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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Councils

FROM: Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

DATE: April 3, 2023

SUBJECT: Overview of 2023 bull elk permit recommendations

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources makes the following 2023 bull elk permit recommendations after evaluating 2022 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The proposed 2023 bull elk permits will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in the Utah Statewide Elk Management Plan that was approved in December 2022. Several changes in the statewide plan will be evident in the recommendations for 2023. Adjustments to the age objectives for harvested bulls on limited-entry units have resulted in increases to permits for the 6.5-7.0 and the 6.0-6.5 age-objective units. Changes in the permit splits between the any weapon seasons has resulted in a large shift of permits to the mid-season any weapon hunt on most traditional limited-entry units. Also, several of the September archery and HAMS units — and the Paunsaugunt unit — have been converted to general-season “any bull” units.

Below is a summary of the **2023 bull elk permit recommendations**:

- 1) General-season elk permits (approved in the statewide plan)
 - a. 15,000 spike elk permits
 - b. 15,000 any bull permits (early any weapon and muzzleloader)
 - c. Unlimited any bull (late any weapon)
 - d. Unlimited general-season youth elk permits
 - e. Unlimited archery elk permits
- 2) The DWR recommends no change to the draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk permits (500 permits).
- 3) We recommend 3,134 traditional limited-entry permits, increasing 256 from 2,878 in 2022.
- 4) The DWR recommends 92 December archery limited-entry bull elk permits

- 5) We recommend 110 September archery and HAMS permits (55 September archery and 55 HAMS), which is a reduction of 82 permits from the 192 permits issued in 2022. This reduction is due to units converting to general-season any bull.
- 6) The grand total of recommended limited-entry bull elk permits is 3,336 permits, an increase of 266 from the 3,070 permits issued in 2022, a proposed increase of 8.6%

Please see the bull elk hunt recommendations listed in the hunt tables in this packet for a detailed breakdown of recommended permits for each individual unit. The hunt tables also show how permits are allocated among weapon types and split between residents and non-residents.