



State of Utah

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MEMORANDUM

Date: March 21, 2022

To: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

Subject: **Overview of 2022 big game and antlerless permit recommendations**

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' recommended permit allocations for the 2022 antlerless hunts. We've made these recommendations after evaluating 2021 harvest information and conducting post-hunt assessments of herd composition.

The number of permits we're proposing for 2022 will help us achieve or maintain the objectives detailed in Utah's big game management plans for harvest size, animal quality and hunting opportunity. For specific information about how individual big game species are managed, please refer to <https://wildlife.utah.gov/> and use the search field to find the statewide management plan for the species of interest.

Below is a summary of the **2022 antlerless hunt recommendations**:

- 1) In 2021, the statewide deer population decreased (by approximately 7,200 animals) to a total of 305,700 deer. This decrease was primarily due to drought conditions in spring, summer, and fall of 2020 in combination with drought spring and summer of 2021. Populations in portions of the southern parts of the state showed the loss while some populations in northern Utah showed growth.
- 2) For 2022, we recommend reducing 300 antlerless deer permits — decreasing from 935 permits to 635 permits — and adding one new hunt in Vernal-Ouray Valley. Antlerless deer hunts are designed to reduce depredation on private lands, tackle urban deer issues, address CWD hotspots, and help slow the decline of range conditions.
- 3) Statewide, elk populations increased slightly in 2021. Antlerless permits are needed to keep elk populations within their management objectives. The statewide elk population objective is 78,990 elk, and the current statewide estimate is 84,390 elk. We recommend 7,948 antlerless elk permits for the public drawing in 2022, as compared to 8,285 permits in 2021 — an decrease of 337 permits.



- 4) For the 2022 public drawing, we recommend adding 5 antlerless elk hunts. We recommend antlerless elk-control permits on the following seven units:
- Henry Mtns
 - Chalk Creek
 - Morgan-South Rich
 - West Desert, East
 - East Canyon
 - Pine Valley
 - Zion
- 5) We recommend 9,160 private-lands-only permits on 24 units throughout the state to increase harvest and hunting pressure on private lands. We recommend season dates from Aug. 1, 2022–Jan. 31, 2023. Hunters may use any legal weapon during these hunts. Private-lands-only hunts have minimized depredation challenges in many parts of the state. Hunt units include:
- Box Elder, Hansel Mtn.
 - Beaver, East
 - Cache
 - Central Mtns, Manti
 - Central Mtns, Nebo
 - Chalk Creek
 - East Canyon
 - La Sal
 - Morgan-South Rich
 - Mt Dutton
 - Nine Mile, Anthro
 - Nine Mile, Range Creek
 - North Slope, West Daggett
 - Ogden
 - Panguitch Lake
 - Paunsaugunt
 - San Juan
 - South Slope, Diamond Mtn/Bonanza Vernal
 - South Slope, Yellowstone
 - Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin
 - Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek
 - Wasatch Mtns, West
 - West Desert, Tintic Valley
 - Zion
- 6) We recommend eliminating 126 doe pronghorn permits, decreasing from 404 permits to 278 permits. We also recommend adding a new hunt on the Nine Mile, Anthro-Pleasant Valley unit.
- 7) We recommend 18 antlerless moose permits.
- 8) We recommend continuing the Rocky Mountain ewe bighorn sheep hunt on the Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns unit, with a total of 5 permits.

