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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 bull elk permit recommendations

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources makes the following 2025 bull elk permit recommendations after evaluating 2024 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The proposed 2025 bull elk permits will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in the Utah Statewide Elk Management Plan. Utah manages to three different age objectives for harvested bulls on traditional limited-entry units. Those age objectives are 5.5-6.0 years, 6.0-6.5 years and 6.5-7.0 years. Utah also has several limited-entry units managed for a month-long September archery season and a later handgun, archery, muzzleloader, shotgun, straight-walled rifle (HAMSS) season. The HAMSS season runs from late October to mid-November.

Below is a summary of the **2025 bull elk permit recommendations**:

- 1) General-season elk permits (approved in the statewide plan)
 - a. 15,000 spike bull elk permits, up to 4,500 of which can be issued as multiseason permits
 - b. 15,000 any bull elk permits (early season, any weapon and muzzleloader)
 - c. Unlimited any bull elk permits (late season, any weapon)
 - d. Unlimited general-season youth elk permits
 - e. Unlimited archery elk permits
- 2) We recommend no change to the draw-only youth any bull/hunter's choice elk permits (750 permits).
- 3) We recommend 500 permits for the Uinta Basin private-lands-only any bull hunt to address conflicts and crop damage from low-elevation, resident elk in agricultural areas in the Uinta Basin.
- 4) We recommend 3,215 traditional limited-entry permits for 2025. This is an increase of 36 permits from the 3,179 permits issued in 2024. The most



notable change in this category is the proposed reduction of 100 permits on the Wasatch Mtns unit, from 826 permits to 726 permits. We propose this reduction to compensate for a decrease in the average age of harvested bulls.

- 5) We recommend 158 December archery limited-entry bull elk permits. This is 53 more permits than the 105 permits issued last year.
- 6) We recommend 140 September archery and HAMSS permits (70 September archery and 70 HAMSS), an increase of 12 permits from the 128 permits issued last year.
- 7) We recommend 2 new limited-entry bull elk hunts on general-season units to capture unique opportunities and to help reduce bull numbers on two units that are exceeding their population objectives and have high bull-to-cow ratios. Bulls move into accessible lands later in the season on these units. These are late December hunts — a HAMSS hunt on the East Canyon unit and an any-legal-weapon hunt on the Morgan-South Rich unit. We recommend 10 permits each for both of these hunts.
- 8) The grand total of recommended limited-entry bull elk permits is 3,533 permits. This is 121 more permits than the 3,412 permits issued last year, a proposed increase of 3.5%

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 nonresidents.