

ACTION: Consider Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Annual Recommendation for the Number of Hunter Permission Slips Issued in Connection with the Revised Duncan Ranch Coordinated Resource Management Plan

AUTHORITY: W.S. 36-2-101; Board of Land Commissioners' Rules and Regulations Chapters 4, 8 and 13

BACKGROUND:

Title to the Duncan Ranch (the Ranch) was conveyed to the State of Wyoming on February 23, 2006. Since then, the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) has managed the Ranch pursuant to the Duncan Ranch Coordinated Resource Management Plan (the Plan), as approved by the Board of Land Commissioners (Board) on June 7, 2007.

Public comment related to the purchase of the Ranch revealed the diversity of stakeholders interested in the ultimate use and management of the Ranch. Given the broad spectrum of interests and opinions, the Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process emerged as an appropriate method for collaborative planning and problem solving. The CRM process involved the formation of a Steering Committee comprised of members from various stakeholder groups chaired by the Director of OSLI. The Steering Committee subsequently formed four resource-specific technical review teams (TRT), Agriculture, Wildlife, Recreation/Education and Commercial. Each TRT was comprised of committed individuals that worked as teams to identify pertinent resource-specific management objectives and conclude cooperative solutions to manage all resources for both the short-term and long-term sustainability and health of the resource and the trust asset.

The Steering Committee published a Draft Plan on March 21, 2007, conducted a public hearing on April 10, 2007 in Glenrock, Wyoming, and solicited written public comment through May 1, 2007. The goals, objectives and management actions presented in the final Plan represent the consensus of the Steering Committee based on the detailed analyses and support materials submitted by the four resource-specific TRT's and public comment received and considered by the Steering Committee and OSLI staff. On June 7, 2007 the Board approved the Plan.

ANALYSIS:

In accordance with the Revised Duncan Ranch Coordinated Resource Management Plan (Revised Plan), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) makes an annual recommendation for the number of permission slips to be issued for the Hunter Management Area (HMA) on the Ranch. Pursuant to Wildlife Objective 6A in the Revised Plan, the WGFD recommends to the Board:

SPECIES	METHOD	# HUNTERS	QUOTA	DATES ***
Elk	Firearm	150 (75 each firearm hunt period, also valid during Archery season-9/1-9/30)	Limited quota	10/15–11/2/17 11/3-11/20/17
Elk	Firearm	Unlimited	Limited quota	11/21/17-1/31/18
Pronghorn Antelope	Archery Firearm	50	Limited quota	8/15–10/4/17 10/5–10/31/17
Mule Deer	Archery Firearm	5	General	9/1-9/30/17 10/15-10/21/17
Whitetail Deer	Archery Firearm	20	Limited quota & General	9/1-9/30/17 10/15–11/30/17
Turkey	Archery Firearm	25 (fall) 15 (spring)	General	10/1–12/31/17 4/1/18 – 5/20/18
Mountain Lion	Archery Firearm	Unlimited	General	9/1/17-4/30/18
Black Bear (no baiting)	Archery Firearm	Unlimited fall & spring	General	9/1-10/31/17 4/15–5/31/18
Game Bird (blue grouse)	Archery Firearm	Unlimited	General	9/1-11/30/17
Game Bird (partridge)	Archery Firearm	Unlimited	General	9/15/17-1/31/18
Small Game (cottontails)	Archery Firearm	Unlimited	General	9/1/17-3/1/18

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Director recommends that the Board approve the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Fall 2017 through Spring 2018 Hunter Management Area permission slip allocation recommendation for Duncan Ranch.

BOARD ACTION: Board Approved