



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two Coveted Arizona Statewide Deer Permits to be Auctioned at 2023 Hunting Expo



SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Two of the most sought-after hunting permits in North America, the Arizona Statewide Mule Deer Permit and the Arizona Statewide Coues White-tailed Deer Permit, will be available in live auctions at the [2023 Western Hunting and Conservation Expo](#) (Hunt Expo). The permits were recently awarded to the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD). MDF will make the Coues permit available in the Friday Conservation Night event on February 3rd, 2023, and the mule deer permit in Saturday night’s Grand Finale event on February 4th. Both permits will be sold to the highest bidder.

“The reason the Arizona deer tags are so coveted is because the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Mule Deer Foundation, and other partners are heavily invested in improving habitat conditions to continue to produce big bucks—good habitat supports healthy herds,” said Joel Pedersen, MDF President and CEO. “We are very proud of our partnership with AZGFD that makes these special hunting permits available because 100% of the funds raised through their sale goes back to AZGFD to implement critical mule deer habitat and research projects. This partnership has been critical to ensure that we are doing the right work in the right places in Arizona to help MDF achieve our mission of conserving mule deer and their habitat.”

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Hunt Expo has become one of the premier consumer sportsmen's shows with an emphasis on western hunting. In addition, to hundreds of exhibitors featuring top gear, guided hunts, and taxidermy, Hunt Expo's evening auctions boast many of the premier hunting tags available in the West. The vast majority of the funds raised at these auctions support the conservation efforts of state fish and wildlife agencies as well as MDF and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife.

According to Jackson Miller, habitat partnership coordinator for MDF and AZGFD, the funds generated from the Arizona commissioner tags for the Habitat Partnership Committee program are a huge boon for wildlife in the state. The program funds a wide assortment of habitat enhancements, from prescribed fire to invasive species control. Last year alone 47 habitat projects were funded from all six regions through this program to the tune of \$3.2 million—38 of the 47 projects have direct benefits to Arizona deer populations. Many of these are landscape-level habitat improvements such as the 50,000+ acre 18A project restoring grassland in northwestern Arizona or the Sunflower Allotment Landscape water development which is building 15 miles of pipeline to supply water to 21 different troughs.

“MDF's West Escudilla project to remove encroaching junipers has received Habitat Partnership Committee funding over the past five years. Without the HPC program, thousands of acres of habitat would not receive the treatment they need every year; it truly changes the landscape,” Miller says.

About the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo

Hunt [Expo](#) will be held February 2-3, 2023, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in downtown Salt Lake City. Hosted by MDF and its Expo partner Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW), this annual event attracts tens of thousands of hunters and conservationists who experience this as the premier wildlife conservation event.

About MDF

The Mule Deer Foundation is the only conservation group in North America dedicated to restoring, improving and conserving mule deer and black-tailed deer and their habitat, with a focus on science and program efficiency. MDF is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management and conservation policy issues. MDF acknowledges regulated hunting as a viable management component and is committed to recruitment and retention of men, women and youth into the shooting sports and conservation. Get involved in your state or become a member at www.muledeer.org or call 801-973-3940.

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