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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Councils

FROM: Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

DATE: March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Overview of 2025 antlerless big game permit recommendations

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2025 antlerless hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2024 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The number of permits we are 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 in Utah, visit wildlife.utah.gov and use the search field (at the top right of the page) to find the statewide management plan for the species of interest.

Below is a summary of the **2025 antlerless hunt recommendations**:

- 1) We recommend 110 fewer antlerless deer permits, decreasing from 450 permits to 340 permits. The antlerless deer hunts we are recommending are designed to reduce depredation on private lands and to address urban deer issues and public safety.
- 2) Statewide, elk populations increased slightly last year. Antlerless permits are needed to keep elk populations within their management objectives. The statewide elk-population objective is 79,965 elk, and our current population estimate is 82,140. We recommend 10,968 antlerless elk permits for the public drawing and to offer 9,830 permits for private-lands-only hunts — please see the hunt tables for details.
- 3) We recommend antlerless elk-control permits on the following units:

Chalk Creek
East Canyon
Henry Mtns
Kamas

Morgan-South Rich
Ogden
Pine Valley
Zion



- 4) We recommend 9,830 private-lands-only antlerless elk permits on 27 units. Please see the hunt tables for units, dates and permit numbers.
- 5) We recommend 295 more doe pronghorn permits, increasing from 210 permits to 505 permits. Most of the new, additional doe pronghorn permits are recommended on the Parker Mtn unit to help manage that population to the objective.
- 6) We recommend 15 antlerless moose permits, 10 on the Morgan-South Rich unit and 5 on the Wasatch Mtns, Salt Lake-Timpanogos unit.
- 7) We recommend continuing the Rocky Mountain ewe bighorn sheep hunt on the Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns unit, with a total of 5 permits.

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