



State of Utah

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 21, 2022

To: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

Subject: **Overview of 2022 buck deer permit recommendations**

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2022 buck deer hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2021 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The number of permits we're proposing for 2022 will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in Utah's mule deer management plan for harvest size, animal quality and hunting opportunity. For specific information about how individual big game species are managed, please refer to <https://wildlife.utah.gov/> and use the search field to find the statewide management plan for the species of interest.

Below is a summary of the **2022 big game permit recommendations**:

- 1) For general-season deer hunting, we manage a total of 29 hunting units. There are 19 units with a post-season objective of 18-20 bucks per 100 does and 10 units with an objective of 15-17 bucks per 100 does. For 2022, we are recommending permit increases on 10 units, no changes on 4 units, and permit decreases on the remaining 13 units. Statewide, we are recommending 73,075 general-season permits, which is a 950-permit decrease compared to last year.
- 2) Utah's premium limited-entry deer units — Henry Mtns and Paunsaugunt — are managed for older bucks (the management objective requires at least 40% of the harvested bucks should be five years or older). For 2022, we recommend no changes in permits on either the Henry Mtns (49 permits, three-year average of bucks five years or older is 64%) or the Paunsaugunt (135 permits, three-year average of bucks five years or older is 68%).



- 3) Premium limited-entry deer units are managed for 40-55 bucks per 100 does post-season. For 2021, we recommend no management buck permits on the Henry Mtns (three-year average is 36 bucks per 100 does) and a no change in management buck permits on the Paunsaugunt with 15 permits (three-year average is 42 bucks per 100 does). We recommend the same number of Paunsaugunt cactus buck permits for 2022, with 30 permits.
- 4) We recommend five permits per unit on the three Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader, and Shotgun (HAMS) units, for a total of 15 permits.
- 5) We recommend reducing 50 limited-entry deer permits, decreasing from 1,315 permits to 1,265 permits.

