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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2024  
To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members  
From: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator  
Subject: Once-in-a-lifetime Permit Recommendations

Big game permit recommendations are reviewed annually. Recommendations are traditionally presented during the April RAC and Board cycle. The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2024 bighorn, bison, mountain goat, and moose hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2023 harvest information, census data, and harvest age data.

The 2024 permit recommendations will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in Utah's species specific statewide management plans. For specific information about how different species are managed, please refer to visit <https://wildlife.utah.gov/biggame>, scroll down the page (to "Statewide big game management plans") to find the Utah Statewide Management Plans for each species.

### Permit Recommendation Overview:

- 1) Bighorn Sheep  
We recommend permits based on the number of rams counted on the most recent aerial census; 12-25% of total counted rams or 30-60% of rams 6 years of age or older. We are recommending a statewide total of 76 desert bighorn sheep permits (1 permit increase). We are recommending a statewide total of 57 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permits (5 permit increase).
- 2) Bison  
We recommend permit numbers based on the herd population objective and bull:cow ratio. We are recommending a statewide total of 94 total bison permits (83 permit decrease).
- 3) Mountain Goat  
We recommend permit numbers based on 5-25% of the counted adult population on the most recent aerial census. We are recommending a statewide total of 95 mountain goat permits (1 permit increase).
- 4) Moose  
We recommend permit numbers based on an average age of bulls harvested between 3.75 and 4.25 years old. We are recommending a statewide total of 101 moose permits (1 permit decrease).