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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Councils

FROM: Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Overview of 2024 antlerless big game permit recommendations

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2024 antlerless hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2023 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The number of permits we're proposing will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in Utah's big game management plans for population size, conflict reduction and hunting opportunity. For specific information about how individual big game species are managed, please visit <https://wildlife.utah.gov/biggame> and scroll down to "Statewide big game management plans" to locate the plan you're interested in.

Below is a summary of the **2024 antlerless hunt recommendations**:

- 1) Record-setting snow and severe conditions in the winter of 2022-2023 resulted in decreased winter survival and substantial deer population reductions in many parts of northern Utah. At the same time, much of central and southern Utah saw high adult and fawn survival, as well as local deer population growth.
- 2) We recommend 80 fewer antlerless deer permits, decreasing from 530 permits to 450 permits. The antlerless deer hunts we are recommending are designed to reduce depredation on private lands, tackle urban deer issues, address chronic wasting disease hotspots and help slow the decline of range conditions.
- 3) Statewide, elk populations declined slightly last year. Antlerless permits are still needed to keep elk populations within their management objectives. The statewide elk-population objective is 79,965 elk, and the current statewide estimate is 80,600 elk. We recommend 9,971 antlerless elk permits for the public drawing, and 9,655 permits for private-lands-only hunts — please see the hunt tables for details.

4) We recommend antlerless elk-control permits on the following units:

- Chalk Creek
- East Canyon
- Henry Mtns
- Kamas (new for 2024)
- Morgan-South Rich
- Ogden
- Pine Valley
- Zion

5) We recommend private-lands-only permits on the following units to increase harvest and hunting pressure on private lands. We recommend season dates from Aug. 1, 2024–Jan. 31, 2025. Hunters may use any legal weapon (and as specified by landowners) during these hunts. Private-lands-only hunts are an effective tool to address conflicts on private lands. Proposed 2024 hunting units include:

Beaver, East	Nine Mile, Anthro-Myton Bench
Box Elder, Hansel Mtn	Nine Mile, Range Creek
Cache	North Slope, West Daggett
Chalk Creek	Panguitch Lake
Diamond Mtn	Paunsaugunt
East Canyon	San Juan
Fillmore, Pahvant	Vernal/Bonanza
Kamas	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin-White River
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek
Manti	Wasatch Mtns, West
Morgan-South Rich	West Desert, Tintic Valley
Mt Dutton	Yellowstone
Nebo	Zion

6) We recommend 55 more doe pronghorn permits, increasing from 155 permits to 210 permits.

7) We recommend 12 antlerless moose permits, seven on the Morgan-South Rich unit and five on the Wasatch Mtns, West unit.



- 8) We recommend continuing the Rocky Mountain ewe bighorn sheep hunt on the Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns unit, with a total of five permits.

Please see the antlerless hunt recommendations in the hunt tables and the attached maps for a detailed breakdown of recommended hunts, season dates, permit numbers and hunt boundaries for new hunts.