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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members
FROM: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator
DATE: March 26, 2025
SUBJECT: **2025 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 2025 bighorn, bison, mountain goat, and moose hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2024 harvest information, census data, and harvest age data.

The 2025 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 88 desert bighorn sheep permits (12 permit increase). We are recommending a statewide total of 52 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep permits (5 permit decrease).
- 2) Bison
We recommend permit numbers based on the herd population objective and bull:cow ratio. We are recommending a statewide total of 103 total bison permits (37 permit increase).
- 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 103 mountain goat permits (8 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 106 moose permits (2 permit increase).