

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 5, 2016, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/wXgejJsumCc>

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kirk Woodward, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster
- Drew Cushing, Warmwater Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments
- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation
- Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader | ACTION |
| 8. Other Business
– John Bair, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at www.wildlife.utah.gov

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.

Wildlife Board Motions

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

Fall 2016 - Target Date – Impacts of lead poisoning

MOTION: To add a provision into R657-19, Taking of Non-Game Mammals, for proper disposal of non-game mammals shot with lead ammunition as proposed by Derris Jones in the Southeast RAC and report back to the Board at a later time.

Motion made by: Mike King
Assigned to: Kim Hershey
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: March 5, 2015

July 2016 - Target Date – Youth hunts on WMA's

MOTION: I move that we add to the action log a listing of state youth hunts, their restrictions and preclusions on WMA's and the feasibility of closing these areas during youth hunts. The findings will be presented at the next upland game meeting.

Motion made by: Byron Bateman
Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: August 27, 2015

Fall 2016 - Target Date – CWMU Permit Allocation

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans as presented by the Division plus include an action log item for the Division to review the CWMU permit allocations and the entire process to ensure all CWMUs are on the same page and measured by the same mark.

Motion made by: Kirk Woodward
Assigned to: Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: December 2, 2015

Fall 2016 - Target Date – OIAL Permit Allocation

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division review the allocation process for moose, once-in-a-lifetime species, and other species to ensure equal distribution of permits.

Motion made by: Byron Bateman
Assigned to: Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: December 2, 2015

Fall 2016 - Target Date – Landowner Association Permit Rule

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division revisit the entire Landowner Association Permit Rule.

Motion made by: Calvin Crandall

Assigned to: Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

Action: Under Study

Status:

Placed on Action Log: December 2, 2015

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 2, 2015, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, December 2, 2015, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kirk Woodward, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
Greg Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2016
- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Gunnison Bend Reservoir
- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions
- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline,
and R657-5 Rule Amendments
- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. SER Deer Management Plans
- Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 10. CWMU Management Plans
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 13. Conservation Permit Season Variance Request
- Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 14. Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Letter
- Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General | ACTION |
| 15. Process and Procedure for Expo Contract/Board Meeting – Time Certain 1:00 p.m.
- Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General | INFORMATION |
| 16. Other Business
– John Bair, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 2, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments – 2016 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2016 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

4) Gunnison Bend Reservoir (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Gunnison Bend Reservoir clarification as presented by the Division.

5) Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Donnie Hunter and failed to pass. Calvin Crandall, Kirk Woodward, and Mike King opposed. Chairman Bair broke the tie and the motion failed.

MOTION: I move that we leave the Monroe Unit in the higher age class at 7.5-8.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented by the Division.

- 6) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline, and R657-5 Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we incorporate the dead zone around the Black Rock into the Antelope unit.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the balance of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates, Application Timeline, and Amendments to Rule R657-5 as presented by the division.

- 7) SER Deer Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the SER Deer Management Plans as presented by the Division.

- 8) CWMU Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans as presented by the Division plus include an action log item for the Division to review the CWMU permit allocations and the entire process to ensure all CWMUs are on the same page and measured by the same mark.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division review the allocation process for moose, once-in-a-lifetime species, and other species to ensure equal distribution of permits.

- 9) Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4:1. Kirk Woodward opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the nine elk permits requested for the Book Cliffs.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the balance of the Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 as presented by the Division.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division revisit the entire Landowner Association Permit Rule.

10) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 as presented by the Division.

11) Conservation Permit Season Variance Request (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Season Variance Request by the Division.

12) Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Letter (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mexican Wolf Plan Letter presented by the Division in support of the Governor's letter.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 2, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/15-12-02.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

John Bair – Chair
Kirk Woodward – Vice Chair
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec
Calvin Crandall
Mike King
Steve Dalton
Byron Bateman
Donnie Hunter

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks	Teresa Griffin	Therese Meyer
Mike Canning	Randy Wood	Judi Tutorow
Rory Reynolds	Dustin Schaible	Kim Hersey
Staci Coons	Dax Mangus	Lindy Varney
Bill Bates	Covy Jones	Anita Candelaria
Kenny Johnson	Avery Cook	Martin Bushman
Rick Olson	Jason Robinson	Greg Hansen
Kevin Bunnell	Kent Hersey	Karen Caldwell
John Fairchild	Clint Sampson	Phil Gray
Boyde Blackwell	Ben Nadolski	Mark Hadley
Justin Dolling	Bryan Christensen	Debbie Marchese
Dean Mitchell	Jason Robinson	Sid Groll
Blair Stringham	Mike Christensen	Braden Sheppard
Justin Shannon	Paul Gedge	Mike Styler
Guy Wallace	Scott McFarlane	Leslie McFarlane

RAC Chairs Present

Southern – Dave Black
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht
Central – Richard Hansen
Northern – John Cavitt
Northeastern - Randy Dearth

Public Present

Lee Tracy – UWC	Dave Freiss	Auburn Binette	Ken Clegg	Jason Hawkins
Jon Larson – SFW	Floyd Hatin	Aly Bywater	Chase Hill	Jeff Hilbert
Troy Justensen – SFW		Brady Clement	Travis Adams	Aaron Albiste
Sterling Brown – Farm Bureau		Clay Batty	Ray Matthews	Tyrell Abegglen
Ben Lowder – UT Bowmen’s Association			Robert Byrnes	Riley Roberts
Mark Hill – Book Cliffs Landowner Association			Ray Eteheverry	George Behunin
Ash Jenkins – Scofield Canyons CWMU			Daniel Richins	Wade Heaton
Kirk Robinson – Western Wildlife Conservancy			Chris Carling	Ken Strong

Chairman Bair called the meeting to order and welcomed the audience.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:00:43 – 00:01:17 of 06:35:56**

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kirk Woodward and Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:01:18 – 00:01:53 of 06:35:56**

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) **00:01:59 – 00:03:47 of 06:35:56**

Kirk Woodward brought up action log items for the Manti Unit split and lead impact study. Justin Shannon confirmed that the Manti would be discussed in one of the presentations today. The lead impact study will be discussed at a later date.

4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:03:50 – 00:14:46 of 06:35:56**

Greg Sheehan updated the Board on the wolf incident in Rich County; rotenone treatment at Red Fleet; cancellation of the antelope trap at Parker Mountain on December 15; a possible meeting on December 18 to discuss Expo Permit bid; big game transplants ongoing in the state; and expressed appreciation to the Board for their service.

5) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2016 (**Action**) **00:14:51 – 00:28:18 of 06:35:56**

Blair Stringham presented the 2016 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments.

Board Questions 00:24:00 – 00:24:31

Mike King asked how many participated in the survey.

RAC Recommendations 00:25:03 – 00:26:07

All RACs unanimously passed the recommendations and rule amendments. Southern RAC requested the Director make an emergency change to clarify the Gunnison Bend closure to the high watermark prior to the 2016 snow goose hunt.

Public Comments 00:26:10 – 00:26:45

Public questions were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 00:27:11 – 00:28:18

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2016 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

6) Gunnison Bend Reservoir (**Action**) **00:28:19 – 02:24:25 of 06:35:56**

Blair Stringham presented the Gunnison Bend Reservoir closure clarification.

Board/RAC Questions 00:30:26 – 00:57:22

The Board asked about the high watermark, property ownership, enforcement, and the term “effective immediately.”

Board Discussion 00:33:37 – 00:37:32

There was some discussion about shooting areas and what is allowable near the boundaries.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Gunnison Bend Reservoir clarification as presented by the Division.

Greg added to his update the Division’s efforts with the waterfowl and the pheasant release program. He also thanked those who have assisted in the program, especially former Board Chairman Jake Albrecht.

7) Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions (**Action**) **00:37:33 – 02:24:25 of 06:35:56**

Justin Shannon presented the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions.

Board/RAC Questions 00:52:45 – 01:15:55

The Board asked about measuring and quantifying goals, habitat restoration, data accountability, processes and procedures for making changes/adjustments to the elk plan, objective numbers.

The RAC asked about landowner association permits

Public Questions 01:15:57 – 01:44:26

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 01:44:29 – 01:48:12

Northern, Central, Southeast, and Southern RACs unanimously passed the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions. Northeast passed it 5:4. Southeast added youth 17 years and younger be given preference for antlerless elk permits in the drawing.

Public Comments 01:48:16 – 01:58:25

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 01:58:27 – 02:11:04

Chairman Bair reviewed the discussions and comments. The Board asked for clarification on the Southeast’s request for youth permits. They delved into the Monroe unit further.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Donnie Hunter and failed to pass. Calvin Crandall, Kirk Woodward, and Mike King opposed. Chairman Bair broke the tie and the motion failed.

MOTION: I move that we leave the Monroe Unit in the higher age class at 7.5-8.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented by the Division.

- 8) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline, and R657-5 Rule Amendments **(Action) 02:11:46 – 03:06:10 of 06:35:56**

Justin Shannon presented the recommendations for the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline, and R657-5 Rule Amendments.

Board/RAC Questions 02:26:15 – 02:39:12

The Board asked for further clarification and explanation of the proposed rule amendments and how it may affect the mentor program. They also asked about the purpose of the midseason hunt.

The RAC posed questions about boundary adjustments.

Public Questions 02:33:06 – 02:50:36

Public questions were accepted at this time.

The Board debated how to proceed next as there was a time certain agenda at 1:00 p.m.

RAC Recommendations 02:53:09 – 03:00:50

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying dissent, motions, and stipulations.

The Board broke for lunch and planned to return at 1:00 p.m. to address agenda item #15 before continuing with public comments from agenda item #8.

03:00:57 – 03:17:04 agenda item #15 presented and discussed

Public Comments 03:17:06 – 03:37:40

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 03:37:44 – 04:04:47

Chairman Bair reviewed the comments and recommendations. The Board discussed boundary

proposals, Wasatch and Manti units, and muzzleloader magnification.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we incorporate the dead zone around the Black Rock into the Antelope unit.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the balance of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates, Application Timeline, and Amendments to Rule R657-5 as presented by the division.

Mike King left the board meeting after the motion was approved.

9) SER Deer Management Plans (Action) 04:04:54 – 04:20:52 of 06:35:56

Guy Wallace presented the SER Deer Management Plans.

RAC Recommendations 04:23:07 – 04:24:47

All RACs unanimously passed the SER Deer Management Plans with exception of Northeast RAC. They had one abstention.

Public Comments 04:24:55 – 04:27:19

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 04:27:20 – 04:30:00

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the SER Deer Management Plans as presented by the Division.

10) CWMU Management Plans (Action) 04:30:06 – 05:15:36 of 06:35:56

Scott McFarlane presented the CWMU Management Plans.

Board Questions 04:46:06 – 04:48:04

The board asked how permits are determined and justification for increases.

RAC Recommendations 04:48:06 – 04:51:18

All RACs passed the 2016 CWMU Management Plans with varying dissent and stipulations.

Public Comments 04:51:20 – 04:53:15

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 04:53:16 – 05:14:25

The Board pondered the request by the Scofield Canyons CWMU for two permits and the process for determining who and how permits are allocated.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans as presented by the Division including an action log item for the Division to review the CWMU permit allocations and the entire process to ensure all CWMUs are on the same page and measured by the same mark.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division review the allocation process for moose, once-in-a-lifetime species, and other species to ensure equal distribution of permits.

- 11) Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 (Action) **05:14:26 – 05:56:11 of 06:35:56**

Scott McFarlane presented the Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016.

RAC Questions 05:20:05 – 05:22:10

RAC questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 05:22:19 – 05:23:43

All RACs unanimously passed the 2016 permit numbers. Northeast RAC included a motion to address the Book Cliffs LOA.

Public Comments 05:23:44 – 05:26:10

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 05:26:13 – 05:49:15

The Board discussed the Book Cliffs situation further and also pondered how to create consistency across the board.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4:1. Kirk

Woodward opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the nine elk permits requested for the Book Cliffs.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the balance of the Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 as presented by the Division.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item that the Division revisit the entire Landowner Association Permit Rule.

12) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (Action) 05:49:17 – 06:10:39 of 06:35:56

Scott McFarlane presented the R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments.

Board Questions 06:05:33 – 06:06:51

Kirk Woodward asked for clarification on the terms landowner and CWMU.

RAC Recommendations 06:07:02 – 06:07:53

All RACs unanimously passed the rule amendments. Southeast and Southern RAC had one abstention each.

Public Comments 06:07:54 – 06:09:24

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 06:09:43 – 06:10:39

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 as presented by the Division.

13) Conservation Permit Season Variance Request (Action) 06:10:40 – 06:12:11 of 06:35:56

Bill Bates presented the Conservation Permit Season Variance Request.

Board Discussion 06:13:10 – 06:13:36

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed

unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Season Variance Request by the Division.

14) Mexican Wolf Plan Letter (Action) 06:13:38 – 06:23:11 of 06:35:56

Martin Bushman presented the Mexican Wolf Plan Letter for Board approval.

Public Comments 06:22:20 – 06:32:12

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 06:32:14 – 06:35:33

Edits from the Board have been incorporated into the draft letter.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mexican Wolf Plan Letter presented by the Division in support of the Governor's letter.

15) Process and Procedure for Expo Contract/Board Meeting – Time Certain 1:00 p.m.
(Information) 03:00:57 – 03:17:04 of 06:35:56

Martin Bushman explained the Process and Procedure for Expo Contract/Board Meeting.

Board Questions/Discussion 03:14:11 – 03:17:04

Board asked about limitations and conflicts with membership in organizations. Martin Bushman emphasized the need to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

16) Other Business (Contingent) 06:35:37 – 06:35:56 of 06:35:56

Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

December 2015

Summary of Motions

R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster

ALL RAC's

Motion-Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Motion Passes-Unanimous

2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments

NRO

Motion- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented with the exception of having a two week pre-bait period.

Motion Passes-Unanimous

CRO

Motion: To extend the summer bear hunting season two weeks early to start on May 21st

Motion died, lack of second

Motion: To allow two weeks pre baiting to the summer season

Motion Passes: 9 to 2

Motion: To approve the balance of the recommendations as presented

Motion Passes: Unanimous

SRO

Motion: To allow preseason baiting two weeks prior to summer hunt.

Motion Passes: 7 in favor, 1 abstained

Motion: To begin summer season two weeks earlier than recommended (which would eliminate pre-season baiting).

Motion Passes: 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained

Motion: To accept the remainder of the bear recommendations as presented.

Amendment to Motion: To keep total permit numbers on the Beaver unit the same as last year.

Amendment Passes: Unanimous

Motion Passes: Unanimous

SERO

Motion: To accept the 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, except that pre-baiting be allowed for two weeks rather than one week.

Motion Passed: with a 4/3 vote.

NERO

Motion: to accept as presented with the following exception: remove the one week early bait recommendation and leave as it was last year.

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation

NRO, CRO, SRO

Motion-Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Northern Regional Advisory Council
December 3, 2015
Brigham City Senior Center
Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:01 p.m.

RAC Present

John Cavitt- Chair
Joel Ferry- Agric.
Chad Jensen- Elected
Matt Klar- At Large
Mike Laughter- Sportsman
Russ Lawrence- At Large
Kevin- McLeod- At Large
Justin Oliver- At Large
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.
Robert Sanchez- Forest Service
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman
John Wall- At Large

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Justin Dolling
Paul Thompson
David Beveridge
Randy Wood
Leslie McFarlane
Avery Cook
Justin Robinson

Wildlife Board

RAC Excused

John Blazzard- Agric.
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM

Agenda:

Approval of Agenda
Approval of Nov 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Old Business
Regional Update
R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster
2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments
Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

-John Cavitt, RAC Chair

If there is no objection, the agenda for tonight's meeting will be approved as presented. There being no objection, the agenda for tonight's meeting has been approved.

Item 2. Approval of Nov 10, 2015 Minutes

-John Cavitt, RAC Chair

Everyone should have received a copy of the minutes. Are there any question on the minutes? If there is no objection, the minutes will be approved as circulated. Seeing none, the minutes are approved as circulated.

Item 3. Old Business

-John Cavitt, RAC Chair

Justin Dolling-Wildlife Board Meeting-Waterfowl recommendations and rule amendments passed as presented. The statewide elk management plan revisions also passed as presented. There was some interest in raising the Monroe age objective above what was recommended in the plan. The board made a motion and voted on that. It turned out to be a tie vote and the chairman broke the tie by allowing the Monroe unit to stay at the age objective identified in the elk management plan. Bucks, bulls and OIAL recommendations and rule amendments, the division did incorporate the boundary changes the RAC made. We had the Cache extended archery boundary change and the Pilate Mountain pronghorn change as well as the Snowville pronghorn unit boundary change. The division incorporated those into the recommendations. The board ended up approving the bucks, bulls and OIAL 2016 season dates and application timeline as presented by the division which allowed for magnification on muzzleloaders. The divisions presentation was recommending muzzleloaders be allowed to have scopes and the board went ahead and approved that. There is no restriction on magnification. It can go anywhere the scope will allow you. South eastern deer management plans also were approved as presented. CWMU management plans were approved as presented. The board did ask the division to conduct an analysis of the distribution of permits on limited entry units between the CWMU's and public draw. That is an action log item that the division will be working on over the next year. That includes all CWMU's that are located within limited entry units elk, deer and moose. Landowner association permit numbers for 2016 also passed as presented and the board again developed an action log item to have the landowner association rule revisited over the next year. There was some concerns again with how the distribution of permits are allocated between landowner associations and the larger hunting unit. All the rule amendments for the CWMU program were accepted as presented. The board did pass a resolution to send a letter regarding Mexican Wolf recovery efforts to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Craig VanTassell- What was the contents of the letter?

Justin Dolling- It addressed concerns we have with the boundary of the Mexican wolf and whether or not it came that far into Utah. There was a lot of reference in the letter to possibly hybridization between the Grey Wolf and Mexican Wolf. There were a couple other talking points within the letter but I cannot recall at this point.

John Cavitt- The letter itself will probably be available.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Aquatics- Hosted a successful conference titled "confluence". This is the second annual time this conference has been held. Talked about demands and different water uses that occur on the Weber River and trying to consider all the different uses and see if we can find balance there. The ice is starting to begin to form on several of our mountain lakes. I have not heard of any safe ice conditions throughout Northern Utah. Stream fishing continues to remain good. Experimenting with stocking wiper and walleye fry in Willard. Put in a bath solution and essentially marks the bone that is found in the ears so they can sample those fish when they do gill net survey and pull that ear bone and determine whether or not they were a part of the stocking effort. The recent survey showed 18 of the 19 walleye that were stocked as fry were marked. The survival of those fish was very high which is encouraging. They will continue to look at that and study that over the next couple of years to see if it is a viable option.

Habitat- Juniper projects still going on in West Box Elder. In the middle of creating a new database for watershed restoration program.

Outreach- Elk festival at Hardware Ranch is December 12th. It begins at 10:00 until 3:00. Farmington Bay interviews for assistant which occurs first part of December. Brine shrimp harvest has exceeded 20 million pounds and looks to be a good year for brine shrimp companies. It may be a record year.

Law Enforcement- Doing winter range patrols. Looking for illegal activity on winter ranges.

Wildlife- Deer Capture project on the Cache which is part of the collaring effort to look at survival. Will be flying some deer back to staging location and placing a GPS collar on those animals. Big horn sheep transplant off of Antelope Island on January 4-6, weather permitting.

Item 5. R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster

- Paul Thompson, Regional Aquatics Manager

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Craig VanTassell- Who is going to regulate this?

Paul Thompson- If an animal is sold for human consumption the department of agriculture regulates those animals. If it is for personal consumption it is the division of wildlife. For these marine animals, it is the purpose of this amendment, there would be no regulation because those animals could not survive in the wild in Utah. We are not concerned about the animals that come from salt water. No one would really need to regulate those.

Craig VanTassell-Does the health department get involved.

Paul Thompson- The department of agriculture monitors those ones for sale.

John Cavitt- Had this rule been enforced previously so the grocery stores were getting COR's or has it not just really been enforced?

Paul Thompson- I had that question myself. I asked that question and it is a rule that has been in place but was not followed through. We decided that we needed to move it forward to make it legal for these establishments to have these animals legally.

Motion

Motion-Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Second- John Wall

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 6. 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Lee Tracy- United Wildlife Cooperative- I am not a bear, cougar or coyote hunter so I don't know much about predators. You showed us the difference between 2014 and 2015 regarding the percentages of sportsman taking bear as opposed to the division. How does that happen? Do you target certain bears and make phone calls to sportsmen?

Leslie McFarlane- Last year, when we came around and did recommendations, we increased permits and played with the structure of where we were offering permits in places where we needed that increase harvest. In areas where there were no issues, we left those units alone. By adding the additional season

in the summer, we increased take. By offering the ability to use a rifle over bait also increased success. By changing method and by adding the season and manipulating where we increased permits, we were able to control that without affecting places where we did not want to increase our harvest.

Lee Tracy- What is the best way to remove those nuisance bears? We have strategies for sportsman. How does that happen when you remove them?

Leslie McFarlane- It depends on the situation. It is evaluated on a case by case basis and depends on the level of threat it presents. The more aggressive the incident becomes, the division either responds or we try and get a hunter in there. We go through our limited entry permits for that unit or we use harvest objective permits. We call until we find someone who is willing to come and harvest that particular bear.

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Is it safe to say everyone is happy?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Troy Justensen- Last year, on the baiting season, we were allowed to bait 2 weeks prior. This year, your recommendation is for one week. If everyone is happy, why the change in that?

Leslie McFarlane- Last year, the division recommendation was to keep those two seasons separate. I still feel like that is what I want to do. That is the difference in the discrepancy. If it were to go through, I don't think it would change much. Although, we did get some complaints.

RAC Questions

John Cavitt- Would Robert mind addressing the Forest Service policy. It seems rather nebulous to me.

Robert Sanchez- The Forest Service recognizes the states authority to manage hunting and fishing regulations. We are basically taking ourselves out of that middle man situation. We will continue to coordinate. We ask for no baiting permits that interrupt with public safety, health concerns and resource damage. Either official closure order or provide the department with some kind of state wide map that recognizes these recommendations for no baiting across the state on National Forests.

John Cavitt- What is the harvest strategy in the Bookcliffs?

Leslie McFarlane- There are several. On the Bookcliffs bitter creek, the specific strategy itself is light.

John Cavitt- Is there real concern by the division regarding the reproductive performance of population there?

Leslie McFarlane- No.

John Cavitt- The letter suggested that might be a problem.

Leslie McFarlane- The Bookcliffs, San Juan and La Sal are basically the premium units for bear hunters in the state. There is a lot of passion. They get a lot of pressure and are very productive. They are our trophy bear units. Bookcliffs bitter creek south is a moderate strategy. Our percent adult male is at 41% and on a moderate strategy, we want that to be between 25-35. So, it is high which indicates a really older population. Our percent adult range is on the light end of harvest. Female percent is at 29% and that is also within the light range. The plan calls for an increase and that is why the region keeps doing that in accordance with the plan. We also try and listen to our sportsmen. We did chose to stick with what we have got.

Public Comment

Aaron Johnson- Utah Houndsmen Association- Letter sent to central and northern RAC's based on what we had seen the proposal was going to be but with the change Leslie and northeast region made to keep the Bookcliffs bitter creek the same, we are happy with that. We support the DWR proposal completely.

Lee Tracy- United Wildlife Cooperative- Appreciate Leslie's work and support the plan.

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife and Utah Bowman Association- Appreciate what you have done. Support the divisions recommendations with one exception. Last year, there was a 2 week pre-baiting season and we would like to see that continue and not cut back to one week. Central RAC passed that.

RAC Question

Bryce Thurgood- On the San Juan fall, you had the success at 6 or 8%. Is it really that low?

Leslie McFarlane- On the spot and stock it is.

Bryce Thurgood-Not hounds?

Leslie McFarlane- With all the different season structures, it is hard to keep them straight. Spot and stock was 4% on La Sal and San Juan. The year before, it was at 20. That increase in permits lowered that success.

Bryce Thurgood- It seemed really low.

Leslie McFarlane- It is low.

RAC Comment

Bryce Thurgood- You are doing a fabulous job.

Leslie McFarlane- Thank you.

Justin Oliver- As far as applications that people who applied for those spot and stock late season tags. Did people put in for them?

Leslie McFarlane- People put in for them and they were all taken. There weren't any left over.

Justin Oliver- Did it help with points and everything else also?

Leslie McFarlane- I would have to go and look. I have not looked at points and all of that.

Justin Oliver- It is giving opportunity and helping people.

Leslie McFarlane- That is the one thing this did with the summer season in particular. We opened bear hunting up to a whole other constituency who could not go before. Now, some other opportunities have opened up.

Motion

Motion- Craig VanTassell- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented with the exception of having a two week pre-bait period.

Second- Justin Oliver

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 7. Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation

- Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Lee Tracy- United Wildlife Cooperative- Is this transplant an idea of what is to come or has the division considered transplanting to other places? West of Cedar, I have hunted antelope out there for a long time and have never seen one.

Avery Cook- We are not proposing to do any transplants to introduce new populations. This is a transplant for one of the designated areas in our management plan that has continued to decline while the others have gone up through this last population cycle.

RAC Questions

Matt Klar- Do we know why the sheep are having so many problems? Is it habitat related?

Avery Cook- It is death by a thousand cuts. There are a lot of habitat related problems and juniper encroachment into critical food areas. Strong avoidance of sage grouse trees. Habitat projects will be addressing juniper encroachment in areas and as soon as you cut down those trees, the sage grouse move back. We also have some invasive species. Predation issues at a low population level. Recreation disturbance. Quite a few contributors affecting.

John Wall- Birds that move, do you monitor the survival of them or is it just going out and counting to see if they increase year to year?

Avery Cook- With the ones we move, we will put radio collars on them in association with Utah State University. We will also be collaring some of the resident birds to compare survival rates of residential vs. newly introduced birds.

Russ Lawrence- This has had a lot of habitat issues. Fire being a big issue out there. Is the sage that has been planted back? Is it sufficient height to support nesting? Is there protections as in fire breaks and so forth to protect that habitat?

Avery Cook- I am not up to date on what the current status of any sage brush plantings are out there as far as recovery towards restoring bird habitat. There is no representative from the BLM here to answer that.

Russ Lawrence- I should know.

Avery Cook- There has been a lot of work out there and successful seeding but I am not sure about the status on fires.

Russ Lawrence- We can continue to put birds there. I fully support the effort but we need to make sure that habitat is going to be there and that we can sustain that as well.

Avery Cook- There is quite a bit of work going into fuels and also the juniper removal type of projects that open up space for the birds to move into.

Kristin Purdy- Could you describe the predator removal efforts wildlife service's is going to do to reduce predation on the birds?

Avery Cook- Jason, are you familiar with the contract?

Jason Robinson- Upland Game Coordinator for the DWR- Contract with wildlife service's specifically looking at mostly red fox removal and raven control.

RAC Comment

Craig VanTassell- Commend the division for their proactive approach. Even with some other species, we need to be more proactive with development and try to fix some problems or prevent problems with habitat in the state.

Motion

Motion- Kristin Purdy- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Second- Matt Klar

Motion Passes- Unanimous

John Cavitt- RAC winter break. No meeting until April 6th.

Motion to adjourn

If there is no further business and there is no objection, the meeting will be adjourned. There being no objection the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting Ends-7:23 p.m.

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
December 2, 2015 ⌚ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written
Passed unanimously

R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments

MOTION: To extend the summer bear hunting season two weeks early to start on May 21st
Motion died, lack of second

MOTION: To allow two weeks pre baiting to the summer season
Passed 9 to 2

MOTION: To approve the balance of the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
December 2, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ron Camp, Sportsmen
Matt Clark, Sportsmen
George Garcia, Forest Service
Michael Gates, BLM
Richard Hansen, At large, RAC Chair
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Ben Lowder, At Large
Kristofer Marble, At large
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive
Jacob Steele, Native American
Ken Strong, Sportsman

Members Absent

Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Greg McPhie, Elected
Alan White, Agriculture

Others Present

- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
- Richard Hansen, RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by Danny Potts to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Karl Hirst
Motion passed unanimously

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**
- Richard Hansen, RAC Chair
- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**
- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor
- 4) **R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster (Action)**
- John Fairchild, Central Region Supervisor

Questions from the RAC
Questions from the Public
Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept R6576-3 rule amendments as presented
Seconded by Ron Camp
In Favor: all
Opposed:
Motion passed unanimously

5) **2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)**
- **Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Karl Hirst – You have indicated the Forest Service will not be giving permission but will be doing maps of where baiting might be allowed on that forest.

Leslie McFarlane – I am not 100 percent sure. I spoke with John Schivik and he indicated that they would provide maps. I said it would have to be a statewide map so it could be distributed to all of our regional offices because anybody can go to any of our regional offices and get a COR and they may not be aware of the restrictions in one particular region. They said they would work on something like that. George may know more.

Karl Hirst – My worry is having worked with different districts everything seems to change from district to district and there doesn't seem to be any standard rules. I am hoping if they do that we are able to maybe work with them or talk with them about standardizing certain things.

Leslie McFarlane – There are some rules that are in our rule that I think they will adhere to. Our rule is pretty specific. You cannot be within a mile of a campground or well used drainages. I think it prohibits bait stations within wilderness areas. I think that stuff will all still apply. I am just not exactly sure what we will get for guidance for us on Forest Service land.

George Garcia – We are not too sure what we are going to give for guidance at this point yet. I don't think we have made a decision. The policy we have is an old policy. It dates back to 1994. We as an agency probably should have revised that here recently and come out with a new version of that. We basically have two options. One, the policy allows local line officers at the districts enforce level to issue a closure order that would close areas to baiting, again, following the criteria within a certain distance from a campground, distance from a trailhead or high use areas. Or we can go with the option of providing a map to the DWR with the hopes that those areas that we don't want baiting on would be followed. As an agency at least on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache we have not made that determination which of those two options we are going to take at this time.

Leslie McFarlane – As far as the Division goes we still plan to continue to provide the Forest Service with copies of the CORs that have been issued. They will be aware of where we issue baiting permits for.

Ben Lowder – Concerning that San Juan/La Sal fall season just a quick correction I looked up the guidebook for this year and the season did not change this year. The season did end September 11th on the early season on those two units.

Leslie McFarlane – I was pretty sure the board changed that.

Ben Lowder – I am looking at the 2015 guidebook.

Chad Coburn – They did vote to change it but when the guidebook came out I was the first one to look and it reverted back.

Leslie McFarlane – It was an outside recommendation and a Board motion but I might have missed it.

Ben Lowder – In 2015 on the summer season we had two weeks for pre-baiting yet you are recommending one week.

Leslie McFarlane – The original recommendation was for two weeks but the Board voted for one week and we are only asking for one week.

Ben Lowder – The original recommendation was for one week and the Board voted for two weeks. There was a two week pre-baiting season this year. I will find it in the guidebook.

Leslie McFarlane – It does say you could begin baiting May 23rd this year and start hunting June 6th so it was two weeks. Our recommendation is for one week prior.

Questions from the Public

Chad Coburn – If the original plan was to separate those seasons then why even have an overlapping week? You have four weeks to bait a bear. I could bait a thousand bears in one week. If the original plan was to say we don't want hounds running off bait and we don't want baiters having that conflict why even have the overlap?

Ben Lowder – Have you baited a bear?

Chad Coburn – Yeah and that is right during the prime of the rut and everything for a whole month.

Ben Lowder – Let me ask you this. If you want a complete separation I would be okay with that if we split the season 50/50.

Chad Coburn – For permit numbers?

Ben Lowder – No, I was meaning season dates. Currently the spring season gets nine weeks and the summer season gets four weeks.

Chad Coburn – I'll trade you straight across. We'll take total no snow great access for the houndsmen and you can have the first nine weeks when there is no access. I ride a million miles on horses, I'll trade you straight across. I am just saying for me that was the big deal, if you want to eliminate the conflict, we know you have the best part of that season. Let's eliminate the conflict all together and I think you will still do fine.

Lee Tracy – United Wildlife Cooperative – You mentioned an arrangement you have with the Forest Service. Do you have such an arrangement with the BLM?

Leslie McFarlane – We didn't change any of the rule regarding the BLM so we will still require somebody wanting to establish a bait station to get permission from the BLM before they can place it.

Troy Justensen – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – Has the Division ever considered bringing bears into the CWMU program? Here is the reason I ask. As a CWMU operator in Chalk Creek we have multiple bears that are killed by Wildlife Services. It would be beneficial as a sheep operation there they don't want them there. It is difficult to bring in hunters from all different directions. It would make it very simple if we had that available in the CWMU program.

Leslie McFarlane – Several years ago we did this with cougars I'm pretty sure and offered CWMU cougar permits and I know we have offered turkey permits. I know it has been a headache as far as turkey permits go. The only thing I could say with regard to bear permits is that it makes it really difficult when we start parsing out permits and getting into different programs because we offer so few permits already for some of these seasons for bears. Whatever we do here you are going to take away from the public and put it into the CWMU program.

Troy Justensen – That is where I have a question with because those bears are going to get removed anyway. They are going to be killed because if they are interacting with livestock they are gone so why would we need to take from that. You are actually removing a problem. These landowners don't want them there.

Leslie McFarlane – Because we don't know. We could do something like that but it would require a lot of rule change and a lot of thought because when you do that we offer so few permits that you will be taking away from the public pool. Right now if a CWMU operator wants somebody with a bear permit they can get somebody with a bear permit to come onto their lands without having a CWMU bear permit.

Troy Justensen – I see it a different way. I think it is a way to increase opportunity for sportsmen and to handle a problem. Once again to move it from an animal being removed by government to that of an individual.

Leslie McFarlane – What would you do with something like the Fillmore Pahvant where we offer only two permits and there are five CWMUs and each CWMU wants at least one bear permit?

Troy Justensen – Are they removing bears there?

Leslie McFarlane – You are asking to create a depredation private land permit and we already have depredation permits that deal with livestock depredation and crop depredation. We have an

avenue to do that if the landowner is having issues. It doesn't have to be Wildlife Services taking them. But if you start establishing CWMUs you are going to be taking out of this pot because there are only so many permits you can issue without hurting the bear population. It's not like deer or elk where you have several thousand. You are talking 4,100 minimum in the entire state. Troy Justensen – We are just going to have to disagree on that.

Leslie McFarlane – We can talk about it.

Troy Justensen – I don't want it to go through now but I am asking would they consider it and sit down and talk about it because I think there is some merit to it. There is no quota. As a livestock producer they are going to kill them until there is not a problem whether it exceeds how many bears you have in that area or not. If there are bears depredating they are going to continue to kill them.

Leslie McFarlane – We can talk about it. I'll consider it but like I am saying in some of these units you have so few bears that you are taking from the public when you do that and right now if you draw a permit and the landowner has an issue the first thing that we do is go to that list of people with permits and we call them and ask them to get that bear off the property.

Troy Justensen – We will talk about that later. One other question, and it is geared toward the Forest Service, having hunted bears in Idaho and baiting is there any standardization between acquiring a bait permit on Forest Service ground because when I go to Idaho they give me three tags and I don't have to tell the Forest Service where I am baiting or whatever. You can go as long as your tag is on that. You don't have the problems or the restrictions we face here. Why is there a discrepancy between federal organizations?

George Garcia – I think the difference at least for us here in Utah and on the Wasatch-Cache is just the number of people that are out on the national forest. If you look at the visitors on the Wasatch-Cache we have more visitors than five national parks combined in just this one area. We are trying to reduce conflict.

Comments from the Public

Chad Coburn – I think Leslie did a great job on the plan. It has worked and avoided the conflict. If there is conflict let's get rid of it but it has reduced that. As far as depredation, when you are talking depredation I don't want an armature or sportsman when I have a problem with something eating my sheep. I want a professional right there to take care of it. I don't want a sportsman. There is a difference between when Luke Osborn shows up and when a kid that is 19 shows up. I think that is a bad line to cross taking sportsmen and handing them depredation. What we did by moving the opportunity to harvest worked. The whole plan is good and I think you ought to accept it the way it's presented.

Lee Tracy – United Wildlife Cooperative – We are supportive of the presentation as presented. I have had opportunities to work with Leslie and Chad on other predator committees and in fact Leslie helped us with the deer transplant on Parowan and I trust her judgment and it sounds like that committee was a good committee and came up with a good plan and we support it as is.

Dan Cockayne – Utah Houndsmen Association – We had an opportunity to discuss this with Leslie before some of the changes were done on the Book Cliffs so the letter that we sent you reflected that. I just want to say that we appreciate the opportunity to work through these issues before we come here and we support the plan as it is proposed. As far as the bait we didn't notice any conflict and we don't have a problem with the two week pre-baiting. Thank you.

Troy Justensen – SFW – We support the plan as proposed excluding going to one week pre-baiting. We would like to see two weeks for pre-bait. Thank you.

RAC Discussion

Ron Camp – I would like to address Troy and bears on a CWMU. I have hunted up in the Chalk Creek area, I have friends who had bait in there and had nine different bears hitting the bait. I think there are a lot more bears in there than people ever want to admit there are. I think the problem you run into is when you have a unit that is the majority private land how many people are actually aggressively going after those bear permits because if you don't have permission to hunt the land anyway you are not going to go after that. I'm not sure if there is a way in the future to say you have the Chalk Creek unit and these number of CWMUs and see if they would be interested in doing that to make that objective instead of having someone professionally going in and kill them. If they could guide them and put it back in sportsmen's hands which we wanted to do originally anyway I can understand his logic on that a little bit myself from that standpoint. I realize it opens Pandora's Box in other parts of the state but I think the Chalk Creek area is fairly unique in the fact that the majority of it is privately owned.

Leslie McFarlane – Just to show you what I am talking about, the Chalk Creek/Kamas/North Slope/Summit, all of those units combine total we issue 17 permits. If you start parsing out individual units you are taking from this pool. It is not in addition it's based on the age and sex in the harvest so when you start doing that you are taking that out of the public pool.

Ron Camp – I think I understand that but I have drawn that tag twice and turned it in because of conflicts with not being able to hunt in the area. From that standpoint you still have an access problem. I guess that is why I look at it from the public's point of view is the fact that I think there are more bears in there than the 17 can actually hold anyway because I'm not sure we really know how many bears are in that area. I just know from a friend who hunted it how many were hitting his bait. There seemed to be quite a few bears in the area. I don't think you could make it exclusively CWMU, there are a few of those ranches that are under that but I'm not sure what the percentage is that actually let people go on their property and hunt bear.

Leslie McFarlane – We can look at it. It is not something we have to do tonight but we will look at it.

Ben Lowder – I would like to address this issue of so called conflict. For decades we have been hunting spring seasons combined hounds and baiting. I recognize there have been some conflicts. We have overlapping deer hunts and elk hunts. We have overlapping bear hunts in the fall. We still with these recommendations had overlapping hound and baiting seasons in the fall. As we just heard from Dan, from the houndsmen, he is not aware of any issues from this year with a two week pre-baiting season. I am not aware of any issues. I acknowledge that there have been some conflicts but I think they have been blown out of proportion. Prior to this year in the spring we had eight or nine weeks of overlap. To ask for a two week overlap I do not think is a stretch by any imagination. Last year this RAC had an appetite as well as many other RACs to do a two week overlap of hunting in the spring and summer. I would ask that this RAC considers that again this year. This RAC sent that recommendation to the Board last year. Again nobody has raised the issue of conflicts in the fall running hounds and bait at the same time so why in the spring and summer? With that I would make the motion to extend the summer season forward two weeks of hunting and start on May 21st.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to extend the summer bear hunting season two weeks early to start on May 21st

John Fairchild – With two weeks of pre-baiting before that?

Ben Lowder – If we added two weeks of the hunting season I would not ask for the pre-baiting in front of that just to start hunting on May 21st.

Kristofer Marble – Before I action that I wanted to ask Leslie if you could talk about that. I know we have several organizations that have essentially contributed to the current recommendations and got buy off with the exception of Troy asked for two weeks of pre-baiting which is a little different than what you are asking for because you are asking for two weeks of overlap hunting. Could you just talk a little bit more about where the current recommendations came from and why?

Leslie McFarlane – Originally, but not on every unit, in particular in the northeastern region they had several problems. There is a perception that people are running hounds off bait. Quite honestly if you know where bait is and you are baiting a bear is going to go in there. If there a bear there and bait there a hound is going to find it. If you have hounds and it picks up the scent you may be starting off the same place. There is a perception that they used my bait station and harvested my bear that I was working on my bait station. In some cases, I think it was on San Juan, there were guns pulled and there were some threats that were made. It was deescalated but it is quite passionate. You may not get the calls but I did get calls this year, I got five, there were five people at least on the Wasatch West that were complaining. Some of the complaints I got were that because houndsmen can't use bait now they are throwing pizza out the window and going back. Some of the other complaints is that they are using cameras and the camera texts them when the bear comes in so they go run it off this pizza that they threw out with this camera even though they are not establishing legal bait stations. The other ones that I got a guy put his bait station out for two weeks prior and a hound guy ran off of his bait station. There is another one that says he has pictures of people running off of his bait station. We are trying to eliminate that. The fall season doesn't get as much pressure. In the spring the bears are fresh out of their dens and are easier to bait by far so we don't have quite the conflict that we have in the fall that we have in the spring with the bait. Everybody wants that two week period in June so we split the two week period in June in half and we gave one week to the hounds and one week to the bait.

Kristofer Marble – Did you notice this last year a reduction in conflicts?

Leslie McFarlane – Those conflicts I just mentioned were the calls that I got this year. Most of it was on the Wasatch West this last year.

Kristofer Marble – But did that reduce from previous years?

Leslie McFarlane – Absolutely.

Seconded by NONE

In Favor:

Opposed:

Motion dies for lack of second

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to allow two weeks pre baiting to the summer season

Seconded by Karl Hirst/Ken Strong

Kristofer Marble – Do you have a lot of anxiety over two weeks versus one week pre-baiting?

Leslie McFarlane – No we are just trying to reduce the overlap. That was the whole reason behind splitting it in the first place. If it went two weeks it would be fine. There is still some conflict but by not allowing the bait hunter to hunt for those two weeks it could be that the hounds just ran through there but they are not actually hunting off somebody's bait.

Ben Lowder – The reason that I ask for the pre-baiting season is because starting a bear hunt on June 4th is extremely late in the year to start baiting. Baiting a bear is extremely time and labor intensive. A four week season to bait a bear is extremely short. That two week pre-baiting helps. It allows to have an established bait and potentially bears coming to that bait early enough in June that you can harvest before you start getting into too many rubbing issues. Through the third

week in June there are going to be some rubbed bears, not a lot, but some. The later you get into June the more there is going to be. For me it is critical to start as early as we possibly can.

Ron Camp – My comment on that is if you want to bait two weeks early and a houndsman comes across or tracks a bear that goes to your bait then isn't that the cost of baiting two weeks early? You can't stop a hound from smelling a bear that happens to go by the bait that is set up. I guess there is some advantage to the houndsmen at that point since the bait is sitting there but I guess the point I am trying to make is if I am the one baiting and I know I am pre-baiting and I know there is a hunt going on there is a risk that you know that possibly hounds might pick up on your bait because they are out hunting right now and you can't really shorten their season. I guess how I look at it is just because you put a bait up doesn't guarantee you that something isn't going to come across your bait.

Ben Lowder – It is just like setting a tree stand on a wallow to an elk.

Ron Camp – Exactly, I guess as long as the people know that may happen I don't understand where the conflict is at that point because if you are going out there and set up a bait station and you want to set it up an extra week early you may aid the houndsmen but you can't get mad at the houndsmen for the hounds finding your bait.

Leslie McFarlane – I will just tell you one of the maddest people I dealt with this year was madder than mad because a houndsman took his bear and he had a picture of it on his camera and he could see the hounds on his camera and they took his bear over his bait. I am just going to tell you that. That was on Wasatch West.

Ben Lowder – A hunter who draws a summer tag knows these season dates going into it and if they want to completely eliminate that potential for conflict they could wait until June 4th. That is the hunter's prerogative. Personally as an experienced bear hunter I would rather take that risk and have my bait out early and if a houndsman runs off of it or a hound runs across it you know that is part of the game. We are talking about public land here for the most part. Last year I met with several conservation organizations including the houndsmen association and we all agreed that a two week overlap was really a nonissue.

Kristofer Marble – Logic seems to say if anybody would have an issue with it it would be houndsmen and if they don't have an issue with it then to your point bait hunters don't have to be out there two weeks early but they have the opportunity if they want to. I don't see any logic behind not having it. Especially since it is a drastic reduction in overlap from what it has been previously anyway.

Ken Strong – I think we have conflicts in all kinds of hunting and fishing whether it be bears or anything and I think that is just part of hunting or fishing. There is always going to be a conflict in some cases and the hunters need to man up. You can cry about anything.

George Garcia – The biggest issue we have on Forest Service land are bear baiters.

Ken Strong – I think the two week pre-baiting is a great idea.

In Favor: Danny Potts, Christine Schmitz, Jacob Steele, Ron Camp, Matt Clark, Kristofer Marble, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong

Opposed: George Garcia, Michael Gates

Motion passed 9 to 2

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to approve the balance of the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Ken Strong

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

7) **Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation (Action)**
- Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – Do you know why the decline on Sheeprocks?

Avery Cook – It's kind of death by a thousand cuts. There are several factors. Habitat loss due to invasive plants and habit loss with Pinyon and Juniper encroachment, disturbance from recreation, predation. Basically they hit almost all of the risk factors we have identified.

Richard Hansen – Are you going to be able to somehow mitigate those problems?

Avery Cook – Yes we have quite a bit of funding and projects that are both ongoing and planned in the future. The biggest chunk of that habitat improvement is PJ removal. Sage grouse are very easily displaced from otherwise suitable sagebrush habitat so we can go in and remove the encroaching Pinyon and Juniper trees and open up a lot more habitat that those birds can use to expand their populations. We have a contract with Wildlife Services for predator removal.

Ken Strong – Do you do any predator control before you put these birds in there?

Avery Cook – There has been some predator control and we are going to be ramping up the predator as we put the birds in, so yes.

Ken Strong – When you take birds this time of year and translocate them how does that affect their nesting for that year?

Avery Cook – It is typically before the nesting period. Generally first year transplant birds have slightly different nest initiation and success than resident birds but it is similar and as they are there longer it improves.

Questions from the Public
Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Ron Camp

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

24 in attendance

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next board meeting January 5, 2016 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Sevier School District Office
Richfield, UT
December 8, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. R657-3 RULE AMENDMENTS – LIVE LOBSTER

MOTION: To accept the CIP rule amendments as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. 2016 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION: To allow preseason baiting two weeks prior to summer season.

VOTE: 7 in favor, 1 abstained

MOTION: To begin summer season two weeks earlier than recommended (which would eliminate pre-season baiting).

VOTE: 4 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the bear recommendations as presented.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To keep total permit numbers on the Beaver unit the same as last year.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Unanimous

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Unanimous

4. SHEEPROCK MOUNTAINS SGMA GREATER SAGE-GROUSE TRANSLOCATION

MOTION: To accept the sheepprock mountains greater sage grouse translocation plan as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Sevier School District Office
Richfield, UT
December 8, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Gene Boardman Craig Laub Mike Worthen Nick Jorgensen Brian Johnson Brayden Richmond Harry Barber Wade Heaton Sean Kelly	Lynn Chamberlain Giani Julander Blaine Cox Teresa Griffin Kevin Bunnell Leslie McFarlane Avery Cook Micah Evans Greg Sheehan Jim Lamb Seth Decker Jim Lamb Josh Pollock Riley Peck Jason Robinson Vance Mumford Heather Talley	Donnie Hunter Steve Dalton	Dave Black (excused) Mack Morrell (excused) Dale Bagley (excused) Rusty Aiken (excused) Layne Torgerson (excused)

Mike Worthen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. There were approximately 8 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Mike Worthen introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves.

Mike Worthen: I'd like to welcome everybody here tonight. We need to excuse the chairman, Dave Black; and so I'll try and fill in for him. I'd like to also welcome Donnie Hunter from the Wildlife Board and Steve Dalton from the Wildlife Board. And also, the DWR director Greg Sheehan has joined us here tonight. First off let's introduce the RAC board starting down on the end with Nick.

Nick Jorgensen: Nick Jorgensen with the non-consumptive group.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond with sportsmen.

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly, Forest Service rep.

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton at large.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen with Iron County, at large.

Kevin Bunnell: Kevin Bunnell, I'm the regional supervisor for the Division in the southern region.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub, Iron County, agriculture.

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman, at large.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson from Enoch and non-consumptive.

Harry Barber: Harry Barber, BLM.

Mike Worthen: Okay, that's all we've got here tonight. Let's go ahead and jump in and finish this meeting up as quickly as we can. It shouldn't take us too long, hopefully.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Mike Worthen: Anyway, we will start off the wildlife update from, oh we need to accept the RAC minutes of the last meeting and the agenda. Do I have a motion to do that? Okay, Craig Laub made a motion to accept and Brayden seconded. All in favor? Okay, unanimous.

Craig Laub made the motion to accept the minutes and agenda as written. Brayden Richmond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: Then we need to jump into item number 3, a Wildlife Board update and we'll have the regional director Kevin Bunnell do that..

Wildlife Board Update:

-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: The board meeting went very similar to the way our RAC meeting went. And the Board followed on the path very closely to the way that this RAC voted on the issues. The significant issues were muzzleloaders on, or scopes on muzzleloaders; the Board voted in favor of that. That was an interesting one because it was three RACs did not like that recommendation, two did. But then we had the survey from the public and I think that's what probably swayed the board. And so beginning next year you will be able to put magnified scopes on muzzleloaders. The rest of the big game recommendations essentially passed as recommended. There was a vote similar to what happened in our RAC to address the age objectives on elk on Monroe Mountain. The board ultimately decided to stick with the Division's recommendation on that. But essentially we had the Monroe come down one age objective and the Panguitch Lake and Dutton come up two levels in age, or one level in age objective so that those are all at the same objective for the next seven years under the elk management plan. The other issue that came up in our RAC, you remember, was an issue that was raised relative to the no shooting zone at Gunnison Bend. Reservoir. When the division became aware of that we actually added

an agenda item specifically to deal that at the board meeting. And so we amended the rule that governs that to make the high water mark the no shooting zone at Gunnison Bend Reservoir. As you recall there was essentially an oversight on our part that extended that no shooting zone out 600 feet from the high water mark. That has been changed and will be in effect prior to the light goose hunt this that will take place in March. And so I think that issue has been addressed. Those are kind of the highlights from the board meeting. If any of you have questions on other items from last meeting, the CWMU and Landowner Association recommendation and rule changes all went forward as recommended. Any questions? Those are kind of the things that we took most of our time with here at the RAC meeting and the Board essentially followed the, voted very similar to the way this RAC did. So with that, do you want me to jump into the regional update?

Regional Update:

-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: I'm going to take a little bit different tact tonight with the regional update. We've been asked to put together a list of accomplishments by our director's office. And I did that will all the managers this morning. And it's a pretty impressive list. I just want to briefly run through kind of the, and these are specific to the southern region. Some of the things that have been accomplished over the last 12 months; some of them you'll recognize, some of them might be new to you. The first couple are related to our efforts down in our Washington County field office dealing with the Virgin River fish program. They've made huge strides down there with species like spine dace and wound fin which are at 15-20 year highs in their distribution and populations. And that's been done largely with the cooperation of the local water users, which is saying a lot. You know when you're dealing with water in a place like Washington County there's a lot at stake and they've been able to do that and do it in a way that it doesn't compromise water in that area which is saying a lot. We also did several fish removals, Gunlock Reservoir, Stratton Pond, the Virgin River Gorge and Mammoth Creek; again, all in efforts to restore native fish populations. We've installed aerators on lakes on the Boulder Mountain that will make a huge difference to those fish populations going forward. We've put two in so far; we'll probably have 8 to 10 up there as we have funds to do it. One of the ones that we put in late this fall, the aquatics crew went and checked on it last week and it's doing phenomenally well. These are solar powered and there's a couple of acres of open water. And is it . . . Jim were you up there with them? In Pear Lake which has winter killed a lot in the past; we're hoping we can solve that problem and carry fish over from year to year in those lakes and that will be a great resource for people. Um, a lot of you remember the perch tournament that we had up at Fish Lake last year that was a phenomenal success; over 2,000 people attended that. That will probably grow this year. It's already scheduled for January 30th, again, in cooperation with SFW. I don't think it's any secret to this group and we can't take all the credit for it but we will take some credit where we can with the deer herds. Right now we're probably in the best shape they've been for 30 years. Mother nature has a lot to do with that but I think our habitat projects and the work that's being done in cooperation with our federal agencies is certainly having a positive impact there as well. We just recently rebuilt the pronghorn trap and that will serve us well for another couple of decades like the old one did. And on that note we have cancelled the pronghorn capture project for this year. That was going to take place next week but we elected to hold off for a year on that. Some other highlights we've, with the Twitchell fire, what probably ten years ago here on the back side of the Beaver Mountain, created a huge opportunity for cutthroat restoration, and that's now the largest drainage that's been restored back to native cutthroats anywhere in Utah, and potentially anywhere in the west. That's been a huge project that was essentially, the flood events that happened after that fire depopulated those streams so we've gone in and restored the streams so that they're stable and then

reintroduced native cutthroat trout into those drainages; and that's been a huge undertaking. Our pheasant program, I think a lot of people are taking advantage of that. That's turned out to be a real positive thing from a public relations standpoint for the Division; and is going well. And then we have a lot of capture projects that we get the public involved with, and research projects that always are highlights for interacting with the public. So I just wanted to take a minute. There's some other things here on the list but I'll leave it at that. I wanted to take an opportunity to brag about my staff a little bit. We've got a fantastic staff here in the southern region. We had our Christmas party today and I mentioned it in the party, our region comprises about 16 percent of all the employees in the Division of Wildlife and at our annual awards ceremony in August 40 percent of the awards went to employees of the southern region. So a little bit out of balance there in our favor relative to the size of our staff, but we accomplish great things. And I'm proud to be associated with the crew that I have. So with that if there aren't any questions we'll get on with this meeting.

Mike Worthen: Thank you Kevin. The next portion we'll jump into the presentations and recommendations and motions. And just to kind of an outline of what we're going to be doing, we will have the presentation. And then we will set aside questions from the RAC, and then questions from the public. When the public provide questions make sure it's questions and not comments on your position, but questions to clarify an issue or whatever else. Then we will hear comments from the public. If the public does have comments please fill out a comment card and pass it up front here so we can get you on schedule. When you do come to the mic specify your name and who you represent. And then please be succinct. We won't put any time limits unless somebody starts getting really long winded. But be succinct and get to the point so that we can move on. Then we will open it up to comments to the RAC and then move towards a motion at that point in time. So let's jump into the first presentation, which is R 657-3, Rule of amendments for live lobster; and Kevin Bunnell is going to give that for us.

R657-3 Rule Amendments – Live Lobster (action) 12:13 to 13:41 of 1:35:02
-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Region Supervisor
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have any questions from the RAC board?

None.

Questions from the public:

Mike Worthen: Any questions from the public?

None

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: This is an easy one. This is how we like them. So we will entertain a motion at this time . . . Or comments, public comments. No public comments passed up from the public.

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Mike Worthen: Any comments from the RAC? Seeing none do we have a motion? Motion made to pass the regulations by Craig Laub. Seconded by Harry Barber. Do we have a discussion? Okay, let's move to a vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Laub made the motion to pass to CIP Rule Amendments as presented. Harry Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: The next item on the agenda list is the 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments and Leslie McFarlane is going to give that to us.

2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (action) 14:57 to 38:14 of 1:35:02

-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

-Teresa Griffin, Southern Region Wildlife Program Manager

(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have any questions from the RAC? Okay, Kevin.

Kevin Bunnell: So just from the southern region specifically to add some information to the thing with the address the Forest Service. We've already started a dialog with both Forests in our region and we will create a map that will issue baits based on a map that's come up jointly between the Division and the Forest Service. And so we'll continue and produce that. It will be easier for the people applying for a bait because they'll just have to come to our office and we'll have all the information.

Mike Worthen: Okay Wade.

Wade Heaton: So clarify for me Leslie, currently 2015, the summer season they could start baiting 2 weeks before the season started?

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, that was a recommendation that came out of the Board meeting. The Division's recommendation was that they could only begin baiting the day that the season opened; but that was changed through the public process.

Mike Worthen: Craig.

Craig Laub: As I look at this trend, if it was a financial report it would look really good, but how many bears do we really want?

Leslie McFarlane: Well, so there's not a management goal or a population management objective for bears. What really drives it is nuisance, depredation, human conflicts and all of those types of things. So

that's what we use as a driver for our recommendations process. And habitat conditions and needs of other wildlife species.

Craig Laub: Okay, and then I guess my other question was over here on, un, like talking to the ranchers here on Beaver Mountain, they're seeing more bears and more conflict and I was wondering why you dropped that five?

Leslie McFarlane: Region. I'll let the region answer that since that's their recommendation.

Riley Peck: That's a good question. With changing, we're right where we want to be as far as the plan on the harvest with the bears on the Beaver. In years past we have seen increased nuisance issues. But we did increase the tags pretty liberally last year when we had that third season added. And just some of the feedback that we got on that and some of the harvest report, and people calling in and complaining about different crowding issues, we decreased maybe one or two tags for each season. So we tried to do a minor decrease but we are, it was a tough one to try to adjust because we are very close to where we want to be on as far as the harvest data is concerned. Does that answer your question?

Craig Laub: Well, I don't run cattle up here, I'm just going on what, and I've talked to guys when I see this coming up. So . .

Kevin Bunnell: Riley what was your total harvest in 2015 versus 2014? How much did we increase the harvest last year?

Riley Peck: I have that pulled up on my computer, as I recall . . . I should have brought that paper with me. I don't know that that gives us the total harvest. I'll go and grab it off of my computer. Very close to the same. We didn't harvest (off mic). It was 9 in 2015, and I thought it was 8 in 2014. So 9 and 9.

Craig Laub: So all you're killing is 9 bears then.

Riley Peck: I knew it was very similar to the year before that when, 2014 and before we had a harvest objective season when zero bears were being killed in that fall harvest objective over the counter tag. And so we did increase a lot of tags but we were giving more opportunity in the spring and the fall, not just that harvest objective season.

Craig Laub: I guess my only other comment is that I'd like to see that, on that chart I'd like to see that leveling off as far as the bears taken because we're killing what we need to kill to keep the number. I think, in my opinion the bears, you know, there's a small population of people that are hunting the bears and they affect a lot of other things.

Leslie McFarlane: Let me help Riley out here just for a second. So on the Beaver unit specifically it's managed under a liberal harvest strategy, which means we're trying to reduce the bear population. Right now our adult male take on that is at 26.1 percent, which is in the moderate level, so it's a little lower than we want it to be; but the female harvest is at 46.7 percent. So it's where we want it to be for harvest. We're taking females to reduce the population. And you have to remember with bears it's a two-year cycle. They don't breed up until they're four and it's two years before the cubs leave. So you do have an affect when you take females out of those populations

Mike Worthen: Any other questions for Leslie? Okay, go ahead Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: Just a question, as I was looking at numbers, and you've kind of already answered it. You said that we don't really have a harvest objective for bears. But you said in the presentation total harvest last year, versus 14 decrease, so we're decreasing total harvest. You're estimating population is going up by 5% yet we're only increasing tags 2% not 5%. Why wouldn't we increase tags at least consistent with population?

Leslie McFarlane: Because the one thing that we did, it's not really clear, is in 2014 sportsman take was 283. If Division nuisance take and Wildlife Services take would have been similar to what it had been in the past that would have been only an additional 45 bears. So it would have only been 253, 310 bears. Total harvest last year was 378 because the Division took, and Wildlife Services took and additional 95 bears. So what we did is we shifted harvest away from the Division and we increased sport harvest tremendously. We increased sport harvest by over 20%, which was what we were trying to do. And then we put Division take back down to only 45 bears. So although it's kind of a numbers game we increased sport take quite a bit, by 20%.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, and that's great. And frankly really commend you for making that change because why wouldn't we want sportsmen to harvest those. But the total numbers are still the same. We're still decreasing total harvest, increasing total population and yet not increasing tags to keep up with the total population.

Leslie McFarlane: Well and that's like I was just explaining here. You've got bears that are long lived and so you've got some reproduction issues. And we don't want to come in and overharvest them and then have to build it back up. So it's better to take it in increments and monitor each of the units and the female harvest that we're taking and making sure that we don't do it too much too fast.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions for Leslie from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Mike Worthen: Any questions from the public? Okay, Troy or Jason.

Jason Aiken: My name's Jason Aiken, I'm representing myself. Just a quick question here, so on the Beaver unit, if you're saying that you're where you need to be for harvest and just like Brayden said, if the population's growing why would we be decreasing permits? If we decrease permits that population would continue to grow and then you would get farther out of balance wouldn't you?

Leslie McFarlane: Where'd Riley go?

Riley Peck: Yeah, that is a great question and a great point. And so I'm not, when I sat down to make this recommendation on this there were many things that I tried to look at. And I did take into consideration how many bears we harvested year after, consecutive years in a row looking at 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the number of tags we got. And then also, the input that I was getting from the hunters calling me about bait stations and where they were running their hounds and talking about how they've noticed an increase of hounds and hunters in the area. So with the relatively same amount of bears harvested we, I made the recommendation to decrease one tag in each area just to provide some relief.

We are right close to where we wanted to be with the harvest numbers, with female harvest and the male harvest. And the population is growing slightly but we are not responding with that in the number of bears that we are killing; we're still only killing about 40% of our tags. We're only filling 40% of our tags. And so it was, maybe sometimes it's an addition from subtraction trying to think if I'm getting, if I'm getting comments on over crowding, well maybe if we decreased the people running then we might kill more. It's just, it's that fine art that I don't know that I have a perfect answer to just trying to solve a problem from what I am hearing.

Mike Worthen: And it appears to me that what the reasoning behind this was more public pressure or pressure from the interest groups that are out there saying there's too many, too much hunting going on in that unit, or whatever else, rather than trying to really move the population up or down. Is that right?

Riley Peck: Certainly, yeah, when took into consideration.

Jason Aiken: Okay, thank you. Another question, so the summer bear hunt that was the archery and bait wasn't that prior to last year, didn't that, that overlapped with the spring hunt, right?

Leslie McFarlane: So before last year there was only, before last year there was only one spring season and it started about the same time that the spring season starts now, so April, and it went to the first week of June. Or the second week of June, I can't remember.

Brian Johnson: No, it went to the end of May.

Leslie McFarlane: May, that's right. It went, right. And so we changed it, um, and it was both, sorry I forget. But it was um, it was combined so it was both hound and bait during that time period.

Kevin Bunnell: And over bait it was only archery.

Leslie McFarlane: And over bait it was only archery.

Jason Aiken: Okay. And then, Brian you brought it up, last year we were kind of pushing something last year to maybe on that archery hunt over the season continue to leave that in the spring hunt. Isn't that kind of what we were kind of looking at being able to leave those together? And the thought was well we'll have problems with dogs running, hounds running across baits and stuff like that. Well during the fall hunt it's baits and hounds. So how could we have a problem in one and not in the other?

Leslie McFarlane: Because in the fall season bears are much more difficult to bait so there's not as much interest in the baiting. But during the spring bears are much easier to bait.

Kevin Bunnell: And the numbers in the fall are way lower.

Leslie McFarlane: And then yeah, and exactly what Kevin said. The numbers in the fall are a lot less than what we have in the spring seasons.

Jason Aiken: Okay, all right. One last question I promise. So uh, on the Forest Service where you're not required to get permission, are they saying that they don't have to give permission. Does that mean we can still hunt? You can still bait? Is it that you just don't have to have the permission from the Forest

Service any more but you can bait on the Forest Service?

Leslie McFarlane: So what you'll do is you'll, if you're going to be hunting on Forest Service properties you'll just come in, you'll give us the same coordinates and all of that that you've always given us in the past; you just won't have to bring in the thing that said you talked to the Forest Service first.

Mike Worthen: I have one question on that Leslie, on that specific issue. When the Forest Service sits down and does their map, isn't that giving permission?

Leslie McFarlane: Sean would you like to answer that?

Sean Kelly: It's not technically permission. The way the process worked before it's pretty awkward for the sportsman. They bounce back and forth between the Division and the Forest Service with quite a bit of frustration at times. So the more we looked into what we could do, we really don't have the authority to approve bait stations. And so we will provide input to the Division. And there are some things that we can; you know we can step in if it's a health or a public safety issue. We can move those bait stations away from things like campgrounds and things like that. But we cannot approve or actually deny the actual bait station itself. So we'll provide our input probably in the form of a map to the Division but it's not our decision to actually approve those bait stations.

Leslie McFarlane: So one thing that hasn't changed, even though they're taking themselves out of the first step, is that in by rule we still won't allow bait stations to be within a mile of the campground, on heavily used drainages or trails, trailheads, those types of things; near buildings and that type of thing. So in essence it's not changing a whole lot other than you're just not going to go to the Forest Service and get permission.

Sean Kelly: Basically you have to go to one government agency instead of two now, and we're pretty much, we're not out of it but we don't deal with the public; we'll deal with the Division of Wildlife.

Jason Aiken: Okay, perfect, thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other questions from public?

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Okay if not then we'll move to the comment sections. Do we have any comment cards that came down? Michael Gillins? Is he gone? Are you not going to? Okay. That one's . . . Jared Higgins?

Jared Higgins: I'm Jared Higgins. I represent the Utah Houndsmen's Association. I'm just going to read you a letter from them; it's short. The Utah Houndsmen's Association has had the opportunity to review the DWR bear recommendations and we support the DWR proposal as presented. Our members and board thank you for your time and willingness to serve and dedication in conservation and protecting and bettering Utah's resources and wildlife.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Bryce Pilling.

Bryce Pilling: Thank you Mr., Chairman. Bryce Pilling, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. We support the Division's recommendation with one exception; we'd like to see the pre-baiting season at two weeks rather than one week. And we'd like to thank Leslie for all the work that she's done on this. Thank you guys. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: And Mike Twitchell.

Mike Twitchell: My name's Mike Twitchell and I represent the Utah Bowman's Associations. Overall we'd like to support the recommendations proposed by the DWR with one exception; and that exception being upon the pre-baiting. Rather than the one week recommended we'd like it to remain the two weeks. Last year the Wildlife Board approved it to be two weeks and we'd like it to remain the same. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay no more cards then we'll ask for comments from the RAC members.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Mike Worthen: Seeing none we'll move into a discussion. Recommendations that we've got so far: we do have concern about reduction on Beaver Mountain, the number of bear permits that were, is suggested to be issued this year. It went down by five permits. We have a recommendation to keep pre-baiting at two weeks instead of moving to the one as recommended. And one group accepting the proposal as presented. Okay, do we have a motion or discussion?

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, I was just going to make one comment. I guess I'm a little confused why the Wildlife Board would make that recommendation; a year later we come in and shorten that up a week. So if there's more discussion we can have it but I want to go ahead and make a motion that we go back to what the Wildlife Board approved last year with the two-week baiting.

Bryan Johnson: I'll second that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved that we go back to the two week pre-baiting; and seconded by Brian, moved by Brayden. All in favor? Or, question or discussion?

Sean Kelly: Can I ask a quick question of Leslie?

Mike Worthen: Yes.

Sean Kelly: Leslie, what was the reason they shortened it from two weeks to one? Is there any reason not to move it back?

Leslie McFarlane: Well I shortened it. The reason that I shortened it is because I am still getting complaints over conflicts between the two seasons. I'm still trying to allow the ability to do it but I'm trying to shorten the time period that that conflict would take place.

Brian Johnson: How many actual, like are these registered complaints that are recorded and documented? Because I've asked to see them before and I never get them.

Leslie McFarlane: I've had them. They call me directly; there were 5.

Brian Johnson: Five.

Leslie McFarlane: There were five.

Brian Johnson: What units?

Leslie McFarlane: Wasatch west, which is what I said earlier.

Brian Johnson: Prefect.

Leslie McFarlane: You know it's really difficult because a lot of the complaints that happen with law enforcement. They don't always happen with our biologists. They don't always happen with me. These ones happened to me. They were very irate people and I'm trying to reduce that conflict. That was the whole reason we split those two seasons in the beginning in the first place was to get rid of that conflict. If we're going to do it let's make the conflict as short as possible. That's why I requested the one week. Now if I could get all of those complaints from all of our law enforcement that would be great but if you go to each of the regional offices each one of them deal with them differently.

Brian Johnson: The one thing you've got to realize here guys, is if you're a bear hunter, and I've spent a lot of time chasing these things, if you start baiting these things in June it takes a solid week and a half to two weeks to develop this bait. By the time you're killing them it's already July 15th and you're at pretty big risk of having hair slip at this point. It is a huge advantage to be hunting these, to be pre-baiting these things in May. My dad had a tag on Elk Ridge, it is apparently one of the most popular units in the state to hunt, and looking at this, and I didn't realize this but they're running hounds in the pursuit season down on Elk Ridge from July 4th to July 18th and from July 25th to August 7th. So they're already training dogs down there during this hunt and I never say anybody. And I was down there for nine days with my dad hunting bears. So I get the Wasatch may have had a problem and that's fine and dandy but these guys, if you don't want to have a conflict with your pre-baiting don't pre-bait. It's pretty simple. You don't have to go and pre-bait. If you pre-bait or if you hunt at the same time that the houndsman can hunt be a big boy, put your pants on and realize that you are putting yourself in a situation where there may be a conflict. If you don't want the conflict don't hunt early. I don't know why we have to babysit these people. It's ridiculous. Sorry, how are you guys doing?

Mike Worthen: Thank you Brian. Do we have more discussion?

Wade Heaton: Leslie, is it just as Brian describes, the ones baiting are the ones complaining?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes.

Brayden Richmond: Since I made the motion can I add a comment to that?

Mike Worthen: Okay, go ahead.

Brayden Richmond: Before we vote on it, I want to second what Brian said, in less words. We'll see if I actually do it. This is a real simple issue, the ones complaining are the ones baiting. We're allowing you

to bait two weeks early understanding you are baiting with hounds. So my advise to law enforcement is hang up on those buggers.

Mike Worthen: Okay, we've got a motion and a second on the table. Are we ready to move into the question, okay the vote? All in favor? All opposed? Unanimous, motion passes. Oh we had one abstention.

Brayden Richmond made the motion to allow preseason baiting 2 weeks prior to the summer season. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried, 7 in favor 0 opposed. Nick Jorgensen abstained.

Mike Worthen: Do we have a motion on the recommendations?

Brian Johnson: Let's keep talking for just a second because I like bear hunting. I like it a lot. I've actually had two tags in Utah on the Zion unit, and that's a pretty tough hunt. And I did it before we had the summer season and I have been asking, I've been asking since I moved down here to give us that two weeks in June just to continue, and I love the summer season, this is fantastic that we get to hunt that first two weeks in, the first couple of weeks in June before they start to slip it's great. Those bears are active. It's amazing. But under the same logic we just used 15 seconds, if you go throw a bait out knowing that there could be conflict why not let those guys hunt in that spring season when they can throw a bait out? Why don't we overlap it? The last year we had 4 organizations that said they were fine with this happening, with the two week overlay. We had 4 organizations; one of those was the houndsman, the other one was Utah Bowman's Association; and historically the Bowman's Association where they bow hunters were the only ones that were hunting bears over bait before that. So they kind of understood the risks they were taking saying hey let's just get some more opportunity out there. My take is if they don't want the conflict they cannot have the conflict that last month of the season; they don't have to go hunt them early. I just think that the houndsman don't necessarily have a problem with it last year. I make a recommendation that we move that summer season up two weeks and overlap it.

Mike Worthen: Okay, is that a new motion to . . .

Brian Johnson: That is a new motion. We've already discussed it, we're going to let them bait. I'm just making a motion that we extend the summer season two weeks prior.

Kevin Bunnell: So the baiting season and the hunting season's overlap would be continuous.

Brian Johnson: Just be the same, yeah. That's my recommend, that's my motion.

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have a second on Brian's motion?

Brayden Richmond: I'll second it.

Mike Worthen: Okay seconded by Brayden. Any further discussion on the amendment?

Kevin Bunnell: Okay so let me make sure I've got this right. So the motion, we just passed a motion to allow, or you just passed a motion to allow per-baiting two weeks prior to the non-hound season, the bait season starting. So now Brian's motion would essentially make the prior motion irrelevant because it's not to just allow pre-baiting but to just move the season date for the baiting season two weeks prior to

what's proposed by the Division, which would essentially make the first, that motion we just did, it would go away at that point; because you're not pre-baiting anymore you're just hunting.

Brian Johnson: If we passed it. If we don't pass it I don't want to lose the two weeks of pre-baiting.

Kevin Bunnell: But you're not saying then go another two weeks prior to that, you're just saying be able to hunt . . .

Brian Johnson: No, I'm just saying to be able to, if you go out Memorial Day weekend and throw a bait out I'm saying that if you see a bear your ought to be able to just go ahead and shoot.

Kevin Bunnell: So now we saying we're not pre-baiting we're just starting the season two weeks earlier.

Brian Johnson: That's what I'm saying, yes.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay. Does everybody understand that?

Mike Worthen: Okay, are you still seconding that Brayden?

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, you know what might be simpler is to just say dates instead of two weeks, if you want to make is simple.

Brian Johnson: I'd have to pull a calendar out and see those.

Brayden Richmond: I don't know if that's simplified or not. Just an idea.

Kevin Bunnell: We can figure out . . .

Mike Worthen: Yeah, we'll figure that out later. Okay, let's, let's . . .

Brian Johnson: Here's the thing, is we're looking at a 67 % success rate on that summer hunt, and if they're throwing donuts out the right way, which there's not a lot of wrong ways to throw donuts out, they're not shooting bears because they're not seeing a big enough bear. It's a matter of these guys being picky. They're not, I mean it's not about, I mean you've got 49% on the multi season hunting that that premium bear tag, they're only killing 49% guys. It ain't because they're not seeing bears; it's because they're not seeing the right color or the right size is what we're talking about here. We're not talking about not seeing enough bears. I guarantee you that, I mean we had, we had 12 bears on our bait down on Elk Ridge last year, and hounds running.

Mike Worthen: Let's go ahead and move to vote on the motion. All in favor? Have you got a count Tracy? Okay, all opposed? Okay, is it three and three? Then do I need to vote? One abstention.

Kevin Bunnell: Craig, abstained?

Brian Johnson: Agriculture didn't vote on lengthening the bear season. I want to make sure I'm clear on that. I just want to make sure I'm clear on that.

Mike Worthen: Okay then the vote fails?

Kevin Bunnell: We're tied. We got two abstained. Did you abstain Craig?

Craig Laub: I'm just undecided. (Off mic).

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, so we've got . . . Okay, let's revote.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's redo this. All in favor of the motion? Okay, all opposed? Okay, and then one abstention. Okay, motion passes. That was a good one.

Brian Johnson made the motion to begin the summer season two weeks earlier than presented. Brayden Richmond seconded. Motion carried 4 in favor, 3 opposed. Harry Barber, Gene Boardman, Sean Kelly opposed. Nick Jorgensen abstained.

Mike Worthen: Okay, now back to the original recommendation by the DWR. Do we have a motion or a discussion on that, the remainder of it?

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we pass the balance of the motion as is.

Wade Heaton: Second.

Mike Worthen: Okay, moved and seconded by Wade to pass the remainder of the recommendation as is. All in favor or discussion?

Brayden Richmond: Discussion. I was really hoping AG would step in here with their comment on the Beaver and increase the tags there. I'm from Beaver, that's where I'm at representing sportsman. I've had the same comments to me but primarily they're coming from the ranchers. Ag, have you got any interest in making an amendment there or do you want me to do it?

Craig Laub: Uh, I guess my thought there was listening to, I don't know who he was, Riley. Anyway, as he was saying that the reason they're not success is they're crowded. I was just taking him at his word that if we, we'll still kill, we'll kill as many or more bears if we, you know. And I agree it don't always help to increase the numbers if you got too many people there and you can't get to the bears. But then the other thought was, maybe they're not seeing as big a bear as they want to kill or the right color of bear, you know. I don't know I've never hunted bear so I don't know. Maybe that's the problem.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, I'll go ahead and make a motion then. I want to make a motion . . .

Mike Worthen: Hang on, didn't we have a motion already on the table?

Brian Johnson: You have to amend it.

Brayden Richmond: I want to make an amendment. I'll make an amendment that we just maintain the same amount of tags from last year; at least we don't have a decrease. It's a liberal unit. We're managing it as a liberal unit. So I'd like to at least not see decrease. So I make it, my amendment is that

we keep the tag numbers the same as 2014 on the Beaver unit.

Brian Johnson: I'll actually allow that into my motion if Wade Will second that.

Wade Heaton: Sure.

Mike Worthen: Okay, we've got a motion and a second to for the remainder of the recommendation with the exception that we maintain the same number of tags on the Beaver as was last year. Okay, all in favor? Or go ahead Gene.

Gene Boardman: Yeah, I think we ought to go along with this amendment. It's more opportunity for hunters to draw a tag and for people to have a chance. I think that we ought to keep those tags where they were.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thanks Gene.

Kevin Bunnell: Just to keep the process clean here Brian, we're going to vote on an amendment and then we'll go back to the original motion instead of. It's going to get us to the same place but it keeps the process cleaner.

Brian Johnson: If you want to do it that way (off mic).

Mike Worthen: Did we have a second on that amendment?

Brian Johnson: I will second it.

Mike Worthen: Brayden did you do that? Brayden made it and Brian seconded it. Okay, is that straight? Okay. All in favor of the amendment to increase, to keep the tags the same as 2015. All in favor raise your hands. Unanimous, motion passes.

Mike Worthen: Now back to the recommendation or the motion to . . . For the yeah, for the amended, is it for the amended motion?

Kevin Bunnell: So now we've amended the motion. Now the . . .

Mike Worthen: It's the remainder of the recommendation.

Kevin Bunnell: No. So now your motion, your motion has now been amended. The motion that you're voting on is that we're passing the remainder with the exception that the Beaver stay the same, the number of tags on the Beaver stay the same as 2015. We voted to amend the motion now we've got to vote on the motion that has been amended.

Mike Worthen: Okay, are we all clear on what we're voting on now?

Wade Heaton: So just a comment. I think some of the frustration that has been coming from just the whole permit increase, permit decrease idea; uh I hear it as well. And I think Leslie that the recommendations she makes it makes a lot of sense because our bear populations, as she mentioned,

we're not managing total populations. We are managing, we're recommending permit numbers based upon complaints, whether they're crowding complaints or whether they're human conflict complaints, which to me is a really weird way to manage bear numbers. But that's what we're doing I guess. And until we decide to go a different route that's just fine. Um, and the other side of it is, I kind of agree with Brian in that bear hunters, and I do hunt bears and I love, a lot of bear hunters are very good friends, but they will always complain; let's be honest. And so whether they're houndsman, whether they're the guys on the bait, they are going to complain. And I don't know that we need to get into the habit of making a lot of recommendations, changing recommendations based upon those complaints because I don't think we're ever going to make them happy. I think that the region is recommending some good numbers based on input that they're getting. But I think that we should probably approve it as it is.

Mike Worthen: Okay, now are we ready to vote on the motion as amended? Okay, all in favor raise your hand. All opposed? Unanimous? Okay.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the remainder of the black bear recommendations as presented. Wade Heaton seconded. Brayden Richmond moved to amend the motion to keep permit numbers for the Beaver unit the same as last year. Amendment to motion carried unanimously. Amended motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: Let's move on to the next item which is Sheeprock Mountain SGMA Greater Sage Grouse Tran relocation and Avery Cook will give us that presentation.

Sheeprock Mountains SGMA Greater Sage-grouse Translocation (action) 1:16:10 to 1:21:45 of 1:35:02

-Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have any questions from the RAC? Go ahead.

Nick Jorgensen: I'm just curious, do you know what's caused the population in the Sheeprocks to disappear and if you don't what's to say that planting new ones there that they'll survive as well?

Avery Cook: There are a number of factors it is kind of death by a thousand cuts. We've got, one of the big ones is invasive, different invasive plants, so there's some annual grass but a big bunch of that is just juniper encroachment into the sagebrush. So as you get junipers in the junipers displace the sage grouse. Sage grouse won't use areas with the trees. If you cut down the trees while there's still good understory you kind of have instant sage grouse habitat. So we can expand habitat quite a bit through that. There's also been some predator concerns out there so we've got a contract to do some predator control. There's some recreation concerns with motorized recreation and we're looking at ways to address that problem. So I think we can make quite a difference in the habitat through a focused effort in that SGMA. And this is basically buying us time to get that work done.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Brayden did you have a question?

Brayden Richmond: Yeah I do. And I know this is one we're supposed to just sign off on and call it a good night so we can go home, but I think the grouse, this is a huge issue in the state of Utah. I mean it's got major implications so I think it's one to talk about a little bit. But I do kind of have maybe a crazy question but help me understand. This will be one of the few times, this and horses, when you'll see me agree with Mr. Yardley, and it's too bad he's not here to hear it. But the question I've got is, he brought up in the last meeting the grouse. Grouse are an issue with bringing the wolves in. The KSL ran the story this week; a couple of newspapers ran the story about the Mexican wolf coming in. Is this, do we have potential in Utah to use the grouse and the work we're doing on grouse to stop the wolves?

Kevin Bunnell: I see Avery up there with a dumbfounded look on him wondering where to go with that so let me try to help him out. Welcome to the Southern RAC Avery. This is a huge topic. I don't see, essentially we were successful with sage grouse in terms of keeping them off the list. I have high hopes that we will be successful in keeping Mexican wolf recovery within the appropriate habitat, which, they never occurred in Utah. I don't see that there's a relationship between the two.

Brayden Richmond: So when we're talking predators, what is primary predator of sage grouse?

Kevin Bunnell: So primarily the predators are, so you have raptors, coyotes take some, red fox and if you have red fox in areas they can have a major impact, ravens on eggs, and so all of those things are being addressed; not only in the Sheeprock population but in populations across the state. I don't know that there's a documented occurrence of a wolf killing a sage grouse. Jason, do you know of any? So I don't see that there's . . . It's the truth and so we've got to deal in the truth here guys and that's what it is.

Mike Worthen: Wade.

Wade Heaton: Just a question and maybe this goes back to Kevin. So we talked about predators, bobcats, coyotes, fox and you mentioned raptors and ravens. Are we doing things to curtail that predation?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes and Jason jump in here, or Avery, if you want to add any. And maybe this is better for you than me, the question.

Avery Cook: Yeah, so the primary predators we're concerned about for the Sheeprocks population is ravens, red fox and badger. So the Wildlife Services contract will be putting out poison eggs for the ravens and targeting red fox.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions from the RAC for Avery?

Questions from the public:

Mike Worthen: Okay, any questions from the public?

None

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Okay seeing that we don't have any comment cards do we have any comments from the

RAC?

None

RAC Discussion and vote:

Brayden Richmond: I want to make one quick comment because I had a strange question. I just wanted to compliment the Division on the work they have done there. We've seen a huge success in Utah. Thank you for it, thank you for your continued efforts. This is good.

Mike Worthen: Any other comments? Okay, let's go ahead and move to the motion.

Brayden Richmond: I'll make motion to accept the recommendation.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved that we accept the recommendations by Brayden. A second?

Harry Barber: Second.

Mike Worthen: Harry seconded. Okay. Any discussion? Let's vote on the motion. All in favor? Any opposed? Unanimous, motion passes.

Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the Sheeprock Mountains sage-grouse translocation plan as presented. Harry Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business (contingent)

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on to other business. We have director Sheehan that wants to say a few words, so come forward.

Greg Sheehan: I just wanted to take a moment now that we're at the end of the year and the holiday season to thank all of you on the Regional Advisory Council here for your service throughout the year and all the hours that you put in attending these meetings, driving all over the state, taking phone calls and emails, text messages and all the things that come with being in a public service for all that you all are in working for us here at the Division or with us at the Division of Wildlife. So thank you. And I've got a moment, we've got a lot of our employees, they had their southern region Christmas party today and some of the folks who were in the room here weren't able to attend that so I want to wish them a merry Christmas and thank them as well. A lot of them were out doing deer captures and collaring and work around the region here. So these folks who are out with the Division, our employees, in a lot of cases 7 days a week trying to do good things for the wildlife; and I think it's working. They're doing a great job and we certainly appreciate you helping us, guide us with your recommendations at the regional level with how we do that. But I think things are pretty good with wildlife right now and I got to give the credit to our employees out there for the countless hours. I don't think he's here but right before the meeting I ran out to the pheasant farm here in Richfield that's been worked on with the Division of Wildlife for the last couple of years and with SFW. And I want to thank Jake Albrecht, especially as a former RAC Board chair. He's put in countless hours; I think out there, Vance hasn't he? You know Vance, and Vance as well has done just a phenomenal job out there and I want to acknowledge him for

that. You know what a great partnership. You know people said we want pheasants again and, you know maybe they're not all natural out there but we're getting them back out on the landscape and I think that was really a great success in the last couple of years. A lot of good things going on and I do want to thank everyone in the room. And I don't know if our board members want to add anything. I might put them on the spot here if you've got just a minute. And then everybody wants to get out of here but uh . . .

Steve Dalton: I've talked to a few people about youth pheasant deal out there; they've got just great reports. They just had a really good time. Kids are having a riot out there shooting them pheasants again. There's a lot of public paying attention to what's going on. I don't know how many pheasants they turn loose, do you know?

Greg Sheehan: You know they told me and I want to thank Kendall Bagley too. He and Vance and Jake, probably the three of them I think have grown all of those things. And a lot of folks here, Heather and Lynn and others have been pretty instrumental in getting them out for everybody to hunt. But I think about 3,000 birds this year and they've still got some hens that they'll let go in the spring with some roosters to try to get some wild populations established out there a little bit. But that's just one example. A lot of great things going on with our fisheries group, our folks working on endangered species, our folks doing big game, every where you look. So anyway it's a good time to celebrate all the successes. So that's all I had. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Donnie Hunter: Those pheasants give our youth opportunity. We need to keep those youth involved. We just passed one of our best deer hunts that we've had in a lot of years. And there are a lot of nice bucks still left out on our winter ranges. You've done a lot of good work; we need to keep it up.

Kevin Bunnell: Not to pile on here, but Donnie bring up a good point. Right now is when our deer herds are the most vulnerable and it's when our law enforcement are putting in a lot of time at night making sure that those bucks aren't being taken by people who are working outside of the rules. And so any help that you can get for them, if you ever see anything that you, even if you have a question about, you know, they're more than happy to go out and stop somebody and question them and make sure that everything is on the up and up because right now is the time when things that none of us want to see happen happen at times.

Donnie Hunter: Sportsmen need to have that poaching hotline right in the phones on speed dial so if you see anything you've got it right there, you don't have to look for a number. And supposedly get that information to the right people.

Mike Worthen: Okay, we thank the comments. One thing that I can attest to the pheasant transplant program, yesterday morning as I was driving to work, there by Rolling Rubber on 200 South, there was a hen that ran right across the road in front of me. And I think that somebody was raising it there and it got out. But it surprised me. We also as a RAC, and I think everybody is unanimous in thanking the staff that provide all the information to us to overload us to stand up here and bare your souls and take all the heat that is thrown upon you. But we do sincerely appreciate it and wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy new year. With that do we have any other business to take care of?

Brian Johnson: Next meeting.

Mike Worthen: Next meeting is April 12th at 5:00. We don't have a place yet. It's in Beaver. And more information will come. Say meeting adjourned then.

Brian Johnson: But wait, can we really, with the antlerless, with these slide shows if we can get them before, if we can get that emailed to us before the RAC so that we can read them it clears up a lot of questions that we have. I know that I've asked for them before.

Giani Julander: The slides in addition to the packets?

Brian Johnson: Yes please. Awesome.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
December 9, 2015**

Motion Summary

Approval of today's Agenda and Minutes for the last meeting on November 18

MOTION: To accept today's agenda and the amended minutes of the November 18 meeting.

Passed unanimously (7/0)

R657-3 Rule Amendments (Action)

MOTION: To accept R657-3 Rule Amendments as presented.

Passed unanimously (7/0)

2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)

MOTION: To accept the 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, except that pre-baiting be allowed for two weeks rather than one week.

Passed with a 4/3 vote

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah**

December 9, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

**Kevin Albrecht, Chairman, USFS
Sue Bellagamba, Environmental**

**Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson
Todd Huntington, At Large & Vice Chair
Karl Ivory, BLM representative
Kent Johnson, At Large
Derris Jones, Sportsmen**

Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Members Absent

**Keith Brady, Elected Official
Blair Eastman, Agriculture**

**Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen
Christine Micoz, At Large**

Gerrish Willis, Environmental

Others Present

1) **Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure**
-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

We would like to welcome everybody out tonight to the Southeastern Region December RAC meeting. I would like to thank everybody for coming out to make a quorum, even if Todd was a little late.

2) **Approval of this evening's agenda and the minutes from the past two meetings**
(Action)

-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

The first item will be the approval of the agenda and minutes. Do you have any discussion or any questions on the agenda or the minutes?

Brent Stettler – Karl made an amendment that I corrected on the copy that I sent to Staci Coons. There were some comments attributed to Karl that were actually made by Darrel Meham.

Kevin Albrecht – Yes, I did see those. And those got changed?

Brent Stettler – Yes.

Kevin Albrecht – So, for those minutes, we would approve the amended minutes.

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any other discussion on those two items?

Todd Huntington – I would like to move to accept the agenda and the minutes as amended.

Kent Johnson – I would second that.

Kevin Albrecht – We have a motion by Todd Huntington and seconded by Kent Johnson. All in favor?

Kevin Albrecht – Passed unanimously.

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to approve today's agenda and the amended minutes of the November 18 meeting.

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously (7/0)

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**
-by Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

I would like to give the Wildlife Board update and Chris can jump in. If you have any questions, please ask. Mainly, I will try to hit the topics that were brought up from our RAC and if you have

any questions about any of the other items, please bring those up. To start off, one of those motions was to increase the number of youth hunters to be able to get antlerless elk tags. The Division came up and showed some numbers and I wish that we could have that presentation here for all of us, because it was really good but one of the things that they presented was the numbers of what is happening now currently. They showed that right now, 48% of the youth that put in for the drawing draw a tag. They compared that to what's happening with the adults and right now the adult success is 35%.

Chris Wood – And that is because 20% of all tags go to the youth.

Kevin Albrecht – So there is a system in place, which is allocating higher percentages to the youth. There was quite a bit of discussion as you can imagine on the muzzleloader and the scope magnification. It actually came down to a tie. The chairman had to break the vote and it was to go with the Division's proposal to allow the higher scope magnification.

Chris Wood – Three of the five RACs voted to not have scopes on muzzleloaders. So that was 3 to 2. The public survey that we did showed that the majority of the public supported a scope on a muzzleloader. There was a lot of comments about this from the public and the majority of the comments supported scopes. It was a good discussion and a good debate back and forth but in the end it passed 4 to 3.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any questions on that?

Todd Huntington – Yes, so why don't we just do all of the proposals by survey? Why do we have RACs? I just can't figure that out. I was hoping that Dr. King would be here tonight to give us a little bit better explanation or something because I am still back to the three RACs to two. We still went off of the survey. So what are we doing here?

Kent Johnson – The very same individuals in the survey said "No, we don't want to let anyone use a crossbow, but we want to let everybody use a scope on a muzzleloader." They canceled themselves out. They argued against themselves. In my opinion, the survey held no weight.

Kevin Albrecht – There was a lot of discussion.

Kent Johnson – I am sure there was. I bet it got lively at times.

Chris Wood – I think the Board considered the survey, the RACs' motions and Division recommendations. They weighed all of that stuff and came up with a vote.

Derris Jones – I have a question on youth hunt opportunities. Is there any measurement being made of how many more youth we are recruiting by offering the youth more? That is the whole objective--to bring more youth in and if all we are measuring is what percent of youth are getting the permits, that is not answering the question of whether we are doing any good by offering more opportunities for the youth.

Kevin Albrecht – I appreciate that question. One of things they didn't bring that up there, but one of the requests that I have of Chris would be to have a wildlife 101 course in our shorter meetings. Maybe we could bring down Lindy and have that discussion about the youth and their opportunities and have her answer that question. With the work that we are doing with the youth, what effect is it having? What is out there that we can possibly do to have an effect on that? I think that would be a great discussion for our RAC to be able to get further into that.

Chris Wood – I am writing that down. Thank you

Kevin Albrecht – There was a lot of discussion on the elk plan. If you remember, one of the big discussions in the elk management plan was moving the elk objective on the Boulder, the Dutton, and the Monroe. In the management plan they moved the Dutton and another unit up in age objective because they were actually quite a bit lower than the Boulder and the Monroe; so

they move those up one full age objective. The Dutton and the Panguitch moved up one full unit. The proposal was to move the Monroe down. There was quite a bit of discussion that would've made all those units the same age. The motion was made to keep the Monroe at the 7 ½ to 8 year range and that motion passed. There was a motion for the southeastern deer management plan and that was to keep it the same. I brought up the good discussion that we had about the Green River Valley. There was quite a bit of discussion about who hunted the Green Valley proper. There was a lot of discussion about that, but the Division did not want to make the change as it would separate the sheep unit which would be different from the deer unit and all of those maps would be separate. And a lot of this proposal that we were going through was to make the Henry Mountains deer the same as the Henry Mountains sheep and to make all of those uniform. They asked that we not break those up individually. If they did, they felt that it would have to go clear to the Price River to be a definite boundary. So there was quite a bit of discussion on that subject. They did not change it at this time but Chris was thinking that it would be an action item.

Chris Wood – I believe they made a motion to make that an action item, which means that Division will go back and look at that situation and proposal and will come to the Board at a later date within the next year and bring that to the RACs and the Board to see whether we propose it or not to propose it.

Kevin Albrecht – There was also quite a bit of discussion with the gentleman that came from the Scofield Canyons CWMU and asked for the two extra permits and was comparing that to what his neighbors' CWMUs had, based on acreage. The Wildlife Board decided to disallow the increase in tags, because they felt that there was a lot of unfairness in the CWMU permit rule because a lot of the CWMUs were based off an old tag allocation. They asked the Division to go back and rank everybody off the same system and come back in a year with everybody rated on the same system. So they did not increase his permits at that time but asked that that fairness be sought.

Todd Huntington – So what I understood from the discussion last month is if they do that, everybody else is going to get cut. I mean everybody. Right? That will be very interesting.

Charlie Tracy – Don't you think, Chris? Are they going to get cut?

Chris Wood – I think that is true. It will make for a really good RAC.

Kevin Albrecht – Bill Bates did come up and speak to that and he felt that even though at a quick glance that could happen, he felt that the Manti, for example, would see an increase overall, and that it would all equal out.

Guy Wallace – Part of the issue is a lot of these were from when we first started this program. It was called the Posted Hunting Unit (PHU Program). There weren't the guidelines then that we have now. When we went to the new program and the new guidelines, they grandfathered most of those units into that at the levels that they were at. It's not complete. Yes, there are some that are going to be over, and there is some that are going to be under, and some that will be within the guidelines. There will be some changes once we go through and assess that and see where we are with all those units in relation to the guidelines. That is how we got into this mess.

Kevin Albrecht – I think they said that they wanted to rate those based on the unit allocations, so that it was fair.

Guy Wallace – The guidelines that we now use with any new unit is based on the total permits that are issued for that unit and the percentage of private land, the percentage that goes to the public lands and things like that. None of that was done initially when that program was first started.

Trisha Hedin – So those permits will go back to the general public?

Charlie Tracy – No, they will find somewhere else to put those tags. Sorry Trish I don't think they will come back to you. (Laughing)

Guy Wallace – That is true, they could because we look at the total number of permits and so if that percentage is less, then it could go back to the public.

Trisha Hedin – Did you hear that Charlie?

Charlie Tracy – I did. Congratulations.

Kevin Albrecht – There was a discussion on our motion that was picked up about the National parks. The map actually showed the Canyonlands National Park as part of the sheep unit. They are going to look at that and correct the boundary.

Chris Wood – It was corrected before the board meeting as part of our recommendation at the Board. But that was because this RAC pointed that out. So, so great job!

Kevin Albrecht – One of the discussion items at the Wildlife Board meeting was and maybe many of you have seen it on the news, but was with the letter that the western governors prepared regarding the Mexican wolf and the Wildlife Board signed a letter supporting what western governors had sent out. The letter showed concern about the boundary of the Mexican wolf coming into Utah and Colorado and what would happen if the northern gray wolf and the Mexican wolf hybridized. That letter was signed by the Wildlife Board and sent out with the governors letter.

Chris Wood – So to be clear, that letter said we do not want Mexican wolves in Utah.

Kent Johnson – Nope, we don't.

Kevin Albrecht –Ok, let's go to the Regional update.

4) Regional Update

-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

I don't really have a regional update today. We just met a few weeks ago and we haven't done a whole lot of anything much different. The wildlife biologists are doing some flights right now capturing deer, and putting collars on them for some research. We had a great event here in Green River called Guns and Gals and Trish was a part of that along with Walt and two of our female biologists, Nicole and Makeda. We had 30 ladies show up and I heard great things about it. I rarely get emails from the public thanking me for different things. I got a few emails from the public thanking me for that event, saying that it was well attended and well done and they want see more like that in the future. I was worried about having it here in Green River that we wouldn't have that many people show up, but we had 30 ladies. There was some classroom instruction along with some shooting. That is something that we will continue. So thank you Trish, it was a great event.

Guy Wallace – I just want to say on this deer capture project that we are doing now, it is really some pretty interesting stuff that we are doing. I want to invite any of the RAC members that would like to come. Typically it's a project where we hand out radio collars and the capture crew goes and captures animals. In this part we are actually putting on GPS collars and we are having the does that are caught brought back to us and we are processing them. We are taking blood samples and doing a live CWD sample and things like that. We are collecting a lot of information and some of this information will relate back to habitat use, since we will have GPS

locations of where these animals go. We are going to look at body conditions of these animals and see if that relates to habitat use, trace minerals and things like that from blood work. Anyway, I would like to extend an invitation to anybody that would like to come out. Friday, we will be down at Charlie's ranch in Montezuma Canyon. Saturday we will be somewhere out along Highway 95 near Black Mesa. Brad is also doing captures up north on Friday and Saturday, so if anybody would like to go with Brad, please contact him. It be a great chance to see what's going on and what we are actually doing.

Chris Wood – Thank you

Kevin Albrecht – We will go item number five R657-3 Live Lobster

5) **R657-3 Rule Amendments—Live Lobster (Action)**
-Justin Hart, Regional Aquatics Program Manager

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones-Are they all marine or is there a saltwater crayfish?

Justin Hart- I don't know the answer to that. There are some brackish water ones that I know of. They can live in both. They are in the Gulf of Mexico, but I don't know if there is a strictly saltwater crayfish. I just don't know

Derris Jones – I was just wondering if this is going to cause some confusion with people moving crayfish around if there's a loophole.

Justin Hart – I'd do not believe so. It is pretty well defined in our fishing guidebook.

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any other questions? Seeing none, we will go to questions from the audience.

Kevin Albrecht – Seeing a small audience, if there are any comments from the public, there are comment cards on the table. Please fill those out. There is a microphone here in front, so please come forward and state your name.

Questions and Comments from the Public

(No questions or comments from a public)

RAC Discussion

Kent Johnson – Where it says "Marine Animal," it might be a good to add "saltwater" behind that in the language of the regulations and not just leave it as just "marine." That would avoid some confusion, I think.

Derris Jones- Marine pretty much means saltwater, right?

Justin Hart- It does

Kent Johnson – That is what the definition is?

Justin Hart –It implies it, yes.

Kent Johnson – I know it is implied, but I didn't know if that was the definition.

Justin Hart – Freshwater and marine are the polar opposites, so in fisheries, that is how it's interpreted, but from a public perspective, you might have a point.

Todd Huntington – I moved to accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Charlie Tracy – I second that

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made by Todd Huntington to accept Rule R657-3 and seconded by Charlie Tracy.

Kevin Albrecht – Any discussion on the motion?

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor?

Kevin Albrecht – Passed unanimously

VOTING

**Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept R657-3 Rule Amendments as presented.
Seconded by Charlie Tracy**

Motion passed unanimously (7/0)

6) 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments. (Action)

-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Kevin Albrecht – While you are on that slide, clarify the "one-week early baiting." How does that compare to what it was last year?

Leslie McFarlane – Last year the Board approved a two week early baiting period. We are just trying to keep those two things separate, because if you put bait out and somebody is chasing hounds and you have a bear that is in that bait, you are going to have an issue. Everybody asks why isn't it an issue in the fall? Well, bears don't typically come into bait stations as easy in the fall as they do in the spring and summer. So we don't see the conflicts like we do in the fall. Plus, in the fall we offer far fewer permits that we do in the spring or summer. I will just say that the percent of the permits filled here is a little bit higher because we do allow the "any weapon" take over bait. I think that did influence success just a bit.

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones – Leslie, I am curious about the central region reducing their permits by 15. It seems kind of up and down, do they think they just recommended too many permits to begin with? And are they adjusting or do they really think they solved the depredation problem?

Leslie McFarlane – I think they had quite a bit of pressure from some sportsmen's groups to reduce some of that. I think they feel that they can do it at a little bit lower level and I can accomplish the same thing by reducing it by 15.

Trisha Hedin – In the fall limited entry season--the one that is basically running August 20 through September--are hounds allowed on that?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Karl Ivory – Are all of the available permits then issued, so that there's none left on the table?

All of them are issued every year?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes

Karl Ivory – There's probably some people that actually don't draw then? It is a draw?

Leslie McFarlane – It is a limited entry draw. Some of the units take points and some of the units require a really long time to draw.

Karl Ivory – Okay

Derris Jones – What is the trend then on the quota tags? Do you sell more and more of those every year?

Leslie McFarlane – Not really. This year we did sell quite a few. I will have to look and see. I can't tell you exactly how many. I would have to look that up.

Derris Jones – It has been pretty good hunting?

Leslie McFarlane – It has been pretty successful. I mean on the Wasatch West, we were surprised at how quickly that quota actually filled on that unit. I think the quota was at 35 and we hit that quite early. Originally, when we started the quota, there wasn't a lot of interest in it and I think the very first year we sold 19 permits. Like the Beaver unit, we didn't get any harvest. I'm not even sure if anybody even went there. But this last year, we have seen quite a bit of increase.

Todd Huntington – Leslie, the question that I have is we have a bear population that is increasing, estimating 5 to 6% which is roughly 200 bears a year, but yet we only increase permits by 14. Are we keeping up?

Leslie McFarlane – We only increased permits by 14 but we increased sportsmen's harvest by 20%. So, even though we only increased by 14 you've got to remember that the year before that there were only 283 bears harvested by sportsmen. We increased that take by 20%. So, rather than the Division taking that many by nuisance and depredation, it was more of a guaranteed thing through sportsmen.

Todd Huntington – So do you predict another 20% increase by the sportsmen?

Leslie McFarlane – I predict that it will stay in line with where it was this year, so another 330 bears.

Todd Huntington – Okay, but we increased the overall state population by 200, so we're going to stay the same?

Leslie McFarlane – One of the things that you have to remember is that bears are really a long-lived species. Females don't even breed until they are four years-old. The majority of the population is controlled through female harvest. That is what we are monitoring and trying to balance. The female is really what controls the population. If you take a female before she is four years old, she never puts into the population. If you take a female, you have taken that reproductive capability out. That is what we are monitoring. Does that make sense?

Todd Huntington – Yes, it makes sense. I don't know about the math of it, but I do understand the concept, but the map doesn't work out.

Leslie McFarlane – So you got to remember that we increased permits quite significantly last year. What we are trying to do is make it more successful. I don't know issuing a whole bunch more hound permits or bait permits in an area is going to increase harvest overall. But if we can maintain this level of where we are, we can work at it incrementally. A female harvest of 20% is quite large. Because you have to remember the Division nuisance take went back down to 45, which is where we are traditionally.

Todd Huntington – The total harvest was the same or less?

Leslie McFarlane – It was 370. And you're right, but instead of the Division taking it, which we

were taking that extra 20%, now the sportsmen are taking that extra 20%.

Derris Jones – I think where Todd is coming from is your slide said the bear population grows from 4-6% a year. That is potential growth and not the measurable growth.

Leslie McFarlane – It depends on unit by unit. Looking at the big picture, we estimate growth at 5-6%. If you're taking females out of the population, that is reducing the population by that much. If there were no female harvest, I would be scared.

Leslie McFarlane – Am I not getting what you are asking?

Todd Huntington –Oh, no.

Derris Jones- Is the bear population growing or stable?

Leslie McFarlane – It has been growing. What we are trying to do is to get it to stabilize and we're trying to keep recommendations the same so that we can follow it to see what it is doing, rather than have a knee-jerk reaction and increase everything to try and get it down. We want to see what we are doing. We added a season. We increased permits. We don't want to be too drastic on the population. We would like to monitor it and keep recommendations the same for a while and to see if what we are doing is working.

Charlie Tracy – How many bears are you losing on the highway? Do you have any idea on that?

Leslie McFarlane – Maybe three or four bears a year. Not that many.

Trisha Hedin – This is just a general interest question. We had all of those issues last year and then this year it seemed like they somewhat went away. Was it moisture? I am just kind of interested overall if you know?

Leslie McFarlane –Some of it is weather related, food mass related, and all of that type of thing. What we are trying to get on top of it by decreasing densities in some areas and hopefully keeping bears from causing more problems.

Kevin Albrecht – We will go to questions from the audience. Again, when you come up to the microphone, please state your name and if you have a comment, please bring your comment card up to Chris.

Questions from the Public

No questions

Comments from the Public

Randy Quayle, Utah Bowman's Association-First, I would like to thank all members of the RAC and wildlife personnel for being here tonight. It is a lot of work and I understand that and we do appreciate all of that. The Utah Bowman's Association supports the recommendations with one exception. We would recommend two weeks pre-bait rather than the recommended one week pre-bait. The Wildlife Board met last year and agreed on a two week pre-bait for last year and we would like to see it remain that way for this year. Thank you.

Troy Justensen, SFW- Merry Christmas, everybody. We support the Division's recommendations with the following exceptions, which is the same as the Utah Bowman's Association. We would like to ask this RAC to vote and support a two-week pre-bait that we had last year. We understand there is going to be some conflict. There are conflicts in every aspect of hunting. It is human nature. That is just something that we have to deal with. If you're trying to avoid conflict, it would make sense to get rid of it all the way, because you're still going to have conflict even if you had one week. It has been voted on and passed in the last three RACs. Thank

you.

Guy Webster Utah Houndsmen Association- I would like to thank Leslie for working with us. You have to remember that last year we made some major, major changes. Hopefully the data will be similar next year. Hopefully the moisture continues, because that does play a role in it. Personally, I'm someone who runs hounds for over 30 years. In certain areas the bear population is increasing, but is that always a bad thing? If they're not causing conflicts and not causing problems, a few more bears throughout the state Utah won't hurt. A 5% increase in certain areas definitely is in a bad thing. On areas that I have hunted such as the Book Cliffs, there is not an increase. It is stable or even maybe slightly decreasing. We have a real big concern and Leslie, we have talked about that. There was lack a of bear cubs this year. I didn't see any nor did other houndsmen I have talked to. We appreciate the fact that they chose not to increase the Book Cliffs until we got a handle on what the issues were with the cubs and where they are. I just want to thank you for that. All in all, we go with the Division's recommendations as proposed. And you're probably surprised to hear me say that. We are happy the way things are.

Leslie McFarlane – Thanks, Guy.

Kevin Albrecht – Thanks Guy, it is nice to hear that, especially after years of changes, we are hearing things are starting to stabilize and maybe we're getting to where we need to be.

Kevin Albrecht – Any more comments? Cody?

Guy Webster – If I can say one more thing, we would not have a problem backing these other guys with the two week pre-bait. We do not have any objections to that.

Kevin Albrecht – I will state that in the minutes.

Kevin Albrecht – Guy Webster stated that they would support the two week pre-bait as mentioned by the UBA and SFW.

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones – Which side is complaining? The people that are trying to put bait out and have dogs run across their bait? Or?

Leslie McFarlane – It was mostly people that were putting bait out and had hounds run through their bait or they saw hounds on cameras. Primarily the conflicts came from the Wasatch West on the front there.

Derris Jones – If somebody is running their hounds and the hounds go through bait where they jump a bear off bait, is that a violation? How about when they start a bear on the bait?

Leslie McFarlane – If they start running the bear from the bait, then it would be technically a violation. If it runs through the bait, then it wouldn't be a violation.

Stacy Jones – But how can you tell?

Leslie McFarlane – And that is why we split it out. Law enforcement has issues every single year where people are reporting running hounds from bait or whatever and with those two seasons combined it is really hard for law enforcement to make a case. That is part of the other reason for splitting it out. It is illegal to run hounds from bait. Some of the other complaints that we got were that people were just throwing pizza out the window and then coming back and running their hounds from the pizza. It is just that type of illegal... And you know you just can't do with those kinds of things. It is just that type of issue.

Charlie Tracy – I didn't know it was that easy. (Laughing)

Charlie Tracy – I think you're going to have those problems anyways. I think we should go

ahead and make a motion to support it and send it back to the Wildlife Board and let them make the final decision. I say we go ahead and support these guys on that two-week deal. I think any help that you can get with the bow is good, especially when killing a bear.

Derris Jones – You can use both bow and rifle now.

Leslie McFarlane – You can use a rifle now.

Charlie Tracy – Sorry, I need help with anything. I would like to make that motion.

Kevin Albrecht – Let me clarify your motion. Your motion would be to accept the Division's proposal as presented with the exception to allow the two week pre-bait. Is that correct?

Charlie Tracy – Yes that is correct

Kevin Albrecht – Do we have a second?

Kent Johnson – I second that

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Kent Johnson

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any question on the motion?

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor?

Karl Ivory – I have more of an amendment to accept also the rule change that was there along with that motion.

Kevin Albrecht – I think that will be picked up

Leslie McFarlane – That is included in the presentation.

Kevin Albrecht – I think that would be in the motion

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor?

Kevin Albrecht – Opposed?

Kevin Albrecht – Motion passes 4 to 3. Opposing were Sue Bellagamba, Karl Ivory, and Derris Jones.

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the 2016 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, except that pre-baiting be allowed for two weeks rather than one week.

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed with a 4/3 vote.

Opposing the motion were Sue Bellagamba, Karl Ivory and Derris Jones

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Public in Attendance: 6

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on January 5, 2016 at 9 a.m. in the DNR Board Room.

The date of the next SER RAC meeting has yet to be determined. The location will be the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal

December 10, 2015

5. R657-3 RULE AMENDMENTS – LIVE LOBSTER

MOTION to accept the recommendations of the Board

Passed unanimously

6. 2016 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION to accept as presented with the following exception: remove the one week early bait recommendation and leave as it was last year

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal
December 10, 2015

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Wardle, Non Consumptive
Andrea Merrell, Non Consumptive
Brett Prevedel, At Large
Randy Dearth, RAC Chair
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Daniel Davis, Sportsmen
Jerry Jorgensen, Elected Official
Joe Batty, Agriculture
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Mgr.
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach Mgr.
Randall Thacker, NER Biologist
Trina Hedrick, NER Aquatics Mgr.
Rori Lubbers, NER Office Specialist
Bryan Clyde, NER Law Enforcement
Clint Sampson, NER Biologist

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED

David Gordon, BLM
Joe Arnold, Public At Large
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe

1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE – Randy Dearth

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: Randy Dearth

MOTION by Andrea Merrell to approve agenda:

Jerry Prevedel: Second

Passed unanimously

Randy Dearth: correction on minutes from last meeting, page 16, the name Joe Batty needs to be changed to Clay Batty

MOTION by Brett Prevedel to approve minutes

Melissa Wardle: Second

Passed unanimously

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE – Randy Dearth

The Board passed most of the recommendations from the Division. Muzzleloader scope passed as Division presented. There is not a real clear standard on CWMU rules, the Board wants to add an action and form a committee to get a better understanding. Landowner numbers for the Book Cliffs passed to keep 9 tags. The review of the landowner process passed. The division will support the Governor's letter regarding the Mexican Wolves.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE – Boyde Blackwell

There have been a few questions on accessing meeting minutes. They are located in the drop box, open under Board Packet for upcoming meeting. They are also online under board packet and then meeting minutes.

Aquatics is working on data for next year's plans to see if they need to add or change.

Trout Unlimited did a project that installed three windmills on Calder to help with problem freezing and winterkill. Other private ponds have done the same thing in the past and it has worked. Wildlife capture work for deer went well and is now finished.

Law Enforcement started saturation patrols. They will be out in certain areas; you might see five to ten people in specific areas to protect deer herds.

5. R657-3 RULE AMMENDMENTS – Live Lobster Trina Hedrick (ACTION)

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Mitch Hacking: Do you need a permit to grab a critter?

Trina Hedrick: You can't release a live lobster

Boyde Blackwell: You cannot possess it outside of a restaurant.

Randy Dearth: But you can buy one at Wal-Mart.

Trina Hedrick: You are not allowed to release a live lobster, meaning it is for consumption only

Jerry Jorgensen: Are there lobsters in Utah?

Trina Hedrick: Only true marine species cannot survive in fresh water.

Mitch Hacking: Are crawdads related to lobsters?

Trina Hedrick: I'm not sure but I'm guessing they may be from the same family.

Questions from the Public:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

None

MOTION:

Dan Abyeta motion to accept the proposed changes from the Division

Daniel Davis: Second

Passed unanimously

Boyde Blackwell: Confirmed, yes lobsters are related to crawdads

6. 2016 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMMENDMENTS - Leslie McFarlane Wildlife Mammals Coordinator (ACTION)

(See handout)

Dax Mangus: We recomend revision for NERO, Book Cliffs permit numbers will stay the same, West Daggett minus 3 permits and Wasatch Currant Creek increase for permits

Brett Prevedel: What's the reasoning on the Book Cliffs permits?

Dax Mangus: Because of female numbers we are going to back off and keep permits the same.

Jerry Jorgensen: Why did the number go down on West Daggett?

Randall Thacker: Numbers were outside of categories for two criteria. One light and one moderate.

Jerry Jorgensen: Do hunters have a way to identify males or females?

Randall Thacker: Tracks size of footpad can tell if male or female, also well informed bait hunters can tell by the shape of the head. A young boar coming up a tree is harder to tell. But most folks know what they are taking.

Daniel Davis: From a bait site you can see better genitalia.

Dan Abeyta: Are a lot of females harvested in some seasons?

Leslie McFarlane: It was reported there were not a lot of cubs on Book Cliffs. Sows being dry depend on the conditions, grass and water.

Questions from RAC:

Daniel Davis: What was the harvest on late Book Cliffs hunt?

Randall Thacker: For fall it was two males and three females, six permits total.

Dan Abeyta: So five of the six were harvested.

Brett Prevedel: With the weird spring weather denning studies, were you able to use that data?

Clint Sampson: Of all three dens they've had no cubs since 2009. Did have some trail camera pictures at guzzlers but hard to see with such a narrow scope.

Leslie McFarlane: We have to average five years and they should have to have cubs twice. One year is not a concern. If we continue to not see cubs we will address that next year.

Daniel Davis: shouldn't they have yearlings usually? And were any collared bears taken by hounds?

Clint Sampson: One in the Book Cliffs.

Questions from Public:

Ben Lauder: Will the conservation permits be the same as last year?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes

Comments by Public:

Kenneth Long: Really concerned over bear population in Book Cliffs have seen a decline over 4 years. When people put in for a hunt they expect to harvest a bear. If a lot of females are killed the cubs won't survive without their moms. There needs to be some way to limit the number of females harvested.

Hal Mecham:(Rep for Utah Hounds men Association); and we support the fish and game proposal.

Ben Louder:(With the Utah Bowmen's Association); Thank you Leslie and we support the recommendation with the exemption on the pre bait would like to continue with two weeks

John Larsen: (Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife); we accept plan but would like to see two weeks and not cut back to one

Comments by RAC:

Jerry Jorgensen: Explain why one week instead of two.

Leslie McFarlane: The prebait intent is to eliminate conflicts with those who have bait and having the chance of dogs running across. It is illegal to run hounds off bait.

Law Enforcement has a hard time determining this when seasons run together. Original intent is to reduce conflict for Law Enforcement.

Mitch Hacking: Who's complaining?

Leslie McFarlane: The baiters, they are concerned about houndsmen running dogs across bait.

Ben Louder: Baiters complained about having houndsmen killing their bears. They say they have pictures of houndsmen taking bears that baiters have baited in and then hunters with hounds take the bears off of the bait. Its public hunting the bears do not belong to one or the other. Most of the complaints came off of the Wasatch unit; this unit gets hunted a lot. It's no different than hunting.

Jerry Jorgensen: How often do you attend the bait site?

Ben Louder: An active site would be nearly every day or if you're out of state once a week.

Jerry Jorgensen: Why won't seven days work?

Ben Louder: It takes two weeks to have bears come in and get established, that way we can hunt the first day.

Mitch Hacking: So just one unit had complaints?

Leslies McFarlane: Yes, this year.

Daniel Davis: Archery bait only, with two sites and houndsmen coming in all the time that's when it gets personal. I had a permit and only had one houndsman come in and I still harvested. If a bait hunter places bait in certain places you have to expect hounds.

Mitch Hacking: Where you at on this?

Daniel Davis: I'm tired of being a hounds men and being complained on. Hounds men are always getting complaints from all hunters because hounds are all over the place.

Mitch Hacking: Leslie how do you see this going?

Leslie McFarlane: It looks like it will stay two weeks.

Hal Mecham: If you put bait 25 ft off the road houndsmen don't know the bait is there and the dogs will automatically find the bait.

Jerry Jorgensen: With the two weeks would that enhance the take of bear?

Ben Louder: Yes, we will have more data that establishes that bait to draw the bear in to hunt the first day, also if you have more pictures of a sow you can see if she has cubs.

MOTION:

Daniel Davis motion to accept proposal with the exception of the two week prebait season

Jerry Jorgensen: Second

Passed unanimously

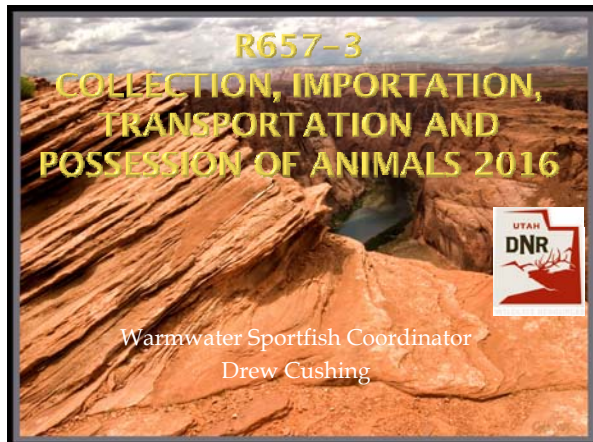
MOTION:

Dan Abeyta motion to dismiss

Brett Prevedel: second

Passed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned 8:08 pm



Why is DWR Recommending Changes to Rule 657-3 CIT Rule

- ❑ The current rule requires a certificate of registration to possess live aquatic animals for commercial use
- ❑ This includes live fish and crustaceans held in tanks for human consumption at restaurants, grocery stores, and specialty markets
- ❑ Neither the Utah Department of Agriculture nor Utah Division of Wildlife (UDWR) desire to govern/control these types of activities within reason

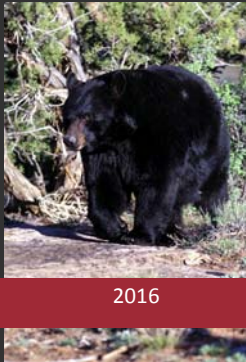
Marine Aquatic Animals

- ❑ In order to exempt live aquatic animal tanks in restaurants and stores from the COR process, a definition is needed to separate species of concern from those that do not need regulatory oversight
- ❑ Marine aquatic animals – COR not required provided:
 - Spends its entire life cycle in a marine environment
 - Not a species classified as invasive or nuisance by state or federal law
 - Used for immediate human consumption (30 days)
 - Obtained legally
 - Not released live

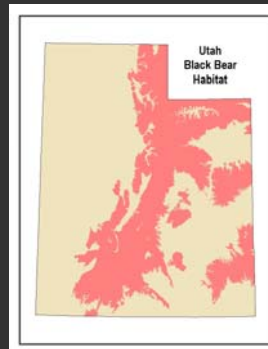
Thank You!!!!

Share your ideas with the DWR by June 15 annually
Share ideas at RAC meetings
E-mail ideas to: dwrcomment@utah.gov
Mail ideas to:
Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator
Division of Wildlife Resources
PO Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
Web based survey to seek public input on line <http://wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/>

Black Bear Harvest Recommendations



Black Bear Management Plan 2011- 2023



- Advisory Group Participants
- Utah Woolgrowers
 - SFW
 - 2 Wildlife Board members
 - US Forest Service Wildlife Services
 - Western Wildlife Conservancy
 - John Weis – non-consumptive
 - BYU
 - Utah Houndsmen Assoc.
 - DWR

Plan goal - maintain a healthy balanced bear population

- Livestock depredation
- Nuisance and human/bear conflict
- Habitat limitations
- Other wildlife species population objectives
- Recreational opportunity



Management System

Permit recommendation adjusted based on **harvest results (3-year avg.)** in relation to performance targets in harvest strategy

Light	Moderate	Liberal
Ad M (≥ 5yrs) > 35%	Ad M (≥ 5yrs) 25-35%	Ad M (≥ 5yrs) < 25%
Female < 30%	Female 30 - 40%	Female 40 - 45%
Low level of human/bear conflict	Human/bear conflict	Human/bear conflict

Current Status



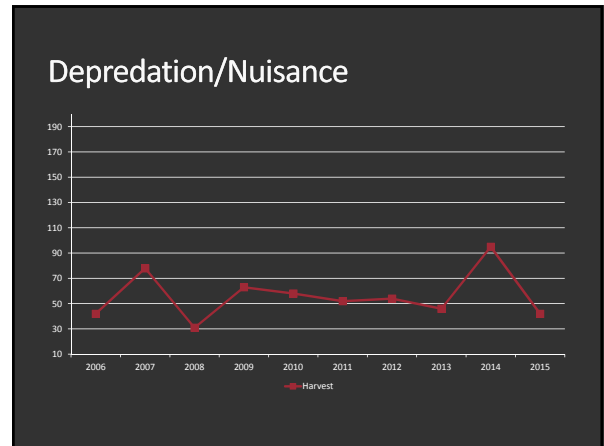
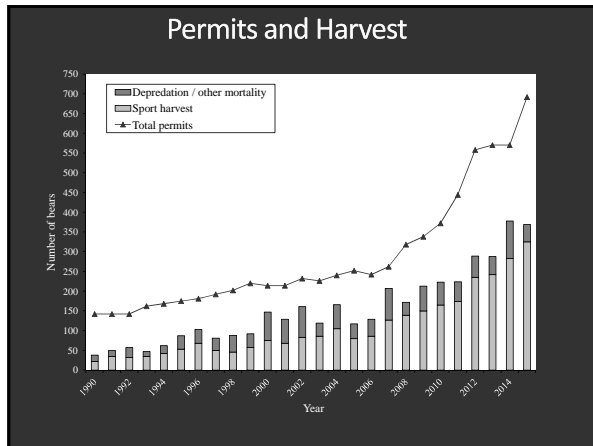
- 15 years of harvest data, including age and sex, population increase 5-6% annually
- Bear denning data – female with yearlings 2+ out of 5 years (indicates increasing population)
- Estimate minimum 4,100 bears
 - Increase from 2009 estimate (3,500)

Expected Harvest and Evaluation

- Average statewide success rate 42-45%
 - 2014 – 50%
 - 2015 – 47%

- 2014 sport harvest = 283
 - total harvest = 378
- 2015 sport harvest = 325
 - total harvest = 370





Spring Limited Entry (No Bait)

April 2 – June 3, 2016

- Hounds or spot and stalk only
- Percent permits filled 49%

Summer Limited Entry (No Hounds)

June 4 – July 1, 2016

- Bait or spot and stalk
- No hounds because of concerns for fawning and calving season
- Begin baiting 1 week early
- Access issues resolved
- Resolved conflicts
- Percent permits filled 62%

Fall Limited Entry (Archery Only/Bait Only)

- Season dates – August 8 – September 9, 2016
- Weapon type limited to archery tackle only
- Bait or spot and stalk
- May bait 1 week early
- Only on the Book Cliffs
- Percent permits filled 40%
- Error on my summary sheet sent to the RAC and Boar

Fall Limited Entry

August 20 - September 26, 2016
and
October 29 – November 17, 2016

- Percent permits filled 41%
- May bait 1 week early

Fall Spot and Stalk

- La Sal and San Juan –
 - **August 13 - September 9, 2016**
 - **Percent permits filled 8% and 4%**
- Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek - South -
 - **October 4 - November 17, 2016**

Limited Entry Spot and Stalk

- Book Cliffs, Little Creek (roadless)
 - Spring - April 2 – June 3, 2016
 - Fall - September 10 – November 17, 2016
- La Sal and San Juan
 - October 4 – October 25, 2016
- Percent permits filled 6%
- May bait 1 week early



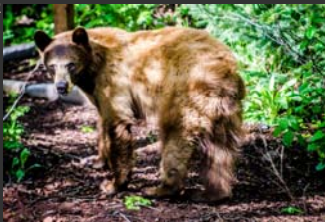
Limited Entry Multi-Season

- Hunt any of the seasons approved for the unit the permit is authorized for
- Must use the appropriate weapon type and method authorized for the season being hunted
- Cannot be used during harvest objective season or for pursuit.
- Percent permits filled 49%



Harvest Objective

- Spring season dates - April 2 – June 3, 2016 (no bait)
 - Percent permits filled 95%
- Fall season dates – (Nine Mile) September 26 – October 28, 2016 (spot and stalk only - no bait/no hounds)
 - Percent permits filled 70%
- Unlimited permits are sold for this season
- The unit closes when the quota is met or the season ends



Northern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2015
Cache/East Cyn/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	3	3	2	1	9	same
Chalk Creek/Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	5	3	3	17*	same

*Includes conservation permits

Northeastern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Fall Archery/Bait	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2015
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South	32	14	9	6	5	69*	+13
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	5 (spot and stalk)	5	4 (spot and stalk)	2	1	18*	+3
North Slope, West Daggett/Three Corners	3 (quota)	3	2		1	9	-3
South Slope, Yellowstone	6 (quota)	5	5		1	18*	Same
South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	14	6	6		3	31*	Same
Wasatch Mtns, Awintaquin/Currant Creek	15 (quota)	5	7		1	29*	+4

*Includes conservation permits

Central Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2015
Central Mtns, Nebo	8	7	3	2	21*	same
Wasatch Mtns, West	25 (quota)	21	7	5	60*	-15

*Includes conservation permits

Southeastern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Fall Spot and Stalk	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2015
Central Mtns, Manti-North	17	6	6		4	35*	+3
Central Mtns, Manti-South/San Rafael, North	5	5	10		3	24*	+3
Nine Mile	18 (quota)	6	20	10 (quota)	3	58*	+9
La Sal	35	10	5	50	4	109*	+5
San Juan	35	10	5	50	4	109*	+5

*Includes conservation permits

Southern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2015
Beaver	5	6	5		17*	-5
Fillmore, Pahvant	1		1		2	same
Monroe			1		1	same
Mt. Dutton	2	2	1		5	same
Panguitch Lake/Zion	5	3	6	1	16*	-1
Paunsaugunt	2	2	3		7	same
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	16	12	14	4	48*	+7
Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	2	3	3	1	9	+1

*Includes conservation permits

General Pursuit Season

- Spring April 2 – June 3, 2016
- Summer July 4 – August 7, 2016
- Fall October 29 – November 17, 2016



Restricted Pursuit Season

Unit Number	Unit Name	Resident	Nonresident	Season Dates
10	Book Cliffs	25	3	July 4 – July 18, 2016
10	Book Cliffs	25	3	July 25 – August 7, 2016
13	La Sal	4	1	July 4 – July 18, 2016
13	La Sal	4	1	July 25 – August 7, 2016
14	San Juan	13	2	July 4 – July 18, 2016
14	San Juan	13	2	July 25 – August 7, 2016

Rule Change

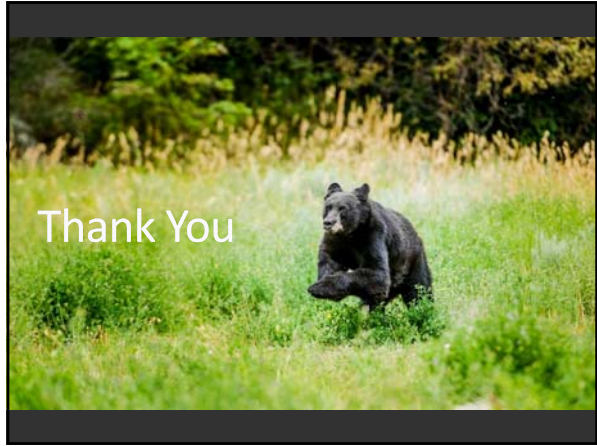
- When applying for a Certificate of Registration for a bait station an individual will not need to obtain permission from the USFS.



Summary

- A total of 723 permits – increase of 32
- Increased sport harvest reduced nuisance and depredation take by WS and DWR
- Increased permit numbers did not increase harvest
- Spring 259 (-4)
- Summer 139 (+31)
- Fall 246 (-2)
- Multi-season 47 (-1)
- Conservation 31 (+6)





Sheeprock Mountains Sage-grouse Management Area: Greater Sage-grouse Population Augmentation


Avery Cook
Upland Game Project Leader

Sheeprocks Sage-grouse Background

- Not warranted under ESA (Sept 2015). However, Utah is still moving forward with conservation actions.
- Sheeprock Mountains SGMA population level is critically low.
- Transplant is in addition habitat improvements.
- State Sensitive Species – additional requirements:
 - Management Plan (in place)
 - Resource Development Coordinating Committee (complete)
 - Need RAC/Board approval for transplant

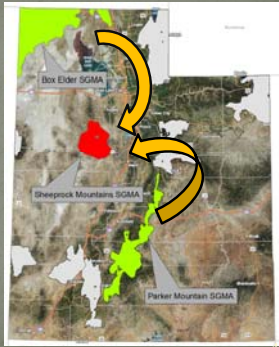


Transplant Overview



- Transplants during breeding (March-April).
- Capture on leks.
- Follow guidelines from the successful transplant and recovery in Strawberry Valley (annual survival = ~50% (translocated), ~65% (resident); Baxter et al 2008, 2013):
 - Transport and release same night
 - Release on active leks in core areas
 - Provide predator control
 - Additional habitat work
- Proposed transplants for 2016, 2017, 2018:
 - 30 female/year
 - 10 male/year
- Monitored by USU for survival and habitat use.

Transplant Location



- Capture Birds on the Box Elder and/or Parker Mountain SGMA.
 - Genetically Similar
 - Robust Population
 - Geographically Close
- Transport to and release on the Sheeprock Mountains SGMA.

