

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Keep the western central units the way they currently are. Keep the Oquirrh and Stansbury units combined, and keep the two west desert units 100% intact as is. There are 100% more deer movements between the Oquirrh and Stansbury mountain ranges, as opposed to the Oquirrhs to Tintics or Stansbury to Cedars. I've hunted on these units for years, and years. The split that is currently in place makes sense. This will do nothing but make drawing odds worse for anyone that hunts either the Tintic or West units currently. 95% of the hunters that draw either of those tags will hunt the Oquirrhs or Stansburys. I'm also a dedicated hunter that hunts the West Desert West, with another year remaining. Would current dedicated hunters be allowed to pick which unit their tags were valid for?

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Antler point restrictions do not work. Period. One of my favorite deer that my dad harvested is a 28" wide 2x2. That buck would be illegal to harvest with antler point restrictions.

Quit limiting technology. It always disgusts me that the DWR is actively rooting against people harvesting their animals. Cut tag numbers to where we actually plan on every tag being filled. There shouldn't be a doe hunt until the state exceeds population objectives by 10%, including depredation hunts. These animals belong to the people of Utah. If ranchers are concerned about deer on their property, they can fence it off with deer proof fencing.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

At some point, we have to quit catering to youth hunters. I'm not in favor of giving "first time youth" an additional preference point. And if we do, then we need to decrease the allocation from 20% of tags to 10% of tags. It should be up to parents to do the research to figure out what tags to put on to increase draw odds.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 23, 2024 3:50 pm

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Highly supportive of 3 point or better rules for all general season deer units.  
Preserve the youngest generation of deer.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Why can't Utah do antler restrictions for everyone over 18 to a three point or better. There's no reason to kill little bucks there is plenty of youth hunters to kill little bucks. That's one thing I would like to see happen. The deer herds are at extreme low i would like to see the early rifle deer hunts taken away less tags given for the units in central Utah. First time youth hunters should be able to get a permit there first year of applying. I would rather wait 5-6 years for a deer tag and be able to go out and see good mature bucks and actually have the chance to pick and chose instead of there's a buck better shoot it mentality. My opinion doesn't matter you're going to do what you want anyways. I know if the DWR took over management of gophers there wouldn't be any of them left either!

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I really like idea of having an Extended Archery only hunt. It's great idea.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I've thought for a many years that Utah needs a point restriction system in certain areas, this is good move forward.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** The proposed dates look good, though I believe it would be beneficial to give archery elk hunters an additional week in September. Every year, I take issue with the rifle hunts scheduled during the peak rut, as I feel it violates the fair chase principle. When harvest success rates consistently exceed 75%, it just doesn't seem right. To my knowledge, no other state permits rifle hunting for elk during peak rut times.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** I like the idea of limiting dedicated hunters to just one tag. However, converting all of the unallocated youth tags to general tags is not a good idea. While I'm fully supportive of providing more opportunities for youth hunters, they often harvest very young deer, which could negatively impact the overall deer population.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** What happens to the dedicated hunters who are currently enrolled in one of these units that has a boundary change?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** This is not the answer. The public said no to this last year. You obviously have a hard time with basic understanding of that. Or just don't care what the public wants.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** Get rid of the opportunity to buy bonus points after the regular draw. If you can't remember to find 10 minutes to apply for points during the first application period, too bad. You want to help with point creep, giving people a second chance to acquire them isn't helping that goal.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I am so tired of the youth cry babies complaining about the lack of opportunities. So you can't draw an ALW for your preferred unit the first year you apply. So what! They already have 20% of tags given to them. There is OTC archery tags available to them in EVERY unit when they don't draw. They don't lose preference points buying an OTC tag like adults do. Dedicated hunter tags are much easier to draw for youth. AND they can have permits mentored to them. We have bent over backwards for these [REDACTED] kids and it's still "give me more!". Quit catering to them and let them wait the necessary time it takes to draw the permit they want or make them branch out, learn a new weapon type, a new unit or have an adult in the family give them their tag. Plenty of options for these kids as it is.

It's stupid we are taking away opportunity in an attempt to give more opportunity. Dedicated hunter doesn't have the demand a general tag does to begin with. Limiting someone to applying for just 1 is stupid, but I'm sure they already have their minds made up on what to do. This is just a formality.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Absolutely disgusting that the Alton is still on the list of active CWMUs and slated to receive ANY permits moving forward. Goes to show how much the division really cares about a former wildlife board member blatantly breaking numerous laws of felony status and killing trophy bucks in the process. What a giant "[REDACTED] you" from them to all the sportsmen and wildlife of Utah.

Another PRIME example of how corrupt the CWMU and land owner programs are.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Wyoming tried and studied an antler Point restriction. And it didn't work, in fact, it made it worse for the population and landscape.

There is NO WAY I would support a restricted rifle hunt! You're asking for trouble with more wounded and un-recovered animals. You impact youth hunters that are learning and older hunters with poor vision. This is an atrocious proposal and it needs to go away just like it did last year! Youth have plenty of opportunities and need to be restricted as adults are.

I hope we can all organize and fight this ridiculous proposal.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 12:33 am



Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 12:36 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I oppose moving any units from being managed for 18/20 bucks per 100 does to 15/17 bucks per 100.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I agree with these proposals and hope to see more weapon restrictions on more units in the future

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 5:56 am

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Do not split oquirrh stansburrys! Most of us can barely hunt the oquirrhh and the guys that can hunt oquirrhh also like hunting stansburrys it will make it to hard to draw a tag on stansburrys and will overcrowd it. Also we as locals who live in unit like having mountain range choice considering they're 10 minutes apart

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I agree with the application changes, but I feel we are still not giving our youth enough opportunity without having to take them out of school. Can we look at allowing them longer hunting dates? For example, allow them to take general deer or elk during each other's season. This would allow them to shoot their deer during the general any legal weapon any bull/spike elk season and allow them to shoot their elk during the general any legal weapon deer season. As long as their tags were good for the same area.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** I also want an explanation on why the public hunter has a waiting period but if you pay for the tag there's no waiting periods they should have to wait just like we do.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** Wish you guys could do more

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 11:01 am

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Way to go committee and DWR!!! From my interpretation of this plan, we will be able to maximize hunter opportunity and still manage for herd growth. If we continue to limit opportunity especially to the next generation of hunters we risk losing their interest and future support in mule deer hunting.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

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Strongly agree

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 24, 2024 1:48 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Why are we not trying to implement an antler restriction for adults in some of these general season units. I know we are doing it on a couple units down south. Colorado does this and their deer herds are extremely healthy and the opportunity to harvest a mature buck is way higher there.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** We definitely should go forward with an antler restriction here in Utah. It has worked great in our neighbor state of Colorado on elk and deer and I think it is a great plan.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** We really need to follow all the other states plans for Elk hunting and move our Archery hunts to the whole month of September just like EVERY bordering state to Utah besides Nevada. Our herds would be way healthier with this manner especially on the OTC units here in Utah. I would also suggest pushing the General Rifle Elk hunt further back giving more of a break for the elk from the archery hunt to the rifle opener.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** Absolutely LOVE this plan! Got to get the youth involved early!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Recommended study and research strategies  
I have 2 kids hunting with me currently on the Boulder unit. I will have to buy 3 brand new muzzleloaders and find a way to add sight to my centerfire rifles. (Rifles do not come with sights anymore. They are only drilled and tapped for optics) I can not afford this expense.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I believe that Utah is tough to hunt. Everyone wants to have a chance at shooting a mature buck. But many hunters shoot anything with antler. People need to stop shooting tiny bucks. Many of the units need to have minimum horn growth of 4 points on one side to be a mature buck. Many deer never see that because of the number of tags given and the many people that are shooting small bucks. I feel this needs changed to preserve the opportunity to hunt mature deer.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I do not want to lose my Points on my dedicated hunter points and also my general season deer points. so how would I be able to keep my points over the years I have put in for and paid the money for, so I don't lose both tags. Do not do this.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Great ideas! Whatever we are doing right now is not working. This has been the worst hunting year I've seen in my lifetime. Thanks for working to make things better!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I agree with a lot of the unit management strategies, harvest strategies, predator control and improving habitat to help increase deer populations. I do not like more equipment restrictions I do not think these strategies work well, instead we just have more confusion and violation on units. I strongly disagree with point restrictions on any general units. Many of us are not trophy hunters and are good with shooting a 2 1/2 year old buck on a general hunt, my family enjoys eating them and do not want to be restricted on that effort because others want to be trophy hunters in a general area. If they do not want to take a younger buck they can trophy hunt all they want and we have limited units for trophy hunting. I have hunted in other states (Wyoming) with point restrictions, according to the game and fish officers I have talked to, they do not think it increases buck ratios in those areas, instead it leaves 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 year old bucks to breed. I also believe that point restrictions counteracts the changes in buck to doe ratios in the plan.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I somewhat disagree with more equipment restrictions, I think the focus should be not letting in new technologies that takes away from far chase. I STRONGLY DISAGREE with implementing any point restrictions on general units, if we have data that shows we lose 50% of 1 1/2 old bucks, then why would we do that. We should be able to look at 1 1/2 old buck survival % from our limited entry units. If all the pressure from people is to have Pine Valley have all these huge bucks on it, then make it a limited entry hunt.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Having the youth any bull hunt and archery overlap honestly sucked. The archery hunters made it very difficult to get on elk because at that point in the season they were pushing elk extremely hard basically putting in their last efforts to try to get on one. Not sure why the general archery hunt can't end on Sept. 12th like the general deer.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

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Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

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I also think the extended archery areas should be applied for as a separate hunt, not anyone who draws a archery permit can hunt in the extended archery areas.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

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Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

I do not understand why the LOA program allows the option that their tags can be used on the entire unit, we just finished our hunt on West Desert Vernon any legal weapon for deer. The extra 26 tags that went to the LOA added to the crowding on public land, my wife was drawn to be allowed to hunt the LOA land, we did not because most of the LOA land did not hold deer. I think that all LOA vouchers should be used on the LOA land only.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

There are a few things I disagree with, Lets start with adding more tags to already crowded unit, there are some that you can not get away from people on and adding more hunters is only going to make that worse. Next big one for me is combining the Oquirrh Mountains and Tintic. Somehow this unit needs to be split, the deer from US6 south are a totally different heard' than those north of it and need to managed on there own. This unit needs to be split somewhere to allow the deer in the south to be managed correct. There is nothing wrong with adding another unit vs taking them away.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Somewhat disagree

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

Giving our youth the best chance possible to have tags and get involved in the only way to preserve our way of life. The more youth we loose the tougher its going to get.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 26, 2024 7:49 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Neither agree nor disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

We need to end the over lap of the Bow hunt into the youth draw elk hunt  
It ends on the spike unit and the all come to the any bull units

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Biology says the ideal ratio for large heard growth is 1:1. I'd like to see 25 bucks to 100 does. Simplified down to 1 bucks to 4 does. Yes that means LOWERING the amount of tags.

Stop creating so many additional hunts. From August to the end of December the wildlife is pushed non-stop. That's non even including the year round pressure they get from scouting and shed hunting.

Put Utah residents first and the priority. Non residents get to put in for every species limited and general seasons every year while us residents have to choose a species. Make non residents have to choose a species as well.

I'd like to see a rotation of shutting down units 1 to 2 years at a time to achieve heard growth and recovery.

I'd like to see the Pahvant range made limited entry. That unit would produce giant bucks, spread hunters out (wouldn't have 10 hunters all going after the same buck), and allow for successful hunts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

My family and I have been building general deer points for the last 12+ years and don't plan on cashing them in anytime soon until the quality of the deer and seasons improve. I would like to see the state follow Colorado seasons. Do away with the separation of limited and general units. Make the whole state limited units with 4 seasons offered. I think we can pull tags from the early hunts and offer a few for the later hunts. I would then have a decision to make of what kind of deer hunt do I want! I don't have a problem waiting 2-5 years for a good 2nd or 3rd season hunt. If I want to hunt every year than I could draw a 1st season almost every year, lesser quality of course. If I'm looking for less crowding and better quality of deer i have no problem waiting 3-4+ years. Meanwhile I'll just keep hunting out of state and sitting on the bench hear in my home state.

Tavish

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I strongly oppose splitting the oquir/stansbury unit. Most of the people who hunt the unit live in Tooele Valley. It requires us to choose one side of the valley or the other when before we could just scout either side and hunt it. The unit is doing great as is, there is no logical reason to split it. The Stansbury mountains have the bulk of the public land and get the brunt of the tags issued, and still year after year has plenty of bucks to hunt.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I strongly oppose implementing restricted rifle and muzzle loader hunts as general hunts. Rifle scopes have been around since well into the heyday of deer hunting in the 60s and 70s. It just doesn't make sense to take technology back 100 years. A 3-9 power max, or no adjusting turrets or a 4x or whatever makes more sense if we are going to limit it. Most hunters do not own an open sight rifle. And most rifles aren't even configured to have them now. It would require a bunch of hunters to go get their rifle drilled and tapped and buy a new sight or find a rifle with open sights. This is an unreasonable financial burden to place on the average blue collar hunter and also is unfair to elderly hunters with eye sight issues.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I think ALL units in Utah should require a 3 point antler on one side of your buck rule and if needed in certain areas a 4 point is a great idea as well. I also think that shed hunting in Utah should be moved to an opening date in April at the earliest. Allowing people to go sooner is putting way too much stress on the animals in February and March I am constantly seeing it when I'm out filming wildlife. And we need more conservation officers on the Wasatch front.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I really think that we need to lower the number of tags given out each year. It will give room for the mule deer population to grow and hunters will have more room to be successful with less pressure.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Neither agree nor disagree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I sent an email to Dax Mangus a few days ago stating how we are killing far too many deer. Too many permits, too many predators, not enough deer. Then I saw the article today about how instead of 376,000 deer across the state, there are only 275,000 deer, which is what I thought it was. This is the poorest the herd has ever been. We have been told year after year by the DWR that there are more deer than there ever has been but the people actually out in the field, the hunters, have been saying for years that the deer population is down more than it has ever been. So about 5 years too late, its finally admitted that there are 100,000 less deer on the landscape however, we keep increasing tags. There is an easy solution to rebound the deer faster than anything. Stop increasing tags. I know that money needs to be generated from somewhere. I understand that. Increase the general tag price from \$40 to \$60 and cut the tags by 1/3. You then bring in the same amount of revenue. Then in 5 years when the population and buck numbers are back up, up the tags slowly. Keep doing mandatory harvest reporting too. That is crucial information that was needed the last 10-15 years that was missed out on.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Do we know antler point restrictions work? Wasn't it tried in the book cliff units years ago? Look at that unit now, it is the worst limited entry unit in the state. Just saying.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I'm fine with the added early rifle season on the oak creeks, as long as you DON'T INCREASE THE TAGS. Every time we add a season, more tags are given out and more deer are killed which means, less deer.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I love the extended archery only option, I know a few people who draw tags just to wait for the extended archery so this is great, I am in favor of slightly decreasing the buck to doe ratios as it will allow me to hunt more often but I don't want to see it go too low, the thousand lakes unit going to limited entry is interesting and I'm excited to see how it turns out and allows for more opportunities on limited entry hunts, all in all thank you and keep up the good work

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I don't really agree with antler point restrictions but allowing youth to take any buck i feel like is a great compromise, I actually don't agree with any of the restricted weapons proposals except maybe the archery ones (and I'm an archery hunter) i still want a chance to use a compound bow on the unit going to restricted archery (maybe just a 90:10 split, the 10 going to compound) but who has a muzzleloader that meets these requirements? I don't even think you can buy one that meets those restrictions, same with rifle they don't come with open sights anymore, I really hate to say this but I fully believe shorter season dates is the best thing for deer hunting, less pressure on animals should allow for better body conditions which can allow for better winter survival as well as potentially better antler growth in bucks (I still like the season dates we have now) maybe take 2 days from rifle, keep muzzleloader the same and knock archery down by a week may be a good compromise. Back to the resticive weapons though I really feel that even if it helps i really feel as though we have a good balance with the weapons we have now and if it will help just splitting the tags 70:30 (70 for current weapons and 30 for primitive) at the most to still give people an option for the weapon they want to use while still giving some people the opportunity for an easier tag to draw with much harder success rates if that's what they want

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** I like the thousand lakes going to limited entry, as well as other hunts/units hopefully creating more opportunity

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

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Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I like the added opportunity for youth however the whole proposal for converting unused youth tags to the any legal weapon tags confused me, wouldn't that add WAY more hunters in the field for those any legal weapon hunts? And does that take away even more tags from everyone else?

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 27, 2024 8:36 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Strongly disagree  
**regarding the proposed deer hunt**  
**strategies research project?**

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I have been in the Dedicated Hunter program since its inception. I have hunted the same area in the Cache Unit for over 46 years. I have been extremely satisfied with deer hunting. Last year hunters were required to pull magnifying scopes off of muzzleloaders. This change cost \$500 for a new sight system. Under this new proposal I will have to scrap my current muzzleloader and invest \$500 to \$600 for a muzzleloader that fits the restricted muzzleloader definition.

We will also be required to remove our scopes off our rifles. "If only our rifles had iron sights", so back to the store to purchase a rifle with iron sights. Another six to nine hundred dollars. This research study could cost each hunter a minimum of \$1,200 if they are in the Dedicated Hunter program or \$500 to \$900 if they draw muzzleloader or rifle tag.

The Cache unit currently has around 200 Dedicated Hunters. Each hunter completes 32 hours or they buy their hours at \$40 per hour. If half of the dedicated hunters drop out due to the new equipment requirements, it could be a loss of 3,200 volunteer hours. Will other sportsman's organizations step up to complete the volunteer hours? Will habitat projects on the Cache unit not be completed?

What is the purpose of this proposal? Is it to increase the number of licenses sales or is it to increase the number of bucks?

The Cache unit currently has 17 bucks per 100 doe's post season. Objective is 15 to 17 bucks per 100 doe's post season. The Cache unit is very weather dependent. When we have a hard winter we lose our deer. If we have more bucks than objective, it takes longer for the deer herds to rebound from winter loss. The bucks out-compete the doe's for survival, reducing the reproduction and survival of fawns.

Next year I will be 62 and my eyesight is declining. I depend on a scope to insure I make a humane harvest. Open sights including a peep sight with a globe front sight has made precision shot almost guess work. I can't imagine a new hunter using open sights when the hunter education course allows them to use scopes to pass their shooting proficiency test.

Lets wait until the data is collected from this years hunt before significant changes are made impacting the 4,000 plus hunters that hunt the Cache unit.

This proposal doesn't do anything for habitat that will sustain deer numbers.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Trusting the data, managing for 15-17 will grow the heard. I think you could provide more detailed information on this analysis than this video holds.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

Unit overcrowding during hunting season already exists, especially on the any weapon seasons. Adding the potential 20,000 tags, with the associated hunting parties, will further frustrate this overcrowding. It is tough because we already pursue game from August until January, but additional seasons to help reduce the number of hunters on the mountain during any one season would be a worthy consideration.

We also need to do something more for elk hunting opportunities. The race to get tags is not a good option. Time for a draw process for general season elk tags?

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I think having more restricted weapon hunt areas would be a great idea. If you make it harder to harvest an animal then more people can have a chance to hunt. I don't want to hunt trophies, I just want to have the opportunity to hunt every year.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I think having more restricted weapon hunt areas would be a great idea. If you make it harder to harvest an animal then more people can have a chance to hunt. I don't want to hunt trophies, I just want to have the opportunity to hunt every year.

---

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

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Somewhat agree

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Once again the resident hunter sees poor deer management. The DNR is managing for money not for deer herd health. When we have heavy winters with high winter die off such as 2022 & 2023, not even 2 two years later propose higher permit numbers knowing that less deer are on the unit demonstrates your true intention for money. I do understand that DNR does not get to keep the funds it receives and has to hope the State General fund has funds left over so you need to off set cost from other agencies. I would like to see you keep the buck to doe ratio higher and less tag which means longer waiting periods between hunts. That can also mean a greater chance to harvest a deer when a permit is received. You know you are doing wrong you just want more money.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** More money spent on information that is already know. This is just another way to waste hunters funds again.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** You all are really trying to just get more hunts for the Non-Resident and big money hunts. Just trying to get more money from the average hunter and get more opportunities for Non-Residents and land owner tags. Quit it trying to justify your shout comings.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** Good get more young hunters into the field.

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<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?</b>	Neither agree nor disagree
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?</b>	Somewhat disagree
<b>Do you have any comments about the research project?</b>	Do not agree with weapon restrictions on the 3 proposed units.
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?</b>	Somewhat disagree
<b>Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?</b>	Do not like the "Extended Archery Only" permits. Leave as is.
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?</b>	Strongly disagree
<b>Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?</b>	<p>I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING;</p> <p>The Division would like to propose to only allow hunters to apply for a general-season buck deer permit/point OR the dedicated hunter COR/point - but no longer allow them to apply for both types of permits.</p> <p>I agree that you should be able to apply for one or the other.</p> <p>General-season buck deer permit/point and dedicated hunter COR/point. Should be combined into the same point system if this was to happen.</p>
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	Strongly agree
<b>Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?</b>	Love the CWMU program

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 11:07 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

Put those 2,000+ remaining tags that youth don't draw and take the tags out and don't sell those tags. Save some mule deer for goodness sake! That alone will help with the deer population taking those undrawn tags away!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Extremely grateful that the DWR is constantly getting better at communicating and educating the public on all the nuances that surround game management. This is great and the research strategy's are exiting, especially the restricted weapons hunts.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I support these forward thinking game management strategies and am excited for what we would learn. Here is my personal feedback on each strategy:  
Restricted Weapons hunts: I believe the restricted weapons hunts are the most promising and exciting strategy that is being proposed. Restricted or "traditional" weapons are the most practical way for Utah to offer increased hunting opportunity, while simultaneously increasing hunt quality. Hunting opportunity and quality are the two things that hunters demand the most, but beyond that, hunting with traditional weapons also increases the value that hunting holds for the non-hunting majority. The majority of Americans that do not hunt still believe that it is important to preserve hunting traditions because hunting is an inarguably important part of our human heritage. However the majority of non-hunting Americans do NOT support killing animals with advanced technology or hunting for trophies or "sport". If hunting opportunities are to continue long into the future, I believe it will be absolutely necessary to adjust our game management strategies in such a way that it is absolutely clear that we are genuinely preserving hunting traditions. Traditional Archery is the most globally recognized and deeply rooted hunting method and should be incentivised in game management, so It is exciting to see it being used as a specific game management tool for the first time. In Utah we have the constitutional "right to use traditional methods to hunt" in order to "preserve the future of hunting" and I like to see our game management strategies adjusting to stay more in-line with our constitution and making a genuine effort to preserve our hunting traditions.  
Antler point restrictions: Knee jerk reaction is that I do not like the idea of being "required" to trophy hunt. It seems like it would be very difficult to regulate especially with the requirement being only for adults but not youth. I am still open to this strategy and think it might be worth trying.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

I strongly support the new Restricted Weapons hunts. It is exciting to see the Thousand Lakes unit that would utilize Traditional Archery as a specific game management tool. I primarily hunt with a compound bow but would love some incentive to spend more time hunting with a recurve or longbow. I believe that Traditional Archery can serve as an extremely effective game management tool to expand hunting opportunities while simultaneously increasing hunt quality. I believe that it also validates the claim that hunters are preserving the hunting heritage. As hunters we are "progressing" dangerously close to the point where we simply cannot make the claim that we are preserving hunting traditions because we have replaced traditions with technology. I am extremely grateful that our game management agencies and sportsman's organizations are addressing this.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Somewhat agree

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 4:50 pm



Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 28, 2024 4:53 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** Support boundaries change.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** Antler restrictions please

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?** Later the better

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Junction Valley with 2023 Harvest Data shows that 0 bull elk were harvested and that satisfaction was a 3.0 which is low if you compare it to other CWMU's. 2022 they have a 60% harvest rate, 2021 they have a 60% harvest rate, 2020 they have a 40% harvest rate, 2019 they have a 60% harvest rate. You have to go back to 2018 for them to have a 100% harvest rate with 5 bull elk permits. If you average it out over the history of the CWMU this CWMU is on the lower end of rates for CWMU's.

Why should they be rewarded with 2 extra bull elk permits if they are not harvesting and have low hunter satisfaction rate. Even if it is split and 1 goes to the CWMU operator and one to the public you are just setting up these hunters to fail and in the end will have a sour taste for the CWMU program which is so great in reality.

I DO NOT THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE JUNCTION VALLEY 2 EXTRA BULL ELK PERMITS.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 29, 2024 2:27 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat disagree  
**regarding the proposed mule deer**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I am completely in favor of growing deer and support measures do so, including more aggressive predator control measures. I feel this is a major contributing factor to being able to grow more deer.

I have some serious reservations for increasing tags by about 20,000 overall.

I am disappointed in the plan of reducing Buck to Doe ratios from 18-20 to 15-17, it really is an attempt to create more revenue by increasing opportunity about 20,000 tags or about a \$1,000,000 at the expense of sportsmen, I really do not like this and feel it is inappropriate especially where many of the units that will be reduce don't seem to have health issues.

I have a major concern with your science and recommendation proposal. It is emphasized that for health reasons, we need 15-17 Buck to Doe ratios, however they want to keep 18-20 Buck to Doe in some units. According to your presentation and data, 4 of the 11 units that are to remain 18-20 Buck to Doe have confirmed cases of CWD. This is a conflicting argument, and there are several underlying factors as to why the DNR is willing to allow higher Buck to Doe ratios here. I would like a lot more transparency as to the reasoning to keep higher ratios in these units (with CWD) rather than lower them and increase others without CWD. It is concerning the number of units that have been reduced from 18-20 to 15-17 since 2018, at least seven units have been reduce for more opportunity according to the 2019 plan all but one of these units were in the southern portion of the State. Additionally in the proposal it states that "the lower buck-to-doe ratio objective was designed to provide for increased hunting opportunity whereas the higher objective was intended to provide opportunity for hunters to harvest older and larger bucks." So now we have the DNR trying to justify reducing quality for more opportunity based on "data" but it has been in past proposals as well that it all about opportunity. Manage for an average age class harvested instead.

It was also mentioned that "limited entry" units would be managed at 25-30 buck to doe ratio. However, you have "limited entry" hunts on all general units. These hunts need to be eliminated, or permit numbers drastically reduced. Some consistency with regards to "limited entry" hunts should be considered.

With new units being made, I would like to see the "largest unit" in the state, the Manti, be reduced to a few smaller units. This would help to better manage several of your factors for health and Buck to doe ratios. It would help disperse hunters more across the landscape and allow for better management of the unit.

What are the possibilities of managing for age class, similar to elk, rather than buck to doe ratios?

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

I support this proposal!

However, I beg you to implement a similar point restriction for adult hunters on the "Manti" unit as well, but with a minimum of 3x3 (not including eye guards) or better for adults. This is the largest unit with the most opportunity in the State. I feel that this unit should be managed a little bit more as hunters can congregate and typically hit certain areas more than others, thus affecting parts of the unit differently than others. That said, making adults work a little harder to harvest a 3x3 or better would be a rational restriction to help spread hunters across the unit a bit more evenly to harvest slightly older/bigger animals.

Additionally, as suggested in comment #4, how about putting a minimum of 3x3 or better (some units 4 point) restriction on all adults and then guarantee tags for all youth applicants.

I would also suggest restrictions on access roads as an option to challenge hunters a little more as well. In Colorado, they have "seasonal closures" and I think this could be used here in Utah in order to limit ease of access and make hunting a little more challenging without having to restrict weapons as much.

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?**

Somewhat agree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended season dates?**

How about reducing the season dates for archer to 2 weeks, and muzzleloader and rifle seasons to 7 days?

**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?**

I disagree with this proposal.

How about putting a minimum of 3x3 or better (some units 4 point) restriction on all adults and then guarantee tags for all youth applicants.

I do not agree with only allowing hunters to put in for either General Season or Dedicated Hunter. Dedicated Hunters give back way more than general hunters and they tend to be more involved.

**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

The CWMU program is screwing over all public hunters the animals belong to the public and the land belongs to the private owners. Yet the public only gets to hunt about 10% of deer and elk. This is so lop sided it is disgusting. At minimum it should be a 60/40 split.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I love this proposed management plan. Finally, the division is beginning to understand that bucks do not grow the population and are attempting to increase opportunity while helping the herd.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I am not a fan of antler point restrictions or primitive weapons only hunts. Most hunters want to use a rifle, yet we keep taking tags from rifle hunters and giving them to lower success methods in the name of increasing opportunity. Then we take the lower success methods and make them even lower success (limit power of scopes or remove scopes from muzzleloaders, etc.) while doing nothing to decrease success on the most successful method (long-range rifles). If we can change muzzleloader scopes to 1x, we can definitely limit scope power on regular rifles to 9x. I see people bragging online all the time about how they shot their deer or elk at 800 yards. That is not fair chase you a hunter is not making that shot without a 20x scope. If we are going to reduce success rates, let's be fair and reduce the success rates for everyone--not just those that already have limited success.

Antler point restrictions are a horrible idea! I saw a presentation from the division or somewhere showing that survival of buck from 1.5-2.5 years of age was about 50% and 2.5-3.5 was about 80%. If those numbers are accurate and it takes an average of 3 years for a buck to reach 4-pt in size, for every 100 yearlings on the landscape only 40 make it to 3 years old. Requiring a buck to be 4 pt or better to shoots squanders the other 60 bucks that were on the landscape as yearlings. Further, there will be tremendous pressure on the 4 pt genetics and no pressure on the 2 pt and 3 pt genetics. This seems like a horrible idea?? According to the survey, about 1/2 of people want opportunity and 1/2 want more quality (eyes of the beholder, but let's assume that means larger antlers even though I do not believe there can be higher quality that someone that is excited and happy to harvest/eat a yearling animal). We already have both in this state--we call them limited entry units and general season units. Please leave general units for opportunity and limited-entry units for "quality".

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended big game season dates?** Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed once-in-a-lifetime hunts?**

Strongly agree

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**Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the CWMU and LOA recommendations?**

I love the CWMU program and am mostly in favor. However, how can there still be a CWMU with an operator that broke the wildlife laws that he made? This does not sit well with any of the sportsmen with whom I associate.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Unbelievable how terrible it is out there. I am commenting on the Wasatch west unit, how is killing all the deer going to grow the population when we are no where near objective plenty of feed for the few deer there are! I am an avid hunter but I don't even care to hunt my home state because of how bad it is. I have no desire to shoot a two or three year old deer. I understand you want people to have opportunity so they don't quit hunting, I believe you will lose more hunters when they go out and the hunt is garbage.

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?** Somewhat agree

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?** I like the buck to doe ratios especially if I get to hunt

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the research project?** I just question antler point restrictions as we had them in the past but removed them because of waste of bucks not meeting the standard. I'm also torn on weapon restrictions.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to youth hunting and deer hunting applications?** Somewhat disagree

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**Do you have any comments about the recommended changes?** I don't like the change to the dedicated hunter rule.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed mule deer management plan?**

Strongly disagree

**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

I'm vehemently AGAINST antler-point restrictions on buck deer hunts. Since the beginning of time on this earth hunting has been about obtaining quality wild meat as food, and that approach should be prioritized way ahead of hunting for big antlers and/or issuing more tags than unit can sustain.

The DWR has publicly shared research that most two-point bucks die from natural causes before their second year, so it's a good thing that some hunters are able to fill their tags and benefit from the meat of little bucks. Lastl, I can see antler-point restrictions creating challenges and confusion e.g. what about big 2x2s or 3x3s? What about big mature 3x4s whose 4th point is borderline an inch long? I anticipate many bucks getting harvested who barely miss the 4-point restriction, but the hunter doesn't know until they walk up on the animal on the ground and see that the 4th point isn't quite an inch (for example).

**Which best describes your position regarding the proposed deer hunt strategies research project?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Do you have any comments about the research project?**

Can we please make surveys optional on the website as opposed to "random" selection? I'm never among the sample population selected to take surveys, but I'd respond every time and I'd like my inputs to shape the future of Utah's hunting.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2024 4:46 pm

**Which best describes your position**      Somewhat disagree  
**regarding the proposed mule deer**  
**management plan?**

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**Do you have any comments about the proposed management plan?**

Hello DWR Team,

First of all thank you for your efforts to make great hunting opportunities in our state and hopefully for future generations while also maintaining a conscious plan for wildlife health and habitat!

Can I ask a few questions and give some thoughts & feedback ?

1)

In talking about population management and sustainable harvest, to say "how we hunt Bucks is not what drives our populations, but is what's happening with our populations is determining how we hunt bucks". So then, wouldn't you say that we have a lot to do with what's happening to our populations by how we hunt our bucks? When you look at your top down versus bottom up, wouldn't hunting greatly affect our top down effect on mule deer herds in management? Especially over the past 10 years we are averaging taking 25,000 animals off the landscape? To say that how we hunt bucks has nothing to do with what's happening to our population is absolutely ridiculous because this whole plan is off of managing our herds by how we hunt them.

2)

Can you please explain in terms of buck-doe ratios, how and justify when you say,

"Recent data suggests that managing at higher buck-to-doe ratios may be detrimental to deer populations", and then go on to say there are various reason why lower B-D ratios are beneficial to long term health for deer herds. Okay, so this works on the General units, so you say? So then, how are we managing for such quality and high buck numbers in limited entry units, specifically the top two ? These premium units are after double or even triple of the regular b-d ratios? Then where is the concern for overall longterm health ??? If the higher ratios impact overall long term health and numbers then why the high objective ? Or, if I favored the premium units, to say for a guide or outfitter, who relies on these units to produce quality animals every year. According to your statement, these units should be on a decline because of their high b-d ratios! That's not good! But evidence shows that these units continually produce quality animals year to year with high ratios. It seems a poor argument to make that's two sided and contradicts itself. You say one thing, but the way you manage these units say another.

3) In speaking of CWD, you focus a lot of your efforts on these general season units because they are where it has been found, but nothing is ever mentioned of the premium units? Are these units currently being monitored ? Premium units are targeting for a higher age class animals, but yet your testing says the higher age class animals tend to transmit the disease more often. So we can try to lower the age on general season units, but maintain a higher age on the premium units? In an interview with Ginger Stout, episode 60 of the wildlife podcast, she mentions a few ideas of how this disease is transmitted, by about the 6 min 30 second mark she says that there is no exact mechanism of how they know how this diseases spread? The disease was first found in Utah by a positive test in 2002, but my question is, is when did we start testing for this disease and has it been here longer than that?

She also mentions that buck deer, specifically older class buck deer tend to carry this disease more than any other deer? With this be because this is the number the majority of the deer that you're testing? I would like to know if as many doe are being tested as bucks?

It seems another point to drive the narrative to maintain the general season units as "cash cow" units to allow as many hunters per field as possible while putting exponential efforts and resources in the premium units. I believe most hunters would like to see an equal playing field throughout the state, even if it was a sacrifice at their own home unit that they've hunted for generations.

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

November 2024 RAC Proposals Feedback  
October 31, 2024 5:29 pm