I studied wildlife biology in school before changing degrees and going into education. I have also participated in the dedicated hunter program on the Boulder and Thousand Lake units five times.

I think it is great that you are being proactive and trying different things. I agree with you that the technology used in hunting has gotten out of control. I hear stories of 1,000+ yard shots all the time, sometimes even with a muzzleloader. To many, it is more about the shot than the hunt.

To me, the real head-scratcher is: Why the Boulder unit? I just finished my third year of the Dedicated Hunter program and spent 50+ days on the mountain. It is in better shape now than it has been in years, and your data corroborates that. It had 31 bucks per 100 does last year! That is limited entry status!!! It saw 25 per 100 over the last three years! I had dozens of opportunities to harvest 180" class deer.

As I understand it, weapon restrictions are in place to make it more challenging to take a deer, thus increasing the buck-to-doe ratio. It seems that you need to increase tags drastically on the Boulder to bring the ratio back to the 15-17 bucks per doe ratio you are proposing. So why the weapons restrictions?

I totally understand trying something on Thousand Lake. That mountain is an absolute dumpster fire right now. I'm not sure how you found 100 does to figure out the buck-to-doe ratio (unless they migrated onto it after the hunts were over). I killed a few giant bucks on there after it switched from Limited Entry to General season, and I love the mountain more than any. It is the mountain my family hunted on for generations. Try the weapon restrictions there, but please don't convert it to Limited Entry again!!! No one is applying for the archery and muzzleloader permits as they are!

I am also not a fan of Antler Point restrictions in any form. They have been tested before and failed miserably. It increases pressure on the mature bucks, increases illegal harvest, promotes poor genetics, and frustrates hunters. When combined with weapon restrictions, it would be an absolute train wreck! You would need a scope on your gun to be absolutely sure you had a 4-point in your sights.

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

Somewhat agree

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

They look great. I think we could shorten some seasons to reduce stress. I hunt archery, but don't even start to go until the start of September. I think it should start the first week in September and be shortened a few weeks.

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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?**

It all looked great to me. Thanks for the opportunities to hunt different animals.

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

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Neither agree nor disagree

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

I wish this was two sections because I'm in favor of the youth changes, but hate the Dedicated Hunter changes.

I am 100% in favor of giving the youth the opportunity to hunt. I think they should draw any general tag they put in for their first year automatically and have improved odds after that. Thanks for making these changes so it is more accessible to them.

I'm all about having the opportunity to hunt. I feel having a tag every 3-4 years has hurt the hunting tradition in my family (we live and hunt in the Boulder/Thousand Lake Units). We always apply for hunts that give us the best odds to draw a permit (archery/muzzleloader). I have drawn for Dedicated Hunter 5 times now and was amongst the first cohort. While I understand why you are closing the ability to apply for both, I feel it punishes those who will do anything to hunt deer. On the Boulder, it took 4 points to draw a DH permit. Who is going to wait for 4 years, pay extra money, and complete 16 service hours just to shoot a couple of deer? I would predict that most will bail for the GS hunts. Even if they do stay, you only take 300 hunters out of the GS pool, so the draw odds do not get that much better. The only people applying for both DH and GS are your most avid hunters, and you are punishing them for doing whatever it takes to hunt deer.

There have also been years when we applied for Dedicated Hunter, and there weren't even any tags available (Boulder 2020)! In the following few years, only 1 or 3 permits were available. I know you fixed it so we can see the permit numbers before we apply, but not everyone looks at that and can be tricked into applying for something that they will never draw.

If you really want to increase opportunity, we should make people choose between limited-entry deer hunts and general season. Those who cry for tag cuts and bigger bucks can apply for limited-entry units where the tags are cut with higher buck-to-doe ratios. They can then deal with the consequences of only drawing a tag once every decade or two. That would address the point creep issue on limited-entry and general units.

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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?** Agree that predators need to continually be aggressively pursued. It's just the reality of the situation. I am glad we are doing so many different things to watch the herds and their health!

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

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I like the division coming up with different ideas to create opportunity units and experiment with the 4 point or bigger and restricted weapon units. But preserving most units as opportunity.

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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?** Like the antler point restrictions.

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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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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** love this. Whatever helps it so youth can hunt more is what we need. I talk to too many kids that say that they have put in for 2 or 3 years and still haven't drew out anything. If kids don't go hunting they may never go.

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**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've been begging dwr to split the beaver and add weapons restrictions to the mineral mtns for years i love the idea and am extremely happy to see it be proposed!!!!!!! I might even apply to hunt up there again for the first time since 2017!

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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?** Again very excited to see what happens on the minerals with the weapons restrictions and I'm also excited to see the results from the other units as well glad to see you're willing to try different things to see what has the best affects!!!

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

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** I'm an archery hunter/muzzloader hunter the archery for all species should be 3 weeks i do like the early hunting dates but 32 days for elk is just too much. Also instead of giving archery hunters 5 days at the end to hunt without spike hunters it should be at the beginning so the elk arent being chased all over on opening day by spike hunters! The spike rifle hunt should be 10 days and start 5 days after the mid rifle there is way to much crowding on that hunt and it gives the guys who waited 15+ years a big disadvantage when their target bull/s are chased around by people buying a spike tag etc. On the late muzzloader on the general if you're gonna do that hunt do it right and put it over Thanksgiving break when most of the bucks are rutting and out id apply for that hunt with my 10 points on the sw desert if it were the last week of November instead of the 1st week when it's still too hot and the deer are still hiding from the pumpkin patch the week before.

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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?** Id like to see more archery only once in a lifetime opportunities it won't do much but it'd help push people through on some of these hunts.

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

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Neither agree nor disagree

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

Id like to see some limited entry tags be put towards youth only maybe 3% or 5% that would be a cool way to give kids a great hunting experience maybe if they draw they have to wait 10-15 years to start applying again for that LE species.

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

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Neither agree nor disagree

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

Somewhat disagree

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

Could we please not overlap these hunts:

1. Youth Elk hunt overlaps General Season Archery Any Bull Elk - the last week of the archery elk hunt is usually the best opportunity to get a bull with a bow but then these youth rifle hunters come in and scare all the elk away with their excessive calling, shooting, and large numbers of people swarming the landscape. Could we give all of September to the archery elk hunters like most states do?

2. Rifle deer hunts overlap rifle elk hunts - there are hardly any elk in the Pine Valley and Zion units compared to other units in and out of the state. We need all the help we can get without having to compete with rifle deer hunters coming in and reducing opportunity. Could we also drastically increase the elk population for the southern units, especially Pine Valley? We are all chasing the same 5 elk if we get lucky enough to even see them.

Thank you!

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**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?** The Proposed Mule Deer Management Plan was well thought out and researched. The presentation was informative and helped to explain the "Why" in the Proposal. There will be many that will oppose this especially the proposal with restrictions and splitting the Beaver Hunt Unit, but in time they will agree it is a proposal that will benefit the resource and hunters. We need to give it a chance and see how it benefits Mule Deer. Thanks for putting it out there.

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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?** Be Bold and implement the proposed research project. Let's learn from the research project to better Big Game Management for the future.

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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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**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 agree

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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?** Somewhat agree

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

I would like to start by saying I really respect and agree with a lot of the proposals. Where I start to disagree is on two points. One being antler point restrictions. Is been tried many time across many stater and it has shown, long term, that they just don't work. I believe if someone draws the tag, pays the fees, pays for gas, food, ammo, etc. then that person should shoot what they want.

Secondly, the restrictions on weapons. I can see where this proposal is coming from. I firmly believe that we will have issues on these units with wounding and lost of game. Is it the end of the world if it passes, well no but I believe there are other ways to reduce success and would make us less effective than removing scopes on rifles.

Other than those two points, I agree with the plan.

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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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**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 agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Good work DWR. I appreciate your efforts. As a part of the plan I would like to see a program or employee to assist private landowners to get assistance with fencing issues. I bought 5 acres in a central Utah town a couple years ago. The prior owner installed fencing. The fence caught/killed 3 does over a 2 year period after my purchase. I spoke with the prior owner who told me had killed 1 or 2 deer a year (this means maybe 10 deer in 6/7 years). I would have loved someone from the DWR to visit my property and help me with a solution other than just removing the fence. I've now removed a section of the fence, but I don't know if this will be effective, or whether there are other options. I imagine that if there were an employee dedicated to this issue (helping private landowners with fencing solutions) that we'd be preserving population while essentially opening up more habitat on private land.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 8:37 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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**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?**

So I think that if you make this change in the southern region, then one the population of deer on the side of the road that gets hit it's gonna be more frequent. So I think DWR should put deer fencing all along Hwy 18 and all along 56. Way too many deer are getting hit and causing extreme damage and cost. And we're the ones that are paying for it, and these out of town people don't have to worry about it, but still get tags. Also, I think that lifetime licenses in the southern region should be limited so the other people have a chance to hunt.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

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

I don't feel like the youth still have the chances they should to draw out.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 10:06 am

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

Strongly disagree

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

Stop with the weapons restrictions. If you guys want to kill more deer why does it matter what weapon you use? Open sights aren't ethical, there is a reason no one hunts with open sights anymore...they suck. Why don't you guys manage animals not people. Your season dates and weapons restrictions are gimmicks. You can't have both quality and opportunity, so decide what you want to do and do it.

**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 very much like the idea of restricting the way we hunt on the Beaver unit. However for this to be effective the same restrictions need to be applied to all of the Beaver unit, both East and West. Never did this unit get considered for being split until now. Let's look at how both the East and West side do with these restrictions. The reason that this should also be put in place on the East side is because of all the open sage brush area making it too easy for long range rifles to kill off the buck population. The East side is a perfect place to implement the restrictive hunting. Please consider all of the Beaver in your implementation. I know you will see a change for the better as many of these bucks will have a chance to better survive in this open range land. It cannot hurt to include all of the Beaver and can only help the East side of this unit. You can still issue the same amount of tags and give the opportunity you are looking for.

Thanks for your time and consideration

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 11:09 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 mule deer management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** The Utah DWR is the biggest joke. They have completely ruined the deer and elk herd on the pahvant range & most of the state. I have lived in the area all my life & my family has cattle permits on the range. I have spent countless hours on the mountain & have seen the devastation the DWR's management of both herds. The whole problem is \$\$\$\$\$\$. The DWR manages for money instead the health of the herds. We have seen the steady decline of both herds & they are almost non-existent at this point. The DWR needs to quit managing for money & actually cut tags drastically or close most of the state general units. I have hunted Nevada a couple of years ago & their DWR actually manages their herds right. I saw very few hunters on my hunt & a lot of deer & elk the entire hunt. It's simple they charge nearly \$150.00 to apply, there is \$\$\$ Utah DWR. Charge more for applications & cut the tags.

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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?** The DWR doesn't need to perform any studies other than doing an honest count for each unit & cut the tag numbers drastically.

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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?** All hunts are too long the animals are under constant pressure for half of the year or more.

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

Strongly disagree

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

By your own statistics you have brought the Beaver unit from awful buck/doe ratios, to now for the last 2 years around 20 bucks per 100 doe. Because of this you increased tags by 600 on this unit. Why in the world would you want to go backward? In a time when buck number confidence is already low and hunters not seeing the buck numbers you indicate, it seems very counter productive to now say you are lowering that number. By moving backward, you have just confirmed to the hunter that the numbers you put forth were not correct. Your own post season stats show that you can obtain this number and also increase tag numbers. If the deer were over crowded and fighting for food to survive that is one thing, but this is not the case. Having a couple more bucks per hundred doe on the landscape is not going to affect the other deer, there is just no justification for decreasing this number. If you change the hunting restrictions to open sights on the Beaver, you can increase tag numbers anyway. No need to try and reduce the number of bucks, when your choice of weapons will only increase the buck number, because hunter success will decrease. There is NO need to change the buck/doe ratio.

Thanks for your time

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 6:27 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?** I like the idea of the unit split for the beaver unit

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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 love the idea of a primitive weapons unit and the three point or better unit, I enjoy the DWRs willingness to try different strategies and methods, and I will be hunting the beaver west unit if this passes

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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?** The spike hunt should start 5 days after the start date of any bull hunt, to give big bull hunters a better chance, the limited entry LM should start the week of thanksgiving

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**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 hunt the boulder and support the proposed study. I also like the idea of giving the youth the extra point

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

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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?** Excited to see the results of the deer study

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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?** Would like to see a later season bookcliffs south archery hunt. Do a early and a late archery season

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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?** Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 4:33 am

**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?**

I strongly disagree with the restricted weapons portion. It will end the hunting careers of many older hunters that can't see well. ATVS are far more of a problem than the weapons we use. Let's find a way to restrict off road travel of atvs. Especially on the newly treated habitat areas.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I feel like less deer tags should be sold to out of state hunters and sell to the local hunters. Also lower the number of tags sold for the units with lower buck to doe ratio.

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

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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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**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?** Somewhat 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?**

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 proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**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 want to start by apologize about the length of this one. But I really hope you'll read through it all and consider some of these points.

I really don't like only having restricted weapons hunts on any units. I think this will just force a lot of those applicants to other surrounding units and increase point creep there. I think there is a small demand for this type of hunt but I don't think it should be restricting other weapon types.

I strongly oppose restricting Pine Valley unit to a 4 point or better. There have been multiply states do this same study even on 4 points and none of them have come out in favor of the mule deer heard. All this will do is create buck to doe ratio increase that will not be manageable. According to the classification data from the last 2 years only 19% of the bucks classified post season had 4 points or more. That means last year there would only be roughly 600 bucks that would even be legal and there would have been 2700 adult hunters for just 600 bucks that are legal. Even after a year or 2 there will still be around 50% of the bucks that will not be legal each year. This would create a giant spike in buck to doe ratios that I believe will be unmanageable. Which in turn would require a massive spike in tag increases over the years. I think this would lead to a dramatic increase in tags every year due to the plans objective being at 18-20 B/D ratio and with a restriction on legal bucks the division will not be able to manage for that ratio and it will always be over objective which in turn will increase tags every year. I am strongly against this management strategy. Although it will have it benefits by the end of the 4 year study if the division increase tags 30% for the first 2 years until there is enough bucks in that legal category to increase some harvest and even 5% on years there after. I predict Pine Valley will see tag numbers exceed 6000 tags because of the buck to doe ration always coming in higher then the objective.

I am also very opposed to implementing a weapons and point restriction study and not restricting it to only being eligible in a draw system. I think you will see the perception of a unit that is only 4 point or better and it will draw a lot of life time license hunters to that unit. I think any unit involved in this study should be declassified as a general unit during that time frame and should be by draw only and if a life time license hunter wants to hunt that unit they should have to draw it same as anyone else. Pine Valley is already one of the most sought after units of life time license holders. This will only make the demand even higher.

**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 really like how the division is looking into collar study's and changing units or splitting unit boundary's to be able to add opportunity or be able to better manage a deer herd.  
Also really like that we are lowering the buck to doe ratio a little on the limited entry deer units to be able to give a little more opportunity in that category but still maintain a good quantity of quality bucks.

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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?**

I really like splitting the Escalante unit into two units. But I think it is ridiculous that we have hunts that last this long on units.

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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 really like the unused youth tags going to youth in the any weapon category. The only question I would have is which hunt would they draw those tags in first the early rifle or late rifle? Or would applicants be combined from both hunts and then draw from that list?  
I don't like not being able to apply for dedicated and a general season tag. But I get it I do think it will help with point creep. The one thing I would like to see is that Youth not be restricted to that and that you allow them to still apply for general season and dedicated hunter.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 2:31 pm

**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?**

I think hunters should be able to put in for both, dedicated hunter and general season buck deer permit. More Hunters will put in for general season permits.

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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 have 50 years of participating in mule deer management from about every angle including many different wildlife conservation groups and even being a Southern Region Rac member and even eventually chairman of the Utah Wildlife Board. I have done a lot of work and hands-on studies with numerous DWR employees and biologists. I have lived through the the glory days of mule deer in Utah to the extremely low deer numbers of the present.

It is my view that we have been managing deer herds based on bucks. we have tried almost all the buck- hunting stratagies that a person can imagine and all the time our deer numbers continue to decline. The average sportsman just can't seem to grasp the idea that in the scope of a deer herd bucks are a very minor piece of the pie compared to doe and fawn survival and reproduction.

Back in the glory days, we had deer units that had over a hundred fawns per hundred does on post-season counts. now we have units down in the low forties and probably high thirties. On most units, it takes about 65 to 75 fawns per hundred does to just maintain.

If I could wave a magic a magic wand, I would turn this whole management plan around and get all the vested and interested parties together and list all the ideas that people think would help raise the fawn birth and survival. A lot of these ideas wouldn't be possible to do. Freeways and public growth is here to stay, 1080 poison will never be allowed again but even with a lot of these issues there are ways to improve fawn survival we would just have to do the best we can with the sideboards that we can't change.

Let's quit fighting over scopes on muzzleloaders, shortened hunts, antler restrictions, buck to doe ratios, season changes and all the other ideas that haven't done anything to improve deer numbers in the last 50 years in Utah. We will never have deer in the abundance that we had in the sixties but we can have way better herds in the future than we have today.

Let's manage for fawn survival first and bucks secondly.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 30, 2024 5:56 am

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

Somewhat disagree

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

I feel that private hunting shouldn't cost more. Out fitters and guides need to be non existent. We created businesses out of killing animals when it should be designed for feeding hungry.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 30, 2024 7:06 pm

**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?** Leave thousand Lake unit alone.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2024 7:01 pm

**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?** Beaver East, Mt Dutton and Panguitch Lake should all be 18 to 20 bucks to 100 does and these units should be 4 points or better.

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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?** Why don't you put Mt Dutton, Beaver East in the research study, these are the Units that really need it.

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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 beaver unit getting split it's needed to happen!

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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 love the primitive weapons unit for beaver west we've pushed that idea for years!

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

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** The spike hunts should start later than the limited entry hunts to keep elk from getting chased around. The late muzzloader for deer should be during Thanksgiving or December to give people a real LE hunt.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2024 8:53 am

**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 think a point management and weapon restriction would be a big help to the hunters and being able to hunt more often and being able to hunt more mature deer in any unit

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**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?**

I have no issues with the proposed changes to the buck/doe ratio changes or boundary changes on some units. I take strong exception to the proposed and recommended study and research strategies. I don't believe these strategies have any good reasoning and a clear goal. Are we trying to offer more opportunity or grow more mature deer? Or, are we truly trying to improve fawn recruitment?

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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 having a really hard time understanding the reasoning behind the proposed weapon restrictions on the Boulder and other units. What is the end goal of the restrictions? To potentially give more opportunity by reducing buck harvest? Or, to create more mature bucks? The restrictions reek of a way for the state to create another "trophy" unit without coming right out and saying it. My question is how will this proposal help more fawns survive and be recruited into the herd? I have heard time and again from biologists from state to state express concern that high buck/doe ratios can potentially have a negative impact on fawn survival. If these units are "struggling", why are we creating a weapons restriction that could potentially save more bucks and put fawn recruitment at further peril? If we are trying to find a way to move more hunters through the points system, why don't we eliminate the opportunity for hunters to put in for both limited entry deer hunts and general season deer hunts? The proposal to not allow applicants to put in for both designated hunter and general season hunts is a good one....why don't we take it one step further and force hunters to pick either general season deer hunts or limited entry hunts? This would really show the DWR what hunters in Utah really want as far as deer hunting is concerned--more opportunity or more quality--and help move people through both the general season and limited entry points pools. With all that being said, I do agree with the idea of reducing buck/doe ratios on most general season units IF tag numbers can be increased as a result. What I am skeptical about is whether or not the Wildlife Board will allow tag increases even when buck/doe ratios are exceeded. Overall, though, I am not in favor of any of the weapon restrictions ideas and feel like it could be the nail in both my and my kids' hunting future. I have traditionally hunted the Boulder unit and if the proposal passes, I will be forced to by two new guns (IF I continue looking to be a designated hunter) which I cannot afford. So, my option is to hunt a different unit without the proposed weapon restrictions but that means hunting with the rest of my family--brothers and cousins--won't happen. It is just another step to restricting traditional hunting lifestyles for the sake of creating more "trophy" bucks...on a general season unit. I hate it.

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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?**

Thank you for suggesting and possibly having a antler restriction. I feel it is something that could really help the deer herds and the publics satisfaction of harvest a mature mule deer. One that they would actually be happy with on the wall. We all know if a big buck and a little buck are side by side then the big buck will be harvested. I'm very pleased to see the Oine valley being an option for this antler restrictions. I hunt pinevalley because I do want to harvest a bigger mature buck. I'm fine with eating tag soup year after year waiting for a mature and bigger buck. All my hunting party that hunts Pinevalley feels the same. We choose pinevalley in hopes of a bigger buck. If a hunter doesn't care for a bigger buck and just wants to harvest anything then they should pick a unit without an antler restrictions so that they may be satisfied. So over all if the DNR give a variety of options to hunters then that would satisfy all kinds of different hunters. Let the hunters choose to hunt a higher buck to doe ratio with antler restrictions or to hunt a lower buck to doe ratio with no antler restrictions. I feel that is a scenario that would satisfy all and allow the hunter to choose their type of hunt.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 1, 2024 2:53 pm

**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 proposal will ruin these southern general season units. We have tried 3 point or 4 point or better before and it backfired with all the young bucks breeding the does. No scopes on rifle's will wound too many deer. This is a bad idea.

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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 guess I am confused why we are lowering the buck to doe ratio on the beaver. It was not so long ago that the goal was to reach the 18-20, why now are we back tracking? Certainly not because of the shortage of feed, I took note of the feed on the south east side of the Beaver aka Dog Valley Area, there was so much feed and no deer to eat it. I will say that I saw more bucks in this area but not for long, as I watched one group of 6 fill their tags with spikes and little two points, this was only one group. This area is hurting to get the deer herd built back up. This is an easy area to kill a deer once you have it spotted there is no where for it to hide the area is mostly sage brush.....SO lets not go backwards in trying to get it back to good hunting. GOODNESS!!! Don't start splitting units try the proposed plan on the whole unit. I am 83 years old, I started to go with my dad at the age of 13 to learn about hunting deer and never once did I hear my dad say we have too many bucks in the herd lets get them killed off. What happened? I do appreciate your attention in trying to save the deer herd, but listen to some of timers, we may be of some help.

**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 do agree with most of what you are proposing, but try the Antler requirement on more than one unit. The Beaver was on the list last year and it should be on again this year. Please don't start splitting up Units, this defeats the purpose of Units.. The East Side of the beaver still needs a lot of help to get back to quality hunting and opportunity hunting

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 2, 2024 7:23 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 2, 2024 9:46 pm

**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?**

My comment is on the proposed change to thousand lakes unit. I have hunted thousand lakes unit for about 12 years it started out very good then slowly went down hill. but the in the last three years it has gotten much better. I think it is coming back. I would like to see it stay as is.  
Thank you.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 3, 2024 1:01 am

**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 think we need to continue with the 5-year structure or if any change, reduce to a smaller year increment to for more adaptability to management structures as deer populations can fluctuate on a much smaller scale as say elk. I think increasing that management plan by even one year may tie the DWR's hands in the event a major change would want to be implemented. I would like to commend the DWR on their effort for the scale and diversity of the Mule Deer Committee they put together. Super great to see that amount of interests involved in this process. Really great points made about the heavier concentration and focus to predator management addressed in this plan. Serious issue that I think gives the DWR a lot more range of freedom to help mitigate loss from predators. The Bottom-up management plan implementations into this plan are phenomenal outline as well. The Watershed Restoration Initiative is a great plan. Really excited to see how that plays out. The 30% +/- tag allocation adjustment freedom I think is a great addition to this plan but I think it goes counter intuitively with the proposed buck to doe ratios. Hunters are wanting more quality bucks on the landscape. We can't do that with fewer buck to doe ratios. These two plan proposals need to go hand in hand. Meaning, if we're going to cut tag allocations to help improve buck quality, we need to also raise our buck to doe ratios. We need more bucks making it through the hunting season and be able to reach higher age classes and more maturity. Disease resilience pertaining to CWD is a difficult thing to try to predict. Yes, CWD has began to show some prevalence in certain locations in Utah. And if the DWR was serious about CWD spread, I think we should be taking drastic steps to mitigate the threat of widespread transmission in stead of just cutting buck to doe ratios (still deer on the landscape besides bucks that will spread the disease, look at Michigan, Wisconsin, etc.). I would have to disagree with the first graph presented. It's only attempting to correlate precipitation, buck to doe ratios, and population growth. It completely neglects the affects of predation, fawn recruitment and survival, and habitat quality on population growth. But if you assume poor habitat quality (feed on the landscape) and also managing for more bucks on the landscape, I can see how a higher buck to doe ratio could negatively affect overall population growth. I'll say this, if I'm wrong here in my assumptions, I'd be more than happy to be better educated on the topic. I'll say I'm fairly split on dropping buck to doe ratios on most units across the state. With a demand from hunters called out for better quality bucks but with a main focus on growing populations in this plan it is difficult to see the purpose of dropping buck to doe ratios which doesn't correlate to better buck quality but does however provide more opportunity...potentially and from their data, show it should help assist population growth get going. Overall, I think this plan is a phenomenal step forward in addressing the major concerns for our deer in UT. Addressing population growth, predator management, and habitat. Looking aside from the "how we hunt bucks" portion and buck to doe ratios that I have some reservations/concerns about personally, I would completely urge the Southern RAC to push this through as proposed and let's see how our predictions do and make the proper adjustments moving forward from this. With the Mule Deer Committee and the DWR, I think this is a tremendous job at being honest about the state of deer in UT and how

do we make it better.

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

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Strongly disagree

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

First off, I just want to say the I commend the DWR for coming forward with this proposal, I'm sure that it wasn't an easy decision to make and what to move forward with. Also, just want to note that I am no biologist and nor would I ever attempt to present myself as one. Just want to be an informed, educated, and involved hunter. Secondly, I myself, am not the biggest deer hunter, more of an elk man myself, but as a hunter I want to see healthy and strong populations of all game species across the landscape.

I just first want to point out the paper published by Wyoming Game and Fish Department "A Critical Review of Mule Deer Antler Point Regulations, Application, and Effectiveness". This paper outlines the previous attempts at antler point restrictions in Utah and their ineffectiveness, APRs in numerous other states, and other management strategies like this to try to improve buck quality. The results showed "significant illegal harvest of yearling males, reduced total harvest, reduced hunter participation, shifting hunter distribution to areas without APR, and a reduction in harvestable mature bucks". We've tried them before in this state and abandoned this method because of its short term efficacy and gains only. This does not impact buck quality and deer populations long term. These methods only show a delay in the harvest of certain age classes of bucks and with the ever present potential of harvesting younger bucks with faster antler growth. As well as the illegal harvest of non-qualifying younger bucks who do not meet the antler point restriction. I think what you're going to see if you impose this study on these units is a drastic drop in hunter participation in these units. Most hunters are not going to want to hunt these units with these new restrictions, especially on the Pine Valley unit and you will see a major influx of applications for other units across the state because hunters won't want to be a part of this. You have to think that there will be a large portion of the applying public that come application time, will be their first look at these new restrictions because of this study. And if implemented, once they see these new restrictions, they're going to apply elsewhere in the state because they will not take these new restrictions lightly. Probably feel betrayed and upset with the DWR for imposing new restrictions on the places they want to hunt because unfortunately they won't be educated on the study. This will greatly skew data results from this test because you won't have the test control variable of keeping the same average amount of hunters on the landscape for these units. If you want to consider making a change for buck quality, I think tag allocation cuts are needing more serious considerations. We need to focus on population growth and stabilization towards population objectives before we spend the time, money, and effort on a research study to study the minute effects of these proposals on buck quality. The only way to put more bucks on the landscape is through healthy doe populations producing deer and reducing our harvest of bucks until we can create stable age classes of deer that can reach maturity. I don't think this study aligns with the mule deer committee's top priority to grow more mule deer. Dax discussed in his presentation how buck hunting does not affect mule deer populations but how mule deer populations affect how we CAN hunt bucks and with the main priority to grow more deer, this research study doesn't show any purpose on how it fits in with that main

objective. Especially with historical data showing these restrictions are ineffective at long term buck quality improvement and hunter satisfaction and opportunity. With a new mule deer plan and a proposed research study, it's trying to change a lot of variables all at once. These proposed amendments are shortsighted for short term goals. I understand the DWR has an obligation to provide as much opportunity as possible and the best quality they can but they first have an obligation to steward the resource for all Utah's that is held in trust by the state. The first pillar of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. You first have a responsibility to ensure the resources viability before you concern yourself with the obligation of providing opportunity and quality opportunity at that. Opportunity is not guaranteed but the resource in perpetuity should be.

Just want to close with saying thank you for taking the time to read this. I understand that this was quite lengthy and maybe a little long winded. And just want to reiterate that I don't want this to sound like a bash against our DWR. I think they are one of the best, if not the best, in the country about being as active and proactive as they can in management efforts and the RAC process is an amazing thing. I think the whole division, biologists and all are doing the best they can but I don't think this is the time or any time in the near future for this study.

All for the rule changes for collaring.

**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?**

Majority of the recommendations here for season dates are no problem, on par with current structure. Wanted to comment about how the new hunt opportunities, especially the elk hunts, are how to provide more opportunity and utilize hunters to accomplish DWR goals. And just wanted to commend the DWR for that. Great recommendations. Also think that the few deer hunt proposals seem well thought out, specially calling out the extended archery only permit. May help to relieve a bit of pressure off some unit's draw odds if some archery hunters prefer to only hunt the extended units. Still apposed to the research study mentioned again in this section.

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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?**

Strongly agree

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

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Strongly agree

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 3, 2024 12:05 pm

<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?</b>	Somewhat agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?</b>	Agree with keeping Pine Valley 18-20 bucks per 100 doe
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?</b>	Strongly disagree
<b>Do you have any comments about the research project?</b>	Strongly disagree with 4 point or better antler restriction, There are a lot of mature 26" or larger 2 point and 3 point deer in the Pine Valley herd. By harvesting 4 point or larger this will increase the 2 point and 3 point bucks genes that will be passed on And not all hunters want a 4 point or better deer, many would be happy with large 2 or 3 point buck. Please do not approve the 4 point antler restriction, as I feel this will hurt the herd more than help.
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?</b>	Somewhat agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?</b>	Strongly disagree with 4 point antler restriction
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the proposed hunts?</b>	no comment
<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>	Agree with youth opportunities.
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	Somewhat agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	no comments

**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 want to be clear on my stance of the Beaver West unit weapon proposal before my comments are taken into consideration for current dedicated hunter tag holders. I like the new approach to better help our deer herds. I think a weapon restriction is a good idea to study the impacts of modern technology on deer populations. I believe it will help increase the deer population, but the true results will be discovered at the conclusion of the study. I think it's worth a try. My only concern is the dilemma it puts current dedicated hunter tag holders in.

This year I drew a Beaver dedicated hunter tag. I put in for this tag to exclusively hunt the west side of the unit with non-restricted weapon rules. I have only 4 hours left before I complete the full three year hour commitment. I do not hunt the east side of the unit very much. The restricted weapon change will impact my time and commitment I have already put forth thus far. I do not want to have my dedicated hunter tag roll over to the east side of the Beaver unit. I also don't want to hunt with restricted weapons on the west side. I propose the following options for current dedicated tag holders:

1. Choose between the east and west side of the unit to continue on your current dedicated hunter cycle.
2. Have your bonus points reinstated to what they were before you drew the current dedicated hunter tag. If this option is chosen, the hunter must agree to having a 1 year restriction on your ability to put back in for the Beaver east or west unit for a dedicated hunter tag.

I don't think it is fair for someone to give their opinions while hiding behind a keyboard. For that reason, my name is Bryson Wood. You can reach me at 14354219640.

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

Somewhat disagree

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

I am strongly opposed to lowering the current buck:doe ratios from 18-20 to the newly proposed 15-17. We already don't have enough mature bucks left after the hunts. Managing for a lower buck:doe ratio is simply a way to increase tags, which our deer herds/buck numbers aren't ready for. I am also strongly opposed to the 30% or less permit increase in a given year not having to present the permit recommendations to the RAC. If that's too hard a job for some to do, and you don't like to be transparent to the public, then maybe the game managers need to look for a different line of work to be in .

**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 opposed to the primitive weapons "experiments" on several units. This isn't the 1950's. If you want to do 4 pt or better or shorten seasons to save some bucks, then do that versus make families have to go buy thousands of dollars in new rifles to just go on the deer hunt, and likely wound many more bucks than they would otherwise.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 5, 2024 11:25 am

**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?** The committee worked hard, heard all the facts and came up with a great proposal. I support this 100%

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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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**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 think ALL youth should draw every year!

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

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 5, 2024 12:17 pm

**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?**

I am not against most of what you are proposing. Change is hard but I understand some things need to change. I hunt the Boulder Unit and have for 20 years. With regards to the Weapons restriction I think you should consider the use of RED DOT's. A lot of people including myself have aging eyes and have a harder time seeing Iron Sights. A RED DOT would solve this issue and keep the Weapons Restricted but allow more people to participate. Also I do not own a rifle with Iron Sights and would need to purchase a new one to hunt with. I know a lot of people in this camp as well. If RED DOTS were allowed I could simply replace my scope with a RED DOT and keep my same rifle. Thanks

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

Somewhat agree

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

As I understand, the antler point and weapons restrictions are part of a Research study. If done correctly they should be able to provide accurate data that would greatly benefit the future of mule deer management.

However, I see a few problems with the proposed Research Study.

Firstly, the antler point restriction; How are we going to come up with any conclusive data if the research study is only applicable to adult hunters? As I understand it, the youth hunters can still harvest any legal buck and are not restricted to 4 point or better on one side. I don't see how any this would yield an accurate study.

As far as weapon restrictions are concerned, the Boulder unit is not a good candidate for this study. Most of the unit is thick and flat. There are not many areas in the unit where long range shots are applicable. unless we are using the boulder as an example that restricted weapons will not make much of a difference, then what are we doing? Also, why are the youth hunters excluded from this study as well?

I am not in opposition of the research proposals, but I think if we are trying to seek out the most accurate data, then we should make sure that we get highly conclusive data to help the future of Mule Deer management in the state of Utah

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

Strongly agree

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

I think splitting the Escalante unit is a great move. this will reduce the crowding off hole in the rock road.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 5, 2024 3:12 pm

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

Strongly disagree

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

What is the reason for the Restricted weapons on the purposed Beaver west Unit? What data you have that supports this? I understand populations are different between the East and west. But its also not hunted Like the East. In the last 30 years its virtually not hunted like it was. These days its its hunted by family's that have generational ties. Still have quality deer in there. Most deer I know of come off the east so I understand the split. Don't understand the restrictions.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 4:39 pm

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

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Strongly disagree

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

The survey results showed that people are willing to wait a few years to draw a tag for better deer hunting. By better deer hunting is seeing good deer numbers and the ability to see some mature bucks. So I don't understand completely ignoring the survey by lowering buck to doe ratios and increasing opportunity by giving out a potential 20,000 permit increase!

I also think out of all the things that impact and play a role in mule deer survival the DWR is deciding to put all the eggs into the basket of bucks numbers are the biggest threat to survival. Is it a contributing factor, yes, however very small factor, and limited to our limited and premium limited entry units. This is not a problem on general season units. I have heard DWR managers as well BYU professors all say on different podcast that it doesn't start to affect populations until you start approaching the high 20's to 30 bucks per hundred does. We don't have a unit in the Southern Region that is close to that, and we have been at 18-20 bucks per hundred does the last few years and have had adult and fawn survivals in the 80 and 90 percent's. The sacred graph that is being used to portray this model has points where buck to doe units are in the 40 plus category. Yes that is a limiting factor in those units and have always seen minimal to stable growth. If you take those extremes off of the chart and strictly used our general season units I would be willing to bet you wouldn't see a separation in the two lines until you approached the 22+ buck to doe ratio. The last time we saw extreme growth in our deer herds the buck to doe ratios in the Southern Region we are the 18-20 levels and we grew deer by the thousands on these units. It is vehicle collisions, predators, and most importantly drought that have caused the decline in deer numbers resulting in less bucks on the landscapes and frustrating hunters to the point we are now.

I also have a SIGNIFICANT issue with the 30% increase and decrease a biologist can do annually with permit numbers on a unit without taking it through the public process! The RAC and Board public process is the way it has been mandated to make changes to any wildlife related issues in this State. Allowing this change is the same as allowing selfish unregulated politicians to make changes to wildlife management circumventing the public process! This is something that absolutely should not be allowed. I am sorry that the public process is long, exhausting, often frustrating, and mentally demanding for managers, biologists and even RAC and Board members, but it is the mandated process that has to take place. As a RAC this should offend you and could be start to many others rules that could take place without the opportunity for the public to voice support, concern or insert new ideas to the process. A biologist could literally increase or decrease permits in only a few years time and nothing could be done as long as they only did 29% a year! Every biologist and manager should have to stand if asked to justify their recommendations and the changes they are making. This is the people of the State of Utah's wildlife and you have been tasked to manage it not rule over it.

Also you are reducing the age on LE and PLE deer unit buck to doe ratios reducing the buck to doe ratios by 5 on the top end each and there is no mention that this is a change to the previous plan, I feel like this is just a hope to sneak by, that should be mentioned. These aren't general units, and are meant to be managed at high buck to doe ratios, leave it that way!

Also there needs to be a way for general season deer tags that have been surrendered to be returned to the public. Either a weekly sale like Colorado or a random tag released to a website like Nevada on a first come first served list. I'd bet 1000's of general season deer tags get surrendered every year and never get returned to a hunter. Get them back into hunters hands. This is a major opportunity that is not being used. Let them all go to youth even, I don't care just get them back out. Make guys use/lose points to get them, the DWR makes more money, and we move guys through the point system by getting a deer tag into someone's hands.

**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 love how bully politicians have managed to push and push to get these items to go through, and you guys are forced to twist it into being your idea making it a science experiment to justify these changes. These changes are only occurring on the units they want.. The Thousand Lakes was a terrible LE deer unit and will continue to be. There is too much migration of deer that are surrounded by general season units. You will never have big or mature deer there because they will get killed by all the surrounding general season hunters that will be managed at 15-17 bucks per hundred does. It was dropped because it couldn't maintain the necessary buck to doe ratios to still keep limited entry status and maintain enough permits on the unit. It is nonsense and only because it is a pet politician's unit in his back yard that we are considering it again. We don't have to go back to the 1950's to all these primitive weapon restrictions to bring our buck numbers and deer herds back.

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

Strongly disagree

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

The weapons restrictions stuff is nonsense. It didn't pass last year so why are we trying to push it through again?

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

Somewhat agree

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

We really need to work on our Mtn Goat numbers in this state! It's a disgrace how many tags there are now compared to what we used to have. Because of popularity, or lack of it, and a lot of goat numbers and tags it was a OIL tag that could actually be drawn. That is no longer the case. We need to study our goat herds and determine what is causing their low survival. We need to start new herds and continue to transplant goats into our exhausting herds. Not enough is being done to help them. So much work is being done for sheep that goats have been forgotten about.

**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 CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Somewhat agree

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

Strongly disagree

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

All I can say is where I hunted this past fall (zion unit) every hunter I talked to complained about how many hunters were on the landscape and how overcrowded it was. There were people literally everywhere. The 30% option may be better put in place for only reducing tags in my opinion for severe winter or drought events. The option to add up to that amount will make crowding worse and definitely hinder any chance of hunters seeing more bucks on the landscape let alone a mature deer that is 4 years or older. This seems to just open the door to huge adjustments without public input. I can't wait to see the survey results that will be returned from ALL general deer hunters. This is a great implementation! It will give the silent majority a voice and have an accurate idea of the harvest on the units. Assuming the overall ratings and data will be public I look forward to seeing this.

I strongly agree with the idea of having a extended archery only application option. This is a great idea.

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

Somewhat agree

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

Somewhat disagree

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

I would like to see higher buck to doe ratios even it means less tags. Would like to see some more ways to crack down on predators. Would like to see one application system and point system for deer in Utah. Combine limited entry and general units as one tag application process. If there's leftover Deer tags then do it so that our second choice doesn't burn our points.

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

Somewhat disagree

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

Like the experimental use of primitive weapons. Think they should have later season dates. Would like to see beer West with a primitive weapon choice with late dates. Also would like to see the November Muzzleloader season moved later into November with more limited tags

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 5:32 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 agree with most things said, but I STRONGLY disagree with doing a 4 point antler restriction on the Pine Valley unit and here's why:

1. Success rates are going to drop significantly because most hunters won't be able to find a 4+ point buck.
2. At the end of the season, the buck-to-doe ratios are going to be very high because nobody was able to kill 2 and 3 point bucks (yes, I know youth hunters can kill anything but I doubt they'll make a big impact). After year 1 I wouldn't be surprised if the buck-to-doe ratios are over 30 bucks per 100 does because of the high number of small bucks.
3. You guys will have to increase tag numbers every single year because the buck-to-doe ratios will keep getting higher and higher because of the lack of 2 and 3 points getting killed.
4. I'm guessing that within a few years the tag numbers will probably double (6,000+??) to get more people in the field to kill the 4+ point bucks. Overcrowding is going to be a huge issue and most hunters will be very dissatisfied with their experience.

I feel like all the 4 point antler point restriction is going to do is cause a huge increase in tag numbers because of the low success rates.

IF you are going to do an antler point restriction, do a 3+ point restriction. At least that way the harvest success rates will be higher, more hunters will be happy, overcrowding/tag number increases won't be as bad, and all of the 2 point bucks can survive another year.

**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 the departments recommendation to make hunters choose between general season or dedicated hunter. I'm sure that would help the drawing odds for both options.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 5:41 pm

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 6:14 pm

**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?**

In the Paunsagaunt LOA that I live on full time I see the extreme high deer density. I don't agree that agriculture acreage is treated the same as wildland or rangeland. This should be weighted heavier because the deer concentration is much higher . . . A biologist should do a deer count and give advice on number of tags, and not a "one size fits all" calculation.

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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 had a chance to change the management plan and we hardly did anything. Utah needs a change!! Higher buck to doe ratios, less tags, shorter season dates, use of restricted weapon hunts as added opportunities actually change!!!!

Also the oak creek needs to be changed to a premium limited entry or add management hunts on the unit.

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

Strongly disagree

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

This doesn't fix anything. All the 4 point or better will do is promote bad genetics, and create over crowding by having too many tags on the landscape. Restricted weapons is a great idea for opportunities to hunt but it shouldn't be the only option. My grandpa has hunted the boulder for 30 years and know would have to move because he's no longer capable of that style of hunting. We have plenty of units that we can please all kinds of hunters. Make 5 units a higher buck to doe ratio, good portion with decent buck to doe ratio and a few with super low buck to doe ratio to have options for people to draw tags every year!!

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

Strongly disagree

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

Shorter season dates especially on rifle tags

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

Somewhat agree

**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?**

If we do the youth thing tags should convert to the left over list as they tags they were intended to be. Rifle tags be rifle tags, muzzy tags be muzzy tags.

I do not support the change to the dedicated application.

**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 agree that we need to increase tag opportunities but I believe we need to focus on or healthy habits and herd rehabilitation fist that needs to be at a high before we kill our deer again. I believe we could increase the rate at witch we make that happen a lot quicker if we could implement a system like the deticated hunter program utilizing service hour program in our general season and youth tags an example, hunters can give 40 hours of community service to the division of wildlife for one bonus point per draw term this can be utilized in guzzler projects, pruning projects, planting projects, and slash pile removal projects. This could be a quick and effective way to ramp up the habitat and herd production for the hunters who want to give back to the mountains they harvest from and care to make a difference. I also believe that this will help hunters educate themselves and learn what's best for wildlife from working with biologists and learning what is needed to improve herd numbers this should also increase a more accurate harvest survey people will know what caused there hunt to be less enjoyable based off of logical issues rather than just complaining young hunters and future hunters can be more involved in management proposals and have a deeper understanding and respect for the division in there actions and long term will help create more effective plans in the future.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 8:19 pm

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

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** When and how will quality (antler size and B&C score) be considered when managing mule deer?

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

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** Please offer more HAMSS hunts. It's the o LH logical way we can offer this many permits being discussed AND have a chance at increasing size of bucks specifically.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 6, 2024 10:50 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?**

Please use restricted weapons and study this, include restricted archery as well!! And make the thousand lakes general and not limited entry!!

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 7, 2024 6:59 am

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 7, 2024 7:31 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 agree that separating the east and west beaver unit would be good. The DWR proposal is ok but I think the west side of the Beaver units potential as a limited entry unit with no weapons restrictions would be the best. Genetics and antler growth of the deer population on that area is amazing. If that's not an option the separation with weapons restrictions would be my second choice. What would happen to current dedicated hunters on the beaver unit. Would we have to choose one of the two units?

**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?** 100%

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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?** Utilizing primitive weapons as well as primitive archery (Recurves and longbows) creates a great opportunity for hunters who want to hunt every year and still have a low impact on the resource. So please consider utilizing these primitive weapons as a management tool to increase the mule deer population while still giving opportunity to hunters. As a non-resident, I would be more than willing to join in on these hunts and spend my hard earned money in your beautiful state. Here in Oregon we have similar opportunities that have been around for over 30 years and have created some of the best populations of mule deer in our state. I think you folks are really on something here and I hope it firms up for the sake of the mule deer populations and hunting opportunity.

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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?**

During the last plan revision, the overall population objective on the Plateau-Boulder was lowered from 12,500 to 8,500 deer (probably not exact numbers, but close by my memory). I felt like the DWR looked at this unit with a "we give up, this is the best we can do" kind of stance. Why can't we get back to the higher objective and manager the herd/tag numbers to bring the population back to what it was? This is probably the most neglected unit in the state in terms of habitat improvement, both summer and winter range. Let's get to work and improve this unit and get that objective back up

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

Strongly disagree

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

There are parts of the plan I can agree with, such as the antler restriction (worth a try, but I worry about wasted animals that we shot and not properly identified). I do NOT support the tech committee's recommendation to do a "restricted weapon" hunt on the Boulder. Seems like DWR is saying "we want more hunters, but we want less success". Doesn't that paint a picture that it's about money? If you want less deer harvested how about we just reduce permits until the unit meets objectives, like going from regions to units was designed to do? I think this is unfair specifically to older hunters and youth hunters. I get we are getting good at killing deer with long range rifles and such, can we limit to a 3x9 scope for example to fix that? My other concern is deer wounded and not recovered from unethical shots being taken. Lastly, do you have any idea how hard it is to find a firearm with open sights anymore? Many of us have already played this expensive game of changing sights/optics with muzzleloaders, please don't slap another financial burden on us. And I keep hearing, well, you can hunt another unit then. Have we researched how this impacts local, rural communities and citizens that live near these units? Many will never travel across the state to hunt another unit. We are taking traditions away from them. The family hunt is already gone, this weeds opportunity further for many of them.

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

Somewhat agree

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

Please change the dates on the Paunsagaunt ALW, Management, and Cactus buck hunts! The overlap in their season dates put so many hunters in the field at the same time. There has to be a way to adjust, even if it puts one or 2 of these hunts a little later in November

**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?**

I like the youth proposals. The dedicated hunter system has been working well, please don't adopt this proposal to only allow applying for it!

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**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?**

If the buck to doe ratios are to be lowered on the General Units to reduce the risk of disease and optimize herd productivity, shouldn't the same management practice be recommended on the Limited Entry and Premium Limited Entry units? I feel that we are talking out about sides of our mouth on this one. I certainly want to reduce the risk of disease and optimize productivity on these units also.

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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?**

I ask the Division to continue to allow applicant to apply for BOTH the General Season and Dedicated Hunter permit/point. This would continue to give applicants that are willing to pay the additional application fee the opportunity to do so. I recommend analyzing each of the units to determine if this would actually meet the goal of the proposal of increasing draw odds.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 7, 2024 4:33 pm

**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 disagree with the proposal of restricting a scope on rifles for the Boulder mountain unit. All you are wanting to do is sell as many tags and have hunter success go down because of no scope. It's all about making money from selling as many tags as you can. CLOSE the hunt. Very few deer on the Boulder mountain unit.

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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 strongly disagree with division biologists being able to adjust tag numbers without going through the public process. Biologists should have to run their recommendations through the process and allow the public to voice their opinion on management of a public resource.

In the mgmt plan they are reducing the buck to doe ratio on Limited Entry and Premium limited entry units on the top end by 5 bucks per 100 does. This is never mentioned in the presentation as a change? These are LE entry units and are by design managed for trophy quality and a higher buck to doe ratio. Looking at Utah's LE Deer points reports there are tens of thousands of people willing to wait for a LE deer tag. When hunters draw these permits they are looking for a quality experience. Let's leave them be.

I'm against the proposal to reduce the buck to doe ratios on Gen units. This is only so more permits can be offered to the public. I'm all for issuing more tags but lets do this once we have the deer numbers on these general units to support the higher permit numbers. The survey sent out by the mule deer committee showed that hunters are willing to wait years for general tags if their experience will be better with higher success. Even Dax said on a recent podcast that "lowering the buck to doe ratios will lead to lower the success rates, Fewer older age class bucks and overall fewer bucks on the landscape." This doesn't sound like a great experience for most hunters.

Utah should look at a way to reallocate returned general season deer tags. If they are wanting to kill more deer by issuing permits, they should get these already approved permits that have been returned to the state in hunters hands. I'm sure there are several hundred if not thousands of general season permits returned to the state each year that go unused. There are many ways of doing this, like an online sale once a week similar to Colorado or a first come first serve process like Nevada put in place a few years ago. If a hunter chooses to buy one of these permits it should cost them their general season preference points.

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

Somewhat disagree

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

The Thousand Lake unit was originally managed as a LE deer unit and never could meet or maintain the buck to doe ratio to keep its LE status? This unit is surrounded by general units which it shares its deer herd with. These general units have high tag numbers. Hunters will just hunt the boundaries of this unit and continue to over harvest bucks. I would say this unit is a perfect fit for a general season unit and thats how it should stay.

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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?**

Strongly agree

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**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?** While I don't agree with everything in the plan, I think it's a good plan, I don't see any serious flaws in it,

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

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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 proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Somewhat 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

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

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
November 7, 2024 5:58 pm

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

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

I (Robert Eichenour, Owner of JB Ranch) am writing to request your recommendation to the Wildlife Board to approve JB Ranch's application for renewal of a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU). I understand my past conviction may raise concerns in connection with the operation of a CWMU. Despite these potential concerns and the initial recommendation of denial from the Department of Wildlife Sources, I believe that my experience, knowledge, and commitment to wildlife conservation make me a suitable candidate for this role.

I recently purchased the property known as JB Ranch on or about September 30, 2024, which I currently operate as a CWMU, but which status expires January 31, 2025. As the new owner of JB Ranch, I am passionate about continuing its legacy of providing exceptional hunting opportunities for the public, and I recognize the importance of maintaining the ranch's high standards and adhering to all rules and regulations applicable to CWMUs.

The Council's recommendation for approval of JB Ranch's application of renewal for CWMU is in the best interest of the public, and I will be an exceptional partner and operator of JB Ranch as a CWMU, for at least the following reasons:

- **Extensive Operator Experience:** My 40-year career in the ranching industry, both as an operator of the historic, high fenced hunting ranch known as Circle E Ranch in Grimes County, Texas and the Canada del Oso (Canyon of the Bear) Ranch in Mora County, New Mexico, has provided me with invaluable knowledge and skills in wildlife management. During this time, I bought and sold thousands of animals all over the United States and I maintained the largest elk herd in the State of Texas for many years.
- **Dedication to Ethical Behavior and Community Involvement Following Prior Conviction:** In 2006, I was arrested and charged with smuggling white-tailed buck deer from Minnesota to Circle E Ranch in Grimes County, Texas. Shortly thereafter, I served eighteen months in federal prison, followed by a three-year probationary period. I acknowledge the serious nature of my past actions and the consequences I faced. That experience has profoundly humbled me, shaped my perspective on life, and made me a more grateful person. I have learned from my mistakes and have dedicated myself to living a responsible and law-abiding life. Since my conviction, I have demonstrated a strong commitment to ethical behavior and community involvement. I have donated many hunting opportunities to Make-A-Wish Foundation, to various church groups, to kids, and to veteran groups, and I plan to continue to make such donations for hunting opportunities on JB Ranch.
- **Public Access:** I am committed to providing public access to JB Ranch, including the campground and guided hunting opportunities. Currently, JB Ranch receives the following for the public: two buck deer tags, two bull elk tags, and twenty-one antlerless/cow tags. I hope to continue to provide hunting opportunities to the public through CWMU.
- **Commitment to Conservation and Ethical Hunting Practices:** As a lifelong hunter who harbors a deep appreciation for the outdoors and nature, I am committed to preserving wildlife populations and their habitats. I believe

that a well-managed CWMU can balance hunting opportunities with conservation goals. I promise to strictly adhere to all hunting regulations and promote fair-chase principles.

- Collaboration with DWR and State Agencies: After I served my sentence, I received no violations from any governmental authority in the states of Texas or New Mexico during my time as the operator of Circle E Ranch and Canada del Oso Ranch because I am committed to following applicable rules and regulations to these activities. When I first purchased JB Ranch, I believed cameras, feed stations and blinds would have been suitable for the ranch, as was the case with my prior operation of my prior ranches. However, I have since educated myself on why I was mistaken. I will cooperate fully with the Department of Wildlife Resources and other relevant government agencies, officials and employees to ensure the long-term sustainability of JB Ranch and the CWMU. I am committed and I pledge that we will not feed or put out mineral blocks except as may be permitted under applicable rules and regulations.

- Future Plans: I care deeply about JB Ranch. I plan to implement multiple initiatives to enhance the ranch's wildlife habitat, including planting additional forage and conducting controlled burns, all within the applicable rules and regulations and with the cooperation of, and counsel from, the Department of Wildlife Resources and other applicable governmental authorities. Additionally, I wish to surrender and waive approximately 50% of the number of harvested bucks to allow for larger antler growth, which would give the public a chance at larger mature deer in a much older age bracket.

As the Council well knows, JB Ranch is a pillar in the CWMU program. I am eager to apply my knowledge and experience to the management of JB Ranch as a CWMU. I am committed to maintaining the ranch's high standards, adhering to all CWMU rules and regulations, and promoting ethical hunting practices. I believe that JB Ranch can continue to be a valuable asset to the community and a model for wildlife conservation, as it has been for decades.

I respectfully request that the Council recommend approval of JB Ranch's application for renewal of CWMU status to the Wildlife Board. I believe that this decision would be in the best interest of both the ranch and the State of Utah.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide any additional information or documentation that may be required.

Sincerely,

Robert Eichenour, Owner of JB Ranch

**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?** Thank you for your work and trying to get more people deer hunting again. Let's allow bears to be harvested .ore liberal. There should be no trophy bears on the landscape.

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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've been asking for something like this for a few years now since the tag Cuts have been so aggressive. This is a great plan. Please change the entire state to a scope restriction. 3x9 maximum. Advocate and educate hunters to not shoot father than 300 yards. Thank you guys.

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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 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?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** All Utah Resident kids 12-18 should get a general deer tag. It's a shame how many youth don't get to hunt on their own tag. Resident Youth tag numbers should be tracked, but not limited. Please change that for these kids.

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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 just want to say that I am excited about the muzzleloader restriction part of the study proposal but not so much for the general rifle restrictions. For most of my adult life I have hunted the Cache general rifle deer hunt with a traditional muzzleloader. I do have modern rifles that I have used but my heart lies in traditional black powder hunting so I have most often then not carried a muzzleloader on both the muzzleloader hunt and the general rifle. That being said I could be selfish and say that I am in support of this study but most of the people I know are against it. They don't own rifles with open sights nor can they buy one with open sights because they are few and far between. I am not against the research, I just don't think it's feasible for all the cache hunters to adapt to it. I have hunted the north Cache with open sights for a long time and will stress that it is extremely hard to hunt during the rifle hunt. The deer are in the steep transitional ranges as they move out of the high country on their way down to the winter range foothills. That country is not conducive to short range weapons. I honestly didn't think it would pass the northern RAC. After watching both the northern and central RACs I was blown away at the disregard for the public opinion from the surveys. I hope that when the other RACs vote they will think about what impediment this will be for hunters on the cache. Lots won't be able to go because they won't have a legal weapon to take. Like I said, I could be very selfish and say that I am all for this but I can't in good conscience say that I am. I understand the proposal uses the restricted rifle definition but there has to be halfway point where they can at least use a red dot or non magnifying scope rather than having to buy a new rifle or have their current rifles tapped for sights. I do appreciate all the work everyone of you puts into our wildlife and our hunting opportunities I just felt the need to express my feelings on this topic. Thanks you.

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