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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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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 buck deer permit recommendations**

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

The 2025 buck deer permit recommendations 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 mule deer are managed in Utah, visit [wildlife.utah.gov](https://wildlife.utah.gov) and use the search field (at the top right of the page) to find the statewide management plan for mule deer.

Below is a summary of the **2025 buck deer permit recommendations**:

- 1) In fall 2024, the Utah Wildlife Board approved a new Utah Mule Deer Statewide Management Plan. Significant changes in this new plan include managing more general-season units for a post-season buck-to-doe ratio of 15-17 bucks per 100 does and fewer units for 18-20 bucks per 100 does. It also modified the post-season buck-to-doe ratios for both the premium limited-entry and limited-entry hunts/units to 40-45 and 25-30 respectively. The new plan also called for data-driven, automatic adjustment to buck deer permits when changes are within 20% of last year's permit numbers. **Permit changes within 20% of last year's numbers will be implemented automatically**, and recommended changes exceeding 20% will go through the public process for discussion and Wildlife Board action. In the RAC packet tables, please see yellow highlighted units/hunts where the DWR is making a recommendation and board action is required.
- 2) Utah has 31 general-season buck deer hunting units. There are 11 units with a post-season objective of 18-20 bucks per 100 does and 20 units with an objective of 15-17 bucks per 100 does. According to the new statewide plan, we are presenting recommendations for 8 units with proposed changes that exceed 20% of last year's permit numbers. We are also proposing 2,000



permits for the new extended-archery-only general-season deer hunt. We are making permit recommendations on the following general-season units and hunts:

Beaver, East	Monroe
Beaver, West	North Slope
Cedar/Stansbury	Ogden
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Oquirrh/Tintic
Extended archery only	

- 3) The total number of general-season buck deer permits for 2025, if the recommended permit numbers pass as presented, would be 80,600 — an increase of 9,075 from the 71,525 approved in 2024.
- 4) Premium limited-entry deer units are managed for 40-45 bucks per 100 does. We use management buck and cactus buck hunts to help manage the buck-to-doe ratio, while also maintaining quality. We recommend 11 management buck permits on the Henry Mtns unit and 45 management buck permits on the Paunsaugunt unit. All other premium limited-entry buck deer permit numbers fall within the 20% range and will be adjusted as directed in the statewide deer plan.
- 5) We offer late-season, limited-entry muzzleloader buck deer permits on our general-season deer units. These permits are recommended at a minimum of 5 permits and up to 0.5% of the total general-season permits issued on the unit. We are recommending changes that exceed 20% on the following eight units:

Beaver, East	La Sal, La Sal Mtns
Beaver, West	North Slope
Cache	Ogden
East Canyon	Panguitch Lake

- 6) We recommend 7 permits per unit on the handgun, archery, muzzleloader, shotgun, straight-walled rifle (HAMSS) hunts on the Book Cliffs, Floy Canyon and East Canyon units. We also recommend 5 HAMSS permits for the new San Juan, Mancos Mesa hunt.
- 7) We have several buck deer hunts designed to target mature bucks in high-prevalence chronic wasting disease (CWD) areas. We recommend 15 public draw permits for the La Sal, Castle Valley hunt and 10 permits for the La Sal, Moab Valley hunt. We also recommend issuing vouchers to cooperating landowners to harvest up to 30 bucks in November within the Myton CWD hotspot area (most of which is private land).

- 8) For the limited-entry buck deer units, we propose increasing permits from 49 to 60 on the Fillmore, Oak Creek unit. We also recommend 76 total limited-entry permits on the Thousand Lakes limited-entry unit.
- 9) Should all recommended permit numbers pass as presented for premium limited-entry and limited-entry buck deer, the resulting total would be 1,547 permits, an increase of 211 permits from 1,336 permits last year.

Please see the buck deer hunt recommendations in the hunt tables for a detailed breakdown of permit numbers, the highlighted recommended permits that require board action and the allocation among weapon types and residents/nonresidents.