

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 27, 2017, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

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

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 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. Paunsaugunt Cactus Buck Research Update
– Annette Roug, Wildlife Veterinarian | INFORMATION |
| 6. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017
- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and
- Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017
- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and
- Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 8. 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
- Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests
- Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. CRC Variance Requests
- Staci Coons, CRC Chairman | ACTION |
| 11. Other Business
– John Bair, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 2017 - 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

Spring 2017 - Target Date – Order of the Turkey Hunts

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the possibility of changing the order in which turkey hunts are held so that they have a greater benefit for youth hunters. Also to review the possibility of eliminating the Limited Entry Turkey draw and replacing it with over-the-counter permit sales. 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: September 1, 2016

Fall 2017 - Target Date – CWMU Single Permits

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into the possibility of issuing 2 permits every other year for CWMUs that currently only have one public permit, so bonus points are an advantage.

Motion made by: Kirk Woodward
Assigned to: Covy Jones
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: December 9, 2016

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 3, 2017, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/bgSzr1vUbrA>

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 3, 2017, Board Meeting 9:00 am

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| 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 - 2017
- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments
- Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Private Pond Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 59
- Randy Oplinger, Coldwater Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60
- Nathan Owens, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments
– Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. 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.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 3, 2017, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Summary of Motions

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 9, 2016 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2017 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2017 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

4) 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we add the two permits from the spring hunt to the summer hunt in the South Slope Diamond.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4:1. Mike King opposed.

MOTION: I move that the Division be directed to round down (instead of up) when setting the permit quota for non-resident harvest and pursuit bear permits.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

- 5) Private Pond Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 59 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Private Pond Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 59 as presented by the Division.

- 6) AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60 as presented.

- 7) R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 3, 2017, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/17-1-3.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

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

RAC Chairs Present

Northeastern – Dax Mangus
Southern – Kevin Bunnell
Southeastern – Chris Wood
Central – Richard Hansen
Northern – Bryce Thurgood

Public Present

Jason Binder
Ken Strong
Bill Christensen - RMEF
Chet Young

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks	Kenny Johnson	Bill Bates
Rory Reynolds	Drew Cushing	Mark Hadley
Mike Canning	Blair Stringham	Ben Nadolski
Staci Coons	Karen Caldwell	Guy Wallace
Thu Vo-Wood	Lindy Varney	Randy Oplinger
Darren DeBloois	Mike Christensen	Scott Dalebout
Justin Dolling	Darren DeBloois	Teresa Griffin
Robin Cahoon	Paul Gedge	Bryan Christensen
Craig Schaugaard	Greg Hansen	Xaela Walden
Jason Vernon	Kenny Johnson	
Riley Peck	Martin Bushman	

Public Present

Ben Lowder – UT Houndsman Assoc.	Troy Justensen
Aaron Johnson – UT Houndsman Assoc.	Richard Hansen
Ron Frank	Aaron Banks
Bryce Pilling – SFW	Tyce Erickson
Bryce Thurgood	Louis Erickson
Chris Carling	Daniel Oler
Andy Rasmussen	Jerry Pendleton

Chairman Bair welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife Board and RAC Chairs.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:03:13 – 00:03:33 of 04:50:06**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:03:34 – 00:04:00 of 04:50:06**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 9, 2016 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) None.
- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:05:49 – 00:24:15 of 04:50:06**

Greg Sheehan updated RAC/Board vacancies. Martin Bushman updated the Board on the Bears Ears designation. Sheehan summarized winter concerns, upcoming winter WAFWA conference and legislative session, and employee updates.

- 5) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2017 (**Action**) **00:25:21 – 00:40:58 of 04:50:06**

Blair Stringham presented the 2017 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments.

Board Questions/RAC Questions 00:32:52 – 00:34:26

Bryce Thurgood asked about the justification for not including public shooting grounds in swan areas.

RAC Recommendation 00:34:42 – 00:35:50

All RACs unanimously passed the waterfowl recommendations and amendments.

Public Comments 00:35:55 – 00:37:00

Public questions were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 00:37:40 – 00:40:58

The board discussed the overall trend of waterfowl hunting and swan boundary increase.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2017 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

- 6) 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (**Action**) **00:41:02 – 02:23:06 of 04:50:06**

Darren DeBloois presented the 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments.

Board/RAC Questions 00:52:10 – 00:59:04

The Board discussed the Division's practice of rounding up instead of down on permit quotas, out-of-state houndsmen, and handling problem bears.

Public Questions 00:59:06 – 01:07:48

Public questions were accepted at this time.

RAC Recommendation 01:07:50 – 01:23:34

All RACs with exception of Southeast Region passed the Black Bear recommendations unanimously with additional requests. Southeast Region had varying dissent with additional amendments.

Public Comments 01:23:36 – 01:40:13

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 01:40:15 – 02:27:45

Season dates, tag distribution, and bonus points versus preference points were discussed.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we add the two permits from the spring hunt to the summer hunt in the South Slope Diamond.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4:1. Mike King opposed.

MOTION: I move that the Division be directed to round down (instead of up) when setting the permit quota for non-resident harvest and pursuit bear permits.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the 2017 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

- 7) Private Pond Rule Amendments – Rule R657-59 (Action) **02:23:08 – 03:11:00 of 04:50:06**

Randy Oplinger presented the Private Pond Rule Amendments.

Board Questions 02:33:04 – 02:36:25

The Board asked for clarification on some COR changes, COR violations and enforcement, and how this may affect Dixie proposal discussed in southern region meeting.

Public Questions 02:36:26 – 02:40:18

Public questions were accepted at this time.

RAC Recommendation 02:40:20 – 2:41:55

All RACs passed the Fish Pond Rule unanimously. Southern Region included a request from the Utah Association of Aquaculture.

Public Comments 02:41:57 – 02:54:04

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 02:54:06 – 03:11:00

The Board discussed the definition of natural stream channels and waterways.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Private Pond Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 59 as presented by the Division.

- 8) AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60 (Action) **04:03:55 – 04:15:42 of 04:50:06**

Nathan Owens presented AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60.

RAC Recommendation 04:13:35 – 04:13:44

All RACs unanimously passed the AIS Rule Amendment.

Public Comments 04:13:46 – 04:14:30

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 04:14:32 – 04:15:42

The Board discussed detection and contamination reports for Lake Powell.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve AIS Rule Amendments – Rule R657- 60 as presented.

9) R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (**Action**) **04:15:44 – 04:38:19 of 04:50:06**

Bryan Christensen presented R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments.

Board/RAC Questions 04:28:37 – 04:31:35

The Board asked about the availability of the online ethics program and options for extension.

RAC Recommendation 04:31:37 – 04:34:02

All RACs with exception of Southern RAC unanimously passed the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments. Southern had one abstention.

There was a discussion on extending dedicated hunter opportunities to the general season elk.

Public Comments 04:34:05 – 04:34:26

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 04:34:28 – 04:38:19

Chairman Bair commended the Division for being user friendly with the tag surrender process. The Board discussed availability of conservation projects and if including RAC attendance would be sensible.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments as presented.

10) Other Business (**Contingent**) **04:38:21 – 04:48:43 of 04:50:06**

The Board discussed the sandhill crane issue facing the northeast region.

Greg Sheehan updated the board on upcoming DWR events.

Meeting adjourned.

Summary of Motions

Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017

NRO, CRO, SERO, NERO:

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

SRO: MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented but include potential changes to allow non-resident bonus tags every other year.
Passed 11 in favor, 1 opposed.

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017

NRO: MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented and to ask the Division to explore changes to antlerless elk season dates.
Passed unanimously

CRO: MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented with the addition of 200 permits on the West Desert, Vernon – Private Lands Only Unit.
Motion passed 8 to 1

SRO: MOTION: Beaver unit; make the first antlerless elk hunt to be on the north end of the unit, the second hunt unit wide, and the third hunt on the north end of the unit. Additionally, add an additional 80 permits to the north end hunts (40 each).
Passed unanimously

MOTION: To add the Plateau, Monroe, and Southwest Desert, to the Private Lands only hunts and allow allocation of those tags to be at the discretion of the DWR.

Passed unanimously

MOTION: To accept remainder of the recommendations as presented.

AMENDED MOTION: add 200 permits to Panguitch Lake and 150 to SW Desert
VOTE: 3 in favor, 7 opposed. Amendment fails.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

MOTION: To pass the divisions recommendation with the amendment to increase the antelope tags by 300 permits to the Plateau and split the additional tags between the first and second hunts, no additional tags on the third hunt.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion passed.

SERO, NERO:

MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Passed unanimously

2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

NRO, CRO, SERO, NERO:

MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented
Passed unanimously

SRO: MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented
Passed unanimously with 1 abstained

2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

NRO, SERO:

MOTION: To deny the variance request for the Double R CWMU
Passed unanimously

CRO: MOTION: To grant the Double R CWMU variance request
Motion passed 9 to 1

SRO: MOTION: To accept the CWMU Advisory Councils recommendation and
approve the variance request.
Motion passed 9 to 3

NERO: MOTION: To grant the Double R CWMU variance request
Passed unanimously

ACTION LOG REQUESTS FROM REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS:

SRO: MOTION: Investigate ways to address overcrowding on the south units such as
split the rifle hunt; and consider adding a 3rd tier to the general season
management strategy that is between 20 and 25 B:D
VOTE: 9 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion passed.

MOTION: Investigate making changes to the Paunsaugunt
▸ Make velvet bucks legal on the management hunt on Paunsaugunt
▸ Add a velvet only hunt on the Paunsaugunt
▸ Have the rifle hunt on the Paunsaugunt to end Oct 31 every year
VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Breakout the draw odds for kids that qualify for the 20% of the tags
VOTE: Unanimous

SERO: MOTION: To direct the Division, as an action log item, to consider having a split-
season general deer hunt on units they deem appropriate.
Passed 5-2

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 South Main Street, Springville
March 28, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To accept the agenda as written
Passed unanimously

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes as written
Passed unanimously

Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017

MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented with the addition of 200 permits on the West Desert, Vernon – Private Lands Only Unit
In favor: George Garcia, Ron Camp, Kristofer Marble, Danny Potts, Ben Lowder, Matt Clark, Karl Hirst
Against: Alan White
Abstain: Larry Fitzgerald
Motion passed 8 to 1

2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented
Passed unanimously

2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

MOTION: To grant the Double R CWMU variance request
In favor: George Garcia, Ron Camp, Kristofer Marble, Danny Potts, Ben Lowder, Michael Gates, Matt Clark, Karl Hirst
Against:
Abstain: Larry Fitzgerald
Motion passed 9 to 1

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 South Main Street, Springville
March 28, 2017 ⌚ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ron Camp, Sportsmen
Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
George Garcia, Forest Service
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Michael Gates, BLM
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair
Ben Lowder, At Large
Kristofer Marble, At large
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive
Alan White, Agriculture

Members Absent

Greg McPhie, Elected
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive
Jacob Steele, Native American
Kenneth Strong, Sportsmen (Excused)

Others Present

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

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristopher Marble to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Ron Camp
Motion passed unanimously

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**
- **Richard Hansen, RAC Chair**
- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**
- **Jason Vernon, Central Region Regional Supervisor**

Wildlife

*Biologists are beginning to count sage grouse on leks.
Biologists have been visiting bear dens this spring.

Aquatics

* Northern Pike Egg Collection for Tiger Muskie Program: Regional biologists and numerous volunteers (including those from Mountain West Muskies) were at Yuba Reservoir March 13-16 collecting eggs for production purposes and some adults to replace Lee Kay brood. They captured over 150 pike and harvested over 3 million eggs that were crossed with Muskie and are now incubating in our hatchery system. We truly appreciate all the volunteers that helped make it a success.

* Community Fishing Habitat Improvement: There are several projects recently completed and/or scheduled in the next few weeks to add habitat to community ponds to enhance fish survivorship, recruitment, and reduce efficiency of avian predators. Willow Pond (March 11), Pole Canyon Pond (April 15), Sunset and Sandy pending.

* Yuba Treatment: Evaluating our options to chemically renovate Yuba (and Scofield) Reservoir using rotenone in the next couple of years. Northern pike have taken over the system, shut down recruitment/growth of yellow perch and walleye. We are also seeing very little pike recruitment and smaller size classes have poor relative weight (skinny, underfed). A scoping notice for an Environmental Assessment was recently sent to numerous organizations and advertised in several media outlets. We welcome public comment be it in favor or against the proposed actions. Future management will include yellow perch, walleye, sterile Tiger Muskie. Chris Crockett or Bill James with the Division can provide you a copy of the notice.

* AIS Transition, Splitting Interdiction and Biological duties: LE to lead Interdiction duties. Lot of work in progress to improve compliance at Utah Lake.

* Tibble Fork/American Fork Creek: Tibble Fork dam completion scheduled for May (fluid date, may change). UDWR and partners currently evaluating impacts/mitigation. We will not restock American Fork Creek until we are confident it is suitable for trout, but some fish have already moved into the impacted reach from unaffected sections.

* Upcoming Wasatch Fly Tying Expo April 7-8: Mike Slater presenting. Chris, Mike, Chante, Scott Root manning a booth. Mike Slater is very involved with this group/event.

* Walleye egg collection from Willard Bay: Richard Hartman and the Springville Hatchery Staff are overseeing a lot of this operation and the eggs are being held at Springville. The weather lately has slowed progress but they have around 8.5 million eggs collected already and will soon be testing the first batch for triploidy (sterility). The collection efforts will continue into mid-April with a goal of collecting around 29 million eggs. Aquatics CRO staff are also helping with this but it's a statewide effort.

Outreach

* Community fishery classes will be beginning soon. You can sign up your kids for the classes by contacting the cities where the ponds are located. The Division website has a list of the ponds and which city they are in. It is a great experience for youth to learn how to fish.

* Volunteers are needed to help instruct the youth at the community fisheries. This is something that Dedicated Hunters can take advantage of. It is a 2 hr/week commitment and there is a great need, especially here locally.

* There will be some fishing seminars coming up soon. Dates are still being worked out, but there will be a family fishing seminar as well as a bass fishing seminar. As soon as the dates are identified they will be posted on the website as well as through other social media.

* Another event where volunteers are needed is the special needs fishing day which is held at Salem Pond on Tuesday, May 9. This is a great event providing an opportunity to many youths that may not get the opportunity to go fishing. The event keeps growing and we anticipate anywhere between 1,200 to 1,500 youth attending. This is another great opportunity to get dedicated hunter hours as well.

Law Enforcement

*Shed antler collection has been closed state wide since February 3 and will be re-opened this Saturday April 1. Just as a reminder for those that want to get out and start collecting between April 1 and April 15, you must complete the state's antler gathering ethics course first. As of March 21, a total of 26 people had received citations for violating the closure. DWR conservation officers are also working on 35 cases, so additional citations might be coming.

4) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017 - **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Danny Potts - The Chalk Creek East Canyon being way over objective and yet there were no recommend increases and the same kind of thing on the back-east side of the Wasatch too. Could you explain this?

Justin - Yes, the Chalk Canyon East Canyon Morgan South Rich, it is a unit that is dominated by private lands for the most part and we have some WMA's there but they are more winter range so it's one of those situations where we probably need to get creative and figure out new avenues to do some deer permit studies. The state-wide deer plan talks about potentially adding a second rifle hunt and this is something that we are going to look at this summer. Units like this, the Nine-Mile, and the southeastern region, they have another unit there as well that are private land dominated. This makes sense when Utah was settled, it tended to settle with areas with water and cover. Danny – Don't get me wrong that's where I hunt so I don't need any more competition, but it seems like there is a real surplus of older bucks, which is impressive. Justin – Yes, these units have some challenges, for sure.

Kristofer Marble – I was looking at the Central Mountains Nebo Unit for limited entry elk, I noticed (you didn't present this) but the population trend is increasing year after year and yet we're cutting tags year after year and in 2014 there were 75 tags and this year we are recommending 52, but the age classification objective on that unit, the average age of harvest isn't going up it kind of looks like it is trending downward. Do you know what is going on with the elk on that unit and why that age is trending down? Justin – The Nebo is an interesting one. I'll give you an answer on the statewide level but if anyone wants to weigh in on the local level that's fine but it seems like in some of these areas when we get to a point where the age objective is lower than what we want, we reduce some cuts. It seems like on the Nebo we have taken an approach incremental cuts and have done it on some other units as well. I think it takes a long time when you do incremental cuts to get there. Look at Mt. Dutton and Panguitch Lake for instance; these are units that we made a year ago, with some big cuts. We went from 100 to 75 and

from 80-55. It's not like we just said let's cut the units by 8 permits and see what happens...I think on some of these units when you are trending down you should cut those numbers significantly to get out of it. The Nebo is one that we have consistently cut proportion. We didn't take a big swing at it is what I am trying to say. Is there anyone in the region that would like to add to this? Dennis Southerland – You have explained it well, small increments.

Kris Marble – What I am wondering that you have all the units around it that are lower age objectives and now we are expanding the seasons, we got the late hunt, that sort of thing that the bulls are moving around. It will be interesting to see if we can ever get to that age objective just maybe some unique things going on with the elk moving around that sort of thing. I wonder if we should look at that strategy down the road at the age objectives. Justin - One thing that goes along with this is we were looking at some data today and some of these are hard to explain. I think in some areas we have stock piled bulls for so long that we look at it and say now wait a minute, we have more permits on that unit with fewer elk and how are we harvesting an older age class bull and it's really hard because we're dealing with current snap shot time, we're talking about recommendations on our last decades that either stock piled bulls or allowed for more of those to be taken in the harvest so a lot of these units on the surface don't add up but it's because they have history and their population dynamics aren't equal even though there are the same number of elk on some of these units and we are harvesting more bulls on one and not the other . There is a lot more to it than what we are discussing here tonight.

Richard – Maybe 10-15 years ago, we were hitting that objective way over that objective and they doubled the permits and they are still climbing out of that now. Hopefully this is going to work, what you are doing.

Ron Camp – On the OIAL on Chalk Creek Moose, you cut it from 3 to 2. I am wondering what the science is behind that? I hunt up in that area so I am familiar and if I see 5 bulls on one property I am going to wonder how many bulls are on other properties or if I am in the honey hole. Justin – Generally on these moose ones we manage 4-6-year-old bulls so for the most part if we see that coming down in age and in some cases we are under it (3 1/2 year old). I'll have to go look at that data and meet up with you at break. Ron – That's fine, just curious because the last two years in a row I have seen what would have hit that class and have seen smaller bulls as well. Just wondering what we were looking at and the science behind that area because I know with the property being private the access is hard. Justin- Covy, can you pull an age on the Chalk Creek Unit?

Karl Hirst - Can you talk a little bit more on the Book Cliffs Bison? This is another big jump that we see in the slides presented. Justin – Yes, they are doing really well and we are recommending a cow hunt for the first time and the population was established in 2008, I think, and it's doing well and it's growing and it's a kind of exciting time to see those animals do so well and we can be this aggressive and not feel like we aren't going to slow the growth on them much and the Nine Mile Unit was added to the Wild Horse Bench Area because in some areas we have Bison swimming in the Green River and setting up refuge on the Nine-Mile Unit and so this is a way so we can allocate efforts to see where these Bison are at even though they are off the unit we created a mechanism to

harvest some of that. Bison are like elk and respond to hunting pressure and it would be good to get some of these Bison back over the river, but other than that, the unit is doing great!

George Garcia – Going back to that Central Mountains Nebo, how many more years is it going to take you guys to reach the age objective and if you don't get there, when would you consider in revising the age objective to a lower age? Justin – This one is hard because if you look at 2016 I thought we were heading into a pretty good direction. We are 5.6 to 6 and some at 5.3. There is a lot that goes into it and it depends on the units and who draws these tags. If you get a batch of people that draws these tags and they are happier to shoot a lower quality bull over people that hold out to shoot a higher quality bull ...you see some of the increase, Kris this goes back to your question as well with the fluctuation. George – With all those factors in consideration, how many more years are you going to work this until you get that or you know DWR with populations, if you don't get to the population objective then you have changed the population objective. Why would it be any different with age objective? Justin – Ouch, I guess we're going there tonight. I think it's one that we wouldn't change the age objective; that's set in the plan. The people that made the plan objective knew when they made the plan it was a lot of give and take. For me, I think it would be more of a conversation about having a bigger cut in permits to see some progress sooner. So, that is probably the approach we would take. Three years ago, we had 75 tags and currently it is 52. That is 1/3 permit cut in a 3-year period so it has been done incrementally, so in totality that has been a lot of permits that have been cut.

Covy -3.7 on the Moose

Justin – In all fairness, I am going to stick up for myself for a minute with the antlerless permit. We have made progress on a lot of these antlerless elk units and we will talk about this next but with the change in the objective, I think that's a fallacy on the objectives. We just don't change them because we can't get them there. It's a lot more complicated than that.

Ron Camp - I agree with you that on a different level of expectations from people that draw these permits and what they are willing to harvest and that can skew your numbers because some people are totally happy with a 300 bull, so if that happens it is obviously going to lower those numbers. Justin – With the elk and deer plan there were consensus on the three-year average. So, therefore we didn't have to over react or under react.

Ben Lowder- What is the population objective on the Book Cliffs Bison herd? Justin - 450, if I remember right. Ben – Is that the same on the Henry's? Justin – On the Henry's 325 Adults. Ben – So we have a bigger population objective on the Book Cliffs? Justin – Yes, and I think long term because of that as we approach the 450 to see a lot more permits to take care of that recruitment that was coming to set off with harvest. I think it's a great time for Bison hunters that are in the hunter pool because we are going to gain some momentum for Bison permits. Ben- Absolutely, this is very exciting. What is our current population on the books? Justin – That's a tough one because I can't remember the last time we flew it so I am going off memory I'd say 250, so we're

making some good progress and if it's different I will let you know. The current estimate of Bison on the Book Cliffs is 300.

Questions from Public

None

Comments from the Public

Randy Quayle/Utah Bowman's Association - To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Dave Woodhouse/SFW – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Darren West/Utah Mule Deer Foundation – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

RAC Discussion

None

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristopher Marble to accept the Division's recommendations as presented

Seconded by Matt Clark

Motion passed unanimously

5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017 - **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Ben Lowder - On the San Juan Units you had mentioned, there are two San Juan's and a San Juan North Elk Ridge. The recommendation is to deny or eliminate the two San Juan's and keep the San Juan North Elk Ridge. Justin - Yes, The North Elkridge is an important one to keep. We have been working with the Forest Service to do a bunch of habitat restoration projects there so that is an area that we want hunting pressure. We want to harvest elk or haze them out of that area. Ben- So the other two that were in the original recommendation is being eliminated now. Please tell me again why this is? Justin – Once we sent the RAC packet out we were still working on some things and this falls back on me; I should be better with my deadlines and we met with some of the sportsmen and landowners in San Juan County and we looked at it and there are 300 elk objectives there and we are going to fly it this next year there are some concerns that there are not a lot of cows on this unit. This is what the sportsmen are seeing along with the landowners and so we figured if we cut those 150 permits this year. We're going to fly it in a year and if we are wrong, we will throw a few more permits at it next year and if we're right and the elk aren't there it's probably better not to increase to that level of harvest. Ben - Sure, how often do you fly that unit and how successful are the flights on this unit? Justin – We try and fly every unit every three years. Some units are harder than others because if you don't get the snow conditions, we won't fly it. These flights

are a lot of money and to fly on patchy snow and get a questionable number doesn't do us or the public any favors. I think the last time we flew this was 2014.

Larry Fitzgerald –What is the objective for the elk in the Vernon? Justin - Elk objective on the Vernon is 0. Larry – Why couldn't we do the private landowner permits on the Vernon if the objective is 0 and we are using every tool we have to try and get the elk numbers? Justin - I see what you're saying, I don't know if we have a great argument for not having it. Tom, can you answer this?

Tom Becker – We didn't consider it mostly because it is a private program on the Wasatch. At the time when we started considering it; it wasn't set up for the Vernon. We don't have a lot of private land that are harboring elk. What we were trying to do is to get the elk off the private lands. The private landowners out there have been allowing access so we haven't seen a lot of elk harboring on private lands so we haven't needed to do that. I'm not opposed to it. This was a pilot program that works well now but didn't know when we started.

Larry - The elk population in the Vernon is growing quite rapidly. Tom – We did well with our controlled permits. We had 30 cows killed, 2nd highest. Larry – I have 30 + cows living behind my house right now. Tom – but this is the first year of our controlled permits. Larry – Well that's true but the objective is 0 so why wouldn't we try and take every means possible to keep it at 0 and make it an opportunity hunt for the public? I have a list of landowners that are more than willing to give written permission to the public to hunt their private lands. Tom – We have controlled permits to do that. Larry- The controlled permit is only for the season that they have a permit for. The private land tags would be a longer season but it would only be on the private lands. These elk are approaching the hayfields in the Vernon. They are on the Mitchell's (that's why they are here). We are also concerned of the transplanted out on the Stansbury's. The Vernon is worried about their deer population also. Tom – This is why we have put out the controlled permits. We have tried cow hunts and they weren't working. Larry- I will read the names in the comment period but you guys are not opposed to adding it to the private? Tom – We are not opposed to it at all but it was brought up late and it was discussed and I have never heard from any landowner that there were any harboring elk that they wanted removed. I know Frank has 20,000 acres... Larry – Frank has harboring elk and he was the first one on my list. Tom – Again, I have not heard from any landowners other than you. Larry – okay, hopefully we'll hear from some tonight.

George Garcia - Justin, is it too late to add some private landowner permits to the Vernon Unit for elk? Justin – No, that is what you're voting on tonight. Larry - We can make a recommendation. George - From the Forest Service stand point, we really see the Vernon as a mule deer unit, we don't see it as an elk unit. I hope the public doesn't misinterpret my stance on elk tonight but I have nothing against elk, but I don't see the Vernon Unit having elk. I think we need to manage the Vernon Unit for mule deer. Justin – If the RAC decides to go that route and add the Vernon to the private lands only permit, the next discussion would be how many permits we would want on that unit.

Justin – Tom, I don't know if you want to get with Riley and work on a number we could recommend. That would be the next step for the RAC members. Do you want it, yay or

nay, and how many permits should we issue? Larry – Start small, maybe a couple hundred. It's going to be low percentage but the people that are going to buy these tags will be aware of that. You guys are willing to give me vouchers but they are only good for my private land. But with this tag they could hunt my land, Vincent's, and others out in this area. It was said that the landowners will welcome public hunters to hunt on their land. That is quite an opportunity for the public. I have a list of twelve others that are willing to allow public hunters to hunt with written permission.

Riley Peck – Tom and I have talked about that and are agreeing with you and we are not opposed to adding and I don't think a couple hundred is not out of the question but I think part of our concern is we have an avenue as well to solve elk on private lands outside of private lands only tags and that is with our depredation and mitigation permits. That also allows us to use a buffer to extend that a little past your property and we can have liberal hunt dates. The reason why we were looking towards those mitigation permits is to solve that issue because our biggest fear, and it may not be yours, but we offer 200 private land only permits they sell and then they go to hunt on the private lands and then they don't see an elk. With a mitigation permit you can go buy it you have that possibility as well but we are not opposed to it and I don't think the 200 permits you mentioned is outlandish. I think that is right where we are at. It was talked about only since there were other avenues to address elk on private property. Larry – You say you have the tools and other avenues to decrease this herd on the Vernon but all it has done over the years has increased, this would be an opportunity to the public with no trespass fee, a longer hunting season so it would solve the problem. How much depredation do you see on the Vernon in the future? I think it will be very devastating.

Riley – Both Tom and I get up here and try to explain why it wasn't recommended in the past and both of us have said that we are not opposed to doing it or opposed to the numbers you have brought up. There is an area where the elk are limited and we're not talking about units like the Wasatch or the Manti but the Vernon where you don't see elk all over the place... Larry – It's going to be a very low percentage hunt. Riley – Right and there is that potential to address that need for depredation permits where that might not exist on other units. So, that is why that thought process hasn't been directly to add those hunts in but neither one of us are opposed of doing it.

Richard – Riley, is there a difference in tags whether it must be an antlerless animal?

Riley – Yes. Richard – So bulls are not included in this? Riley – No, but it's an open bull unit and you can hunt that in the appropriate bull season. Richard – Okay.

Matt – Justin, was the 2,795 private permits just for this region that were sold or is that state wide? Justin – That was state wide for the units that are white on the chart. We offered close to 12,000 permits and we had no idea how much interest this would occur on these units. We didn't want to run out of these permits. We figured it came October and we have a bunch of landowners that have issues, we want them to be able to get a permit so we shot high, so we are going to cut that back to reality.

George – I have the fortune of having an ex-DWR biologist on my staff for the last couple of months and for the next month here. We went over the Central Mountain Nebo numbers and just don't feel comfortable with the 250. I don't know what your success

rate is but estimating that at 50%; we just see recruitment out beating that number that population continuing to grow. That's one unit I fear the day when the population objective gets increased because we can't meet the current population objective of 1450. So, I'd really like to see an increase in the antlerless permits. Justin – We're going from 100 to 200 and you said 250? George – If you add in the private landowner ones that's 250. You look at a 50% success rate; you're only looking at taking 125 animals out of that whole unit. Your recruitment is going to exceed that. Justin - Yes, the 125 cows before mitigation and depredation and those types of things. Justin – Riley, do you want to address this at all?

Riley – George, that is another one that we have brought up and have had heart burn about because I think off the top of the page, you are exactly right. There are a few things that come up with that. We offer a lot of tags and a lot of opportunity with depredation on the Nebo and surrounding area. Our other worry that we had is we had a very good count this year due to the weather and we were fearful, I think fearful may be the wrong word, but we believe we might have been counting some animals that are typically not associated with only the Nebo and maybe have gotten a bit of migration from the Wasatch and the Manti so we didn't want to bombard the unit with an extra ordinary amount of cow tags and we think we might be taking on some animals elsewhere. So, Dennis and I have talked at length about this and since we are still getting to give out plenty of depredation permits, we have had the opportunity to address how we do next year, we thought of throwing a conservative increase out there this year would be appropriate.

George – Do you want to know the number that was given to me to just break even? 750 permits. Riley – Yes, right but again George this is if we're not only counting the Nebo elk. This year especially we had so much snow up high with elevations that surround them we could count so many more elk down low that we were counting areas that may not only be Nebo elk but like you said when you first look at the recommendation on the screen, I don't disagree with you. 250 permits don't tell the whole entire story because of the depredation that we give and if we are looking at that additional elk surrounding units, we will be able to tell and address that. We were admittedly so being conservative on the number that went out but, we were for those reasons.

Larry- Are the elk coming from the Nebo to the Vernon? Well they are coming through Nephi through Dog Valley, Vernon over to the Tintic and then they moved into Cherry Creek. Dennis – I don't think so. There is the I-15 that separates the two. They can't cross there. Larry – Well they used to cross there from Mona to Nephi. This was a big kill area.

Dennis - Richard, what do you think? Richard – No. They don't cross that I-15 corridor anymore. There may be a couple of places that they go under but they don't go across there anymore. You rarely see a deer cross over those over passes and under passes. Larry – Well they used to. Richard – Well they might have used to but since I-15 it doesn't happen. Larry – The elk that are coming into the Vernon are coming from the east heading west and I don't know how far the Nebo range goes. Richard – It's the mountain range that goes down to Gunnison. I don't think that they are causing the problem. There may be an occasional one that does something but I doubt it.

Tom – Some have come off the Oquirrns about 10 years ago, and they are crossing from the sand dune area.

Larry – You have elk in Cedar Valley now and I think this is the first time they have been spotted here in Cedar Valley. Tom – No, they have been wintering coming off the Oquirrns. Larry - No, I am talking about South Cedar Valley (Alan's Ranch). We've had elk coming off the Oquirrns for years but these elk come up from the sand dunes. They have been in the Dry Lake area as well as the Black Rock area and now they are in the Cedar Valley area.

Richard – I would like to say that it was a good move on the Nebo to be kind of cautious of bumping up the antlerless harvest permits not too quickly. We know that the elk have crossed Hwy 89 for years to winter. There is a mix that cross the road but there is not as many elk up there as there were 15 years ago. I also think with the private landowner tags it is going to make a difference too.

Ron Camp –Justin, the objective on the Vernon is 0? Justin, yes correct. Ron - I know Larry stated that the landowners will allow access on their land to do those. Last time I checked it took a cow and a bull to make another one so what are we doing with the bulls? Ron - If we really want a 0 objective, we really should be shooting both of them correct? Justin – Yes, anyone can go get a permit for a bull and hunt both private and public land. I think with the bulls we have avenues to get them harvested there. Ron- I understand where he is coming from and the problems he has with the cows and different things and what it's doing to his property and I get that, but I am saying is to really eliminate that you need to eliminate everything.

Larry – They won't let us have private lands bull tags and I am not anti-elk, which a lot of people think I am, but I am not and I really enjoy hunting elk. My concern is the hay farmers in the Vernon.

Ron – We all know once the elk find the alfalfa it's gone. We all know that, it's just going to happen. I guess if we are going to try and maintain that objective then I'm not opposed of trying to help them with their problems a little better than what we are doing here already.

Questions from the Public

Elizabeth Mitchell/From Benmore, Utah – We are a private farmer bedded into that forest service ground up there. I guess Tom forgot about two years ago, we let him know that there were elk coming on our place. We saw hoof prints and a couple different sightings as well. There was also a controlled fire by our place that wasn't very controlled and the crew reported that they saw 8 elk so Larry said call Tom and get some depredation tags to

get rid of those. When we saw the elk in the spring and reported them, they went somewhere else. By the time the elk season came there wasn't anything to show Tom. I guess just shoot them when you see them? Can you write a tag for that? Am I supposed to say anything else Larry? I 'm nervous and can't remember what to say. Maybe these private land tags won't work because they won't be able to find the elk so maybe sell the tags at a reduced rate so the hunters are not so irritated.

Comments from the Public

Randy Quayle/Utah Bowman's Association – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

RAC Discussion

Danny Potts– I think that one thing that comes out of these private property concerns is it is building relationships between the hunters and landowners.

Larry read names of the landowners for the Vernon proposal: Frank Vincent, Liz and Allen Mitchell, Scott Livingston, Dave Gowen, Don Gowen, Jim Gowen, Bob Gowen, Charlie Lawson, Pete Castagno, Theo Barry and Chance Lyman, Scott Pehrson, Greg Jasseperson, Larry Fitzgerald

VOTING

Motion was made by George Garcia to accept as presented with the addition of 200 permits on the West Desert, Vernon Private Lands Only Unit

Seconded by Danny Potts

In Favor: 8

Opposed: 1 Alan White

Abstain : 1 Larry Fitzgerald

Motion passed

- 6) **2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**
- **Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

None

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

None

RAC Discussion

None

VOTING

Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Kris Marble

Motion passed unanimously

7). 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Larry – He explained why the Fitzgerald and the Roney lands didn't connect anymore and it is because when they expanded Strawberry Reservoir to Soldier Creek Reservoir, the federal government came in and threatened with condemnation between the Fitzgerald property and the Roney Property. The federal government works as if you don't sell it they will take it anyway. Then the Nature Conservancy came in and asked Larry's Uncle Jack if he would donate ¼ mile from the river up to the property to give anglers access because landowners were getting upset that anglers were getting out of the stream beds and walking on their private property. We are not connected as of today, due to the angler access that my uncle donated, so this is why we are asking for this variance. It is not our fault that we don't connect now. Mr. Roney will go into further detail.

Ben Lowder – So you aren't connected because the federal government came in and took away the connecting pieces some time ago? Larry or Covy, are we talking deer CMU or elk CMU or both?

Covy – So, both pieces qualify independently for deer. This would be a variance to allow an elk CMU to apply for this variance next fall.

Ben Lowder – He's asking about the map and trying to decide where there is tribal ground. Covy- That is further west and yet there is some east also. Ben - What does public access look like into that public ground in between the two? Is it accessible?
Larry – I rode my horse into there as far as I dared with the water approaching my saddle on my horse and said it is not very accessible, hard terrain. Covy – It can be a pretty nasty canyon.

Ben- If we approve this as an elk CWMU what kind of total tags are we looking at and what kind of public access would come along with it or do we know yet? Covy – This is just a variance Ben, some of that would be based on the split that they elect but if I look at other CWMU's on the Wasatch it's based on the number that is allocated. So, the Wasatch allocated this percentage and then every acre is worth that so when we do our calculations, it seems like last time we did these calculations a little over 1000 acres qualify for 1200-1500 acres, somewhere in there, but we would have to recalculate based on this years permits.

Ron – If these are private properties already, it really doesn't make a difference on the public hunt except you're going to grant some public hunters depending on how the deal goes if you get your CWMU, which they don't have that opportunity now. What the reality of it is that you could hunt elk but to do that you need the variance and the

variance was taken away because of the gratitude of the relative to a certain degree. I just want to clarify that this doesn't have public access now so this would open a window for some public hunters to be able to hunt this.

Ben – Are both parcels substantial elk habitat? Covy – I have seen elk on both properties classifying elk at different times of the years. Fitzgerald property is one of those properties that a public hunter didn't have access to this unit this past year. We bugged hard to get them off. This property is a great rut property that has rolling aspens while the Roney property is more of a recovery property, deep canyons so yes, I have seen elk on both properties. Yes, it is elk habitat. Ben – That is what I needed to know, thank you.

Matt – Is there some precedence around this and have we granted a variance in similar situations in the past? Covy – The CWMU program has evolved over time and to answer that question directly is difficult. There was a time where CWMU were a limit of 5000 acres and it didn't work so we changed it. Matt – Why didn't it work? Covy – That is a too small of a scale to hunt elk on. Matt – So what does that mean, most satisfaction from public hunters? Covy – Yes, you start to push the elk off and you can get yourself into a problem. Obviously, all properties aren't created equally there was a variance granted last year from Missouri Flat to include the mountain property as part of their CWMU. However, Missouri Flat has been operating since the program initiated it that way. When it was purchased from a different landowner, he had the choice of either purchasing the entity and getting around the rule or he said No, I'm not going to do that, I'll purchase that and ask for a variance. This is a little bit different situation than this but this is a unique situation where at one time all private ground and now there is a strip of public. Matt – Is there opportunity to annex the public ground into the CWMU? Richard – Covy, don't we do that now in some CWMU units now. Covy – For connectivity - no, now, but in the past, has it happened, yes. There has been a rule change so that you could not annex public ground. I see what you're saying, you could ask for the variance for that, for the variance of public ground or for the variance of noncontiguous. Matt – What portion of the rule puts you in a position for the variance must be denied? Covy – I think it's just adhering to the rule that has been written. Matt – Which is the noncontiguous? Covy – It is noncontiguous. Matt- Okay.

Kris – Is this variance request specifically just for this CWMU? Covy – This variance request must come independently in front of an advisory committee and then through your RAC and then to the Wildlife Board. It is individual and it is one by one reviewed. Kris – Are there any other situations that could benefit from this if it does set precedence? Covy- There are other situations like this in the State of Utah, not exactly but there are other noncontiguous parcels. I think this has some uniqueness where this used to be all private ground.

Richard - If you approve the variance of the public portion of that in between these two properties, that still doesn't deny public access, right? Covy – If we approve the variance as requested that public ground does NOT become part of the CWMU at all. They could still hunt deer or elk in there. Kris – So did I hear you right...you were going to suggest some changes to the wildlife board next year to change this rule? Covy – No, the changes would be to a different rule and asking if there is another way to allocate permits

to private landowners on limited entry units and that is the limited entry landowner association rule. This works well on some units, the Vernon where it works well where you don't have a lot of private landowners and private land, it's more difficult to implement as it currently is written on units like the Wasatch because of some requirements written in the rule because you have a lot of private landowners.

Danny Potts- Larry, you're familiar with the ground directly south of Soldier Creek where it is being developed? Larry –Yes. Danny – Do you see any issues with this CWMU relative to this development? Larry – Ask Burke the question when he gets up there. Danny – Okay.

George - Just for Mike and my safety tonight when we leave the room, condemnation is a bad word. What federal agency did that? Was it the Bureau of Reclamation? Yes, it was the BOR.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

Burke Roney/ Double R CWMU - I am going to answer the question that was asked from Mr. Potts. The development that you see occurring is just next to the dam on the property down by the lake. There are 400 acres down by the lake that are being developed where the asphalt turns into dirt. If you go down there at any given weekend during the summer, you will see what I call squatters. I'm nice to them. They are there and want to be there just like everyone else does, so it's not a real hunting area right now. If anything, this CWMU provides motivation for us not to develop. If I have a successful CWMU, I would have done this 10 years ago, I wouldn't have developed at all. This will give an opportunity for my kids to maybe keep it and not have to develop it. I do have development plans down by the lake and obviously if we develop into it, we will lose the CWMU which I don't want to do. I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to apply for the CWMU and to thank Covy and understand and recognize that he must represent the integrity of the Division and his job on what he does and this is not comply. We would have complied had the BOR would not have taken the property. Some of you know John Childs, who I bought the property from back in the 90's, there are still plenty of feelings there from him on how this occurred. His own documents on the sale say that this was done under the threat of condemnation, so this is interesting that they had to sell. They were cooperative in their own way so we're just asking now that you all and the State cooperate with us. I'm grateful that there is a variance process. That means that there is a chance. In rare instances, there is a process for this and we think we are one of them. I don't think it sets any precedence for anyone else. I do think personally one size fits all policy of 10,000 acres isn't appropriate but it's there. Honestly, my unit and Larry's unit could be an independence successful CWMU unit. We see many grandfathered CWMU's that are under 10,000 acres and are successful and still are operating, and as Ag man and cattlemen, I run cattle to, it's all about AUM's - habitat. It isn't about acreage; it's about water, feed and places for refuge. So, it is very arbitrary to assign a number of 10,000 acres when it is so different. One place could have 20,000 acres and have the same feed on 7,000 acres, however, having said that we are trying to do everything we can to be as close to the rules we can and so by the

Fitzgerald and us throwing this together, we're over 12,000 acres. We're not applying independently; we're applying together as a variance. We just want you to consider that. I do think it does benefit the public. The biologists put on excellent tonight, we see it happen, not even the hunt, people up at Strawberry go hiking, horseback riding, ATV riding, looking for arrowheads and gold. I don't know what people do but they get up there and they create their own pressure and as soon as they start that pressure, they go onto private grounds. They find these old dark canyons and they hide on us. We don't benefit from it financially, yet we have folks ask us for trespass permits, or people that draw out want to come in and it's no fun charging people that have waited 16 years for a tag. It doesn't feel good, it never does. So, we really don't benefit especially if we are running cattle we think there's a competition. I have been running an elk CWMU with Paul for the past 10-11 years with him as the operator, and he is excellent by the way that is why I brought him. It really is interesting because you can see the balance between managing for animals and managing for livestock and you can make it work. Once you start financially benefit from it your perspective changes. It will be super fun to see the Fitzgerald's involved in this and it'll be great. Also, this will benefit the public great not only by the new unit, which they have never hunted on. He asks RAC members how many of them have been on this property. Very few people have been on it. The public will benefit on it greatly by us creating our own pressure and pushing those animals back out for the public to hunt them. Larry, can tell you them how old some of the animals are. How old are some of the elk that you have shot on your place Larry? Larry – With the tooth that they estimated from his wife's elk was 14 years old. I waited 17 years to draw an elk and my elk was 9 years old, my son's elk was 9 years old. All the elk were way over our age objective. What is our age objective? 5 1/2-6 years old. All of them have been 8+ years old. They're out of the hunting population. Burke – You just don't see elk that old very often on public ground. We let a guy trespass last year and Paul guided a guy in and he shot a 374 bull. I would have brought a picture but didn't want people to jump the fence after we showed it. We do have elk and this is an elk habitat area. I'm in a deer CWMU and really belong in an elk CWMU way more than deer. Anyways, I think it would benefit the public greatly by creating our own pressure and leveling the playing field for the public out there, new hunt areas. I think it is the right thing to do because it used to belong to both the owners. I think there will be support for it at the next level. We totally understand that Covy can't support it but that doesn't mean that you can't if your conscience says you can. We might be rejected at the next level but at least we did what we could for it. I think some of the new rule changes will be great but I don't want to wait 3-4 years for something to happen because it will make a difference whether we can keep it or we develop it and things like that. Thank you for your time and encourage you to approve it. Any questions for me?

Danny Potts –The map that you provided here doesn't show farther to the west to the tribal land where the other one does. Burke – See the map where it says SPRLC, I own that now, I bought it from them in 2012, they have another 500 acres to the west and then there's a 1000 acres of tribal land next to that. Danny – It wasn't on this map so I didn't know if you owned that or not. That was the ground that I had a question about that is great calving habitat. Burke- That is not being developed. There are two owners on that. Danny – Oh, I could hug you. Burke – Mine is very public; I used to hate that the public drove through part of my ranch and I have embraced it now because I can't do anything about it. I'm doing a RV park down there by the lake and things like that. Also, we're

surrounded on 3 ½ sides of Ashley and Uinta National Forest Service land. We really don't have any other choice.

Paul Phillips/Outfitter and Guide – This is a great and unique properties that the people don't get to see. This property covers the lower corridor of Willow Creek. It is a beautiful piece of property that people would enjoy to hunt. It has deep canyons and great habitat for elk. I work this property hard and I think as an operator it is very important to have a smaller unit like this that doesn't meet the requirements to work closely to those people that have tags on it and my commitment to the public would be great on this property to make sure we run it in a way their experience would be well received. I am asking for your support in this variance and I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Paul Davis/Retired Conservation Officer for the DWR – This was my area for about 15 years, so I am here on behalf of Burke and the Fitzgerald property. It is unique and it really is elk country. This isn't another CWMU that has 5000 acres and only sagebrush and nothing else. It has deep canyons. As a wildlife officer, I have never had any problems with these two owners. CWMU's and outfitters sometimes can be a pain in the neck but I haven't had any problems with these two owners. Burke recently told me that it would be a 10/2 split that they were looking for.

Richard – I think to help create an incentive to help keep these properties native and available for elk and not be developed is strong. I think there must be a financial incentive to help create that, otherwise I think the pressure to develop them and make money on them in that way is a lot more. I personally don't get to vote but I would be in favor of bringing those two properties into a CWMU.

Ron – I think that these variances should be voted on an individual basis and based on the facts of that variance so that we don't get this offered every time.

RAC Discussion

None

VOTING

Motion was made by Matt Clark to grant the Double R CWMU Advisory Committee variance request

Seconded by Alan White

In Favor: 9

Against:

Abstain 1- Larry Fitzgerald

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm

In attendance 35 public

Next Board meeting: Thursday, April 27 @ 9 am at the DNR Boardroom, SLC

**Next RAC meeting: Tuesday, May 2 @ 6:30 pm, Springville Civic Center,
110 South Main Street, Springville**

Northern Regional Advisory Council
March 29, 2017
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:03 p.m.

RAC Present

John Blazzard- Agric
John Cavitt- Chair
Paul Chase- Forest Service
Matt Klar- At Large
Mike Laughter- Sportsman
Russ Lawrence- At Large
Kevin McLeod- At Large
Justin Oliver- At Large
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman
John Wall- At Large

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Justin Dolling
Covy Jones
Jim Christensen
Scott Walker
Justin Shannon
Dave Rich
Chad Wilson
Randy Wood
Kent Hersey
Devin Christensen
David Beveridge

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman

RAC Excused

Chad Jensen- Elected
Matt Preston- BLM

Agenda:

Approval of Agenda
Approval of December 7, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017
Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017
2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

-John Cavitt, Chair

Agenda is approved.

Item 2. Approval of December 7, 2016 Minutes

-John Cavitt, Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

- John Cavitt, Chair & Bryce Thurgood, Vice Chair

John Cavitt- Elk management plan passed as presented. Bucks, bulls and OIAL season dates approved as presented. Amendment made to that motion to include an archery only mountain goat hunt on the north slope, south slope of the high Uintah's. Archery only bison hunt on the Henry Mountain unit. The motion was then amended again a second time. The excluded the OIAL 7 day archery only that was proposed. Those items were passed. Motion for preference point system presented to us was accepted as presented. Northeastern regional deer management plan was passed as presented by the Division. CWMU management plans and permit numbers for 2017, motion accepted was that the divisions proposal include that the operator of the Deer Creek CWMU report to the advisory committee in a year to review all those improvements. They will be taken back up by the Wildlife Board. Landowner association permit numbers for 2017 were also passed as presented by the Division.

Bryce Thurgood- On the January 3rd Wildlife Board meeting, waterfowl and black bear. Waterfowl recommendations passed unanimously 5-0 as presented. Black bear had a few changes. There was a motion to move 2 permits from the spring to summer on the Bonanza Diamond unit which passed. Recommendation that the bear committee look at the Bookcliff seasons. Also, look at bonus preference points on the pursuit season. Motion that bear permit numbers be rounded down and not up on the drawing permits to 10%. That passed 4-1. The balance of the presentation passed 5-0 as presented. Private pond rule amendment did not have much discussion and passed 5-0. AIS rule amendment for aquatic invasive species passed 5-0. Dedicated hunter rule amendment passed 5-0.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Justin Dolling Regional Supervisor

Law Enforcement- Shed antler gathering closure on April 1st. Working the walleye spawn at Willard. Interviewing for west Box Elder district.

Outreach- Participated in statewide recruitment, retention and reactivation, R3 effort workshop. Holding meetings with community fisheries. Localized flooding at Hardware Ranch.

Wildlife- Sage Grouse and Sharptail Grouse counts. Spring deer and pronghorn classifications. Spring range assessment. Habitat projects.

Emergency deer feeding effort. Over 100 feeding stations.

Great Salt Lake Ecosystem and Waterfowl Management Areas. Install camera to view pelicans at Gunnison Island.

Habitat- Presenting proposals for watershed initiative projects. WMA's will open on April 8th. Spring range assessments.

Aquatic- Spawning walleye at Willard Bay. Streams running high so stream fishing is out of the question. Rockport, East Canyon and Lost Creek are all fishing quite well. Trying to reconnect small tributaries to the Weber river through small ladders for Bonneville cutthroat.

RAC Questions

Russ Lawrence- Do you have an approximate cost of what it takes to feed deer in Northern Utah this past winter?

Justin Shannon- \$60,000 for the deer feeding effort.

Item 5. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017

- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator & Regional Wildlife Manager

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Mike Laughter- What are the increments on the reduction of tags on the Box Elder, Cache and Ogden? Percentage of archery, muzzleloader and rifle?

Justin Shannon- If we have 100 tags, 60 go to rifle, 20 to archery and 20 to muzzleloader. If we decrease 500 permits on the Cache, it would be 300 rifle permits, 100 archery and 100 muzzleloader.

Kristin Purdy- Looks like the status of elk herd size population dropped minimally. The number of antlerless elk permits dropped by 3,700 which is a big number? What is the reason for that?

Justin Shannon- It is not that we are just cutting these permits. We are shifting how we obtain antlerless harvest. I will try to explain that better in my next presentation.

Justin Oliver- Total number of deer tags in Utah from 2016 to 2017, what was the difference again?

Justin Shannon- 1,600.

Justin Oliver- How many people applied and did not get a deer tag?

Justin Shannon- Steve, you are raising your hand.

Steve Sorensen- I was unsuccessful.

Justin Shannon- I think we had about 137,000 people apply for general season permits and I might be wrong on that. Every year, we tend to increase on that. Our demand gets higher and higher every year. This year, we had about an 8% increase of people who applied for big game permits. I can look that up for you. Can Covy find out?

Covy Jones- All big game or just for deer?

Matt Klar- Surprisingly few comments from public this time around. Permit allocation for the limited entry, particularly in the Henry Mountains 60/20 split. This particular individuals case, there are only 6 or 7 people that have maximum bonus points. Rifle hunters are getting permits every year. Vying for archery and muzzleloader tag allocated. Is there a bonus tag system. Is that 60/20 split set in statutes somewhere?

Justin Shannon- No, it is in the management plan. In this case, this is a little different. This is more how we do the bonus point draw. Generally, we give 90% of permits to residents and 10% to non-residents. A lot of our hunts have 10 permits. The Henry Mountains have 9 or 10 archery permits. With that, we have one that goes to non-residents. As you do that, that permit is available to everybody in that applicant pool not the person with the most points. How do we get it to where they can use their max points for that. There is not a simple solution for it.

Matt Klar- Thank you.

Justin Shannon- I'm not trying to be insensitive to that. You just can't add tags to these systems.

RAC Comment

Bryce Thurgood- I think the biggest thing on why we don't see any comments is because these guys overall are doing such a great job.

Motion

Motion- Mike Laughter-Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Bucks, Bulls, and Once In A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Second- John Wall

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Covy Jones- Looks like we have around 460,000 big game applications.

Justin Shannon- How does that compare to last year?

Covy Jones- It is up about 8%.

Item 6. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017

- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator & Regional Wildlife Manager

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Russ Lawrence- Fawn survival. Habitat projects on the South and Box Elder winter range. Is there differences in fawn survival where those projects have taken place?

Justin Shannon- Kent, do you want to talk about what we are doing to answer that question?

Kent Hersey- That is a hard question to answer. We are not set up to look at differences in fawn survival. With a switch to GPS collars, we are looking at the amount of time doe use these habitat. We can assess in December and March, how fat these animals are. We are able to see what kind of condition they are and how that relates to how that year is with habitat.

Russ Lawrence- Right.

Kent Hersey- Body condition is related to next year's fawn survival of that doe. We do not have enough data to relate that back to any matrix.

Justin Shannon- He is going to do a big project for us looking at deer and if they use these habitat areas vs. those who don't. Looking at body condition scores and tie that to survival for doe, not fawns. We will have better results in a couple of years.

Russ Lawrence- I bet the bulk of the public have no idea what research is going on with deer right now. The Division needs to be commended.

Kristin Purdy- Antlerless permits for elk. From that peak in 2013 when there were nearly 18,000 permits offered. You said this is specifically a management technique to increase hunter success rate. Is there a corresponding chart that shows the increase in hunter success rate from 2013 to 2017 when we started dropping those public permits?

Justin Shannon- Not a great chart. This year, I think we are only adding 6 new elk hunts and every year, we turn off elk hunts. Out of all the big game management strategies we have, elk unit boundaries and antlerless elk hunts are some of the most fluid. We have had times where we have shut off 20 hunts at a time and added 15 or so new hunts. It is really hard to compare. We had hunts on the Wasatch unit, where hunter success rate was 6%. There were a ton of hunters that came back and said we sold them a camping trip. There were no elk. Now, our hunter success rates are closer to 50%. That is not in a graph but what we are getting at.

Bryce Thurgood- Did you guys get a bunch of money this year from the legislature for GPS collars and stuff like that to study these more in depth?

Justin Shannon- I have not heard from the legislature.

Bryce Thurgood- I heard from a source that was the case.

Justin Shannon- We are dedicating a bunch of federal funds to that. We are going to work with our sportsman groups to fund a portion of that as well. We are going to start a wildlife migration initiative. Is this what you are getting at?

Bryce Thurgood- Yes.

Justin Shannon- We have goals to radio collar more elk and deer populations as well as other species. It will be the foundation for a better management system.

Justin Oliver- Public land cow tags. Now that we have had one year, you mentioned that the biggest reason was to try and help get some of the cow elk on private land off. Was there 9,000 tags?

Justin Shannon- Yes, we are recommending 9,000.

Justin Oliver- Last year?

Justin Shannon- We recommended 12,000 last year but only sold 2,800.

Justin Oliver- Does that 9,830 include those private land?

Justin Shannon- No, private land only permits are separate from the public draw. It was so new, a lot of people did not know what it was. I'm guessing it will be more popular this year. Internally, we hope this works and has an effect. I have a slide that deals with shifting distribution of animals from public to private. We had 75% of elk on public land. As soon as these hunts start, the elk find refuge and a lot of time it is on private lands. In one year, we have shifted the distribution of elk by 13%. We are going to have to add more public hunts down the road. Those elk will not feel comfortable on private lands and they will have higher success rates on public lands.

Justin Oliver- If they buy a private lands tag, it is good for any ground?

Justin Shannon- As long as it is in the boundary, it does not matter if it is a 5 acre parcel as long as it is legal to shoot a firearm.

Public Comment

Jerry Woodland- The length of the season and stress put on elk, I don't know if it fits into the subject of the meeting tonight. I hear a lot of comments about stress and antler gathering in the spring. We have a late season cow hunt that starts in August in the Cache, Richmond and Hyde Park. That hunt ends the end of January. In my observation of the elk in that unit and the stress, they are likely to encounter deep snow and hunters hunting into the end of January. It just seems a little much to me. Sometimes the hunter behavior is a little bit suspect. When these animals get on private lands and cross highways, it is amazing what happens. I would like you to consider shortening the length of that. Possibly end that at the end of December instead. Stress on elk in January seems a little bit much to me on a hunt that began in August.

John Cavitt- What month do we set those dates?

Justin Shannon- If it is a buck, bull or OIAL it is November. He is referring to an antlerless season date. In the RAC packet, it will have the permit number which you are approving tonight as well as season dates. If you want to discuss season dates, that is on the table.

RAC Comment

Mike Laughter- Is the reason for that hunt going to January 31st just for access to elk? So, your harvest goes up because people can get to them.

Justin Shannon- There are so many antlerless elk hunts and I am less familiar with them than the biologists that recommended it.

Mike Laughter- I am speaking specifically to those that go to January 31st.

Justin Shannon- At the 30,000 foot view, often times we will have hunts that go into January because elk will get into trouble. They will be coming down to private lands.

Mike Laughter- It keeps pressure on them?

Justin Shannon- In this example, I will probably let the region tackle that.

Jim Christensen- Those season dates go later so we can get adequate harvest for the overall population. If we close it earlier, it is harder to get the harvest we need to maintain the population where we need it.

Mike Laughter- Do you have any information that would indicate what that harvest is, say the last 15 days of that hunt. Is that where it is all happening, the last 2 weeks. Is there enough of a harvest that late to warrant going to January 31st?

Jim Christensen- I don't have any of that data.

Mike Laughter- If it was a small percentage, I can see where he is coming from.

Justin Oliver- He mentioned the close of the shed hunt and I would say that allowing people to hunt elk on a hillside at the same time, we are not allowing shed hunters, it would be counterproductive to what we are trying to do. I know we are talking elk but how is it affecting other animals like deer. I'm assuming there are deer in the same foothills at that time.

Bryce Thurgood- How hard would it be to get some data so next year we can see where the cow elk are? They don't really report harvest days do they? Date of harvest to track that?

Justin Shannon- It gets more challenging. We will ask how many days they hunted but I would have to go back and look.

Bryce Thurgood- Is that too much of a stretch to add that in? I think that is pretty valuable information. If we could sacrifice that last 15-20 days, it would benefit the deer and elk.

Kent Hersey- We can talk to Heather and see what we can work into the survey. From an elk perspective, we are not really concerned. There is 94% elk survival across the state regardless of pressure. They do very well in Utah and we don't see variances in survival there. It is not going to be consistent from year to year. It depends on what January is like as to what harvest is going to be.

Bryce Thurgood- It would be nice to see what the success was up until end of December. So we historically we can see harvest between August and December.

Kent Hersey- A lot of antlerless is done online and we can look into adding a question regarding date of kill or something like that. We will have to check into that.

Justin Shannon- Never had this question before tonight. With all the hunts we have, it is more general.

Bryce Thurgood- Maybe ask what month was the harvest. It gives you a targeted month.

Justin Shannon- We can go back and talk to our biometrician who oversees harvest.

John Blizzard- As we talk about these late hunts for the elk in the areas above Kamas, we have millions of acres of summer range but very limited winter range. A lot of the elk hunters are going through the middle of the deer going up to the elk which are higher on the mountain. By hunting them clear into the end of January are stressing the deer. As we talk about that, I would like to bring up the point that I think it would be a wise move to make, on the part of the division, to not allow shed hunting at all until the first of April every year to keep those animals calmed down and less stressed. Elk are tough and we keep raising the objectives.

Craig VanTassell- In my travels and observation, I think we need more elk on public land. We need less elk in a lot of our private lands. Commend Shannon and his group for their work and using some of the tools in the management plan to make that happen. Hopefully, we can get that balance that we want.

Public Comment

Steve Sorensen- Shed hunting. Thank the division for putting a season on it this year. If we are feeding deer, it should be an automatic closure for that county.

RAC Comment

Bryce Thurgood- I think that is definitely something we need to look at on the Deer Committee level. Look at season dates and lengths. Also, look at shed hunting and its effects.

Motion

Motion-Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Second- John Blazzard

Discussion on the Motion

Amendment made and accepted by Bryce Thurgood who made original motion.

Motion- Mike Laughter- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented and ask the Division to explore changes to antlerless elk season dates.

Second- John Blazzard

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 7. 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

- Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Motion

Motion- Justin Oliver- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

Second- Matt Klar

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 8. 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

- Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Russ Lawrence- This still wouldn't prohibit them from allowing access, you are selling access, right?

Covy Jones- There is nothing in state code that prevents a landowner from selling trespass. The difference would be you prohibit who your clients are.

Public Comment

John Cavitt- Email regarding Variance Request of Double R Ranch CWMU/Fitzgerald Property sent to Wildlife Board Member Byron Bateman from Roney Burke.

RAC Comment

Craig VanTassell- Basically, you are saying you cannot do it because of rule?

Covy Jones- No, we can't recommend it or support it because of rule.

Justin Oliver- I am sympathetic to the position they are in but I would say no. We are going down a slippery slope to start to do this. I like that you are sticking to your rules and you need to continue to do that.

Russ Lawrence- Are any of those collared elk in that private property?

Covy Jones- I'm sure there are. This is an area where we have collared a lot of elk. These properties hold a lot of elk.

Bryce Thurgood- Private land cow elk tag. I agree with sticking with the rule unless you come up with a new rule by next year.

Matt Klar- How often have variances like this happened in the past?

Covy Jones- That is a good question. There are always variances. The rule has not always been the same, does that make sense?

Matt Klar- Yes.

Covy Jones- We have CWMU's that look differently today because they have been in the program since initiation and they would not even qualify now. The rule has been modified over time to create a better hunting experience for the public and make things that work. Variances have not been the same throughout the program.

Craig VanTassell- When a variance is approved, how long is it for?

Covy Jones- We would not view it that way. We would view it as they have a variance to apply as a CWMU. In the fall, they would be clear to submit an application. We would review the application and make sure it fit, allocate permits and move forward. We would not view it as the variance only being good for 3 year COR period.

Kevin McCleod- I agree with the concept. Where do you set the limit? If there is going to be a rule change, I think it has to be well thought out. Is this the slippery slope and do we continue to make these rule changes?

Matt Klar- The only heartburn I am having about this is just the fact that the state took the land in the first place. The state claimed imminent domain to take the land and now it is telling them they can't do this because the state owns the land in between.

Covy Jones- This was part of the CUP project. This was the feds that came in. It is accurate.

Justin Oliver- I would feel more sympathetic if it was the same owner and they came and split his property. Right or wrong, I think that is something to consider.

John Blazzard- My understanding, is this took place 30 years ago.

Covy Jones- That is correct.

John Blazzard- It's not like they just barely did that. I'm sure they have been selling hunting permits on their property if they want income or manage the animals. They are not limited to do that. There are a lot of landowners will less acreage that would like to have a variance too but we have a lot of CWMU's in Northern Utah right now. I think we need to stay by rule.

Motion

Motion- Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board deny the variance.

Second-Kevin McLeod

Motion Passes-Unanimous

John Cavitt- Comment Card regarding turkey boundaries. We will consider that agenda item at the May 3rd meeting. You can also email RAC board and have that information for consideration.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting Ends-7:42 p.m.

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver High School, Beaver, UT
April 04, 2017 5:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. BUCKS, BULLS, AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017

MOTION: To accept recommendations except no cuts on the Mt Dutton and Panguitch Lake units for LE elk.

VOTE: 4 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion failed.

MOTION: To accept as presented but include potential changes to allow non-resident bonus tags every other year.

VOTE: 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries

ACTION LOG REQUESTS:

MOTION: Investigate ways to address overcrowding on the So Units such a Split the Rifle Hunt; and consider adding a 3rd tier to the general season management strategy that is between 20 and 25 B:D

VOTE: 9 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion passed.

MOTION: Investigate making changes to the Paunsaugunt

- Make velvet bucks legal on the management hunt on Paunsaugunt
- Add a velvet only hunt on the Paunsaugunt
- Have the rifle hunt on the Paunsaugunt to end Oct 31 every year

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Breakout the draw odds for kids that qualify for the 20% of the tags

VOTE: Unanimous

3. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017

MOTION: To accept the BLM's proposal to expand the boundary without increasing the number of tags.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion fails

MOTION: Beaver unit; make the first antlerless elk hunt to be on the north end of the unit, the second hunt unit wide, and the third hunt on the north end of the unit. Additionally, add an additional 80 permits to the north end hunts (40 each).

VOTE: Passed unanimously

MOTION: To add the Plateau, Monroe, and Southwest Desert, to the Private Lands only hunts and allow allocation of those tags to be at the discretion of the DWR.

VOTE: Passed unanimously

MOTION: To accept remainder of the recommendations as presented.

Mack Morrell amended the motion to add 200 permits to Panguitch Lake and 150 to SW Desert, Craig seconded.

VOTE: 3 in favor, 7 opposed. Amendment fails.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

RAC agreed to revisit pronghorn permit recommendations on the Plateau.

MOTION: To pass the divisions recommendation with the amendment to increase the antelope tags by 300 permits to the Plateau and split the additional tags between the first and second hunts, no additional tags on the third hunt.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion passed.

4. 2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous, 1 abstained.

5. 2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS VARIANCE REQUESTS

MOTION: To accept the CWMU Advisory Councils recommendation and approve the variance request.

VOTE: 9 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carried.

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT
August 2, 2016 7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dave Black Rusty Aiken William Boardman Mick Jorgensen Sean Kelly Craig Laub Mack Morrell Brayden Richmond Michael Worthen Brian Johnson Layne Torgerson Wade Heaton Harry Barber	Phil Tuttle Natalie Brewster Cody Evans Justin Shannon Covy Jones Kevin Bunnell Teresa Griffin Jason Nicholes David Smedley Josh Pollock Vance Mumford Jim Lamb Mike Wardle Kyle Christensen Kent Hersey Curtis Roundy Clint Mecham Brian Shear Curtis Shumway Brandon White	Donny Hunter Steve Dalton	Dale Bagley

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. There were approximately 17 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Craig Laub made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:
- Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell:

**Regional Update:
-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Dave. If you remember at the last RAC meeting we had was in November and the board meeting, no December, and the board meeting was the first part of in January. We had black bear recommendations, water fowl recommendations, some private fish, pond rule amendments. The aquatic invasive species rules amendment. The dedicated hunter rule amendment. And then some regional specific stuff that didn't involve the Southern Region. Everything went through the board pretty well the way it came out of our RAC. The one thing I couldn't remember or find information on is we had made a motion to add five permits to the North Manti on a recommendation from the Farm Bureau and I can't remember how the board dealt with that. John, do you remember if the board accepted that recommendation? That was added and accepted by the Wildlife Board. I think everything else was pretty well voted on unanimously by the RAC and sailed through the Board meeting pretty smoothly as well. Do you want me to continue with the Regional Update? A couple things, let me introduce a couple new staff members. Kyle Christenson, Kyle would you stand up. He's our new landowner specialist that will kind of cover the North end of the Region and Cody Evans, Cody is not new but he's new to this role. He will be, he's helping at our front desk and will be helping with the RAC Meetings into the future. As far as updates, you've probably heard the news that the 10th Circuit Court out of Denver reversed the ruling out of the Utah District Court on Utah Prairie Dogs. That happened a week ago tomorrow. We're still not a hundred percent sure what that means so we are in the process of getting some clarification from the, not only from the court but also through the Fish and Wildlife Service, but we're working hard on that and we know we have at least 45 days before any authority transfers over. We're hoping its longer than that but we know we have at least that amount of time and we're working to figure out how to make a smooth transition in there even though it's a disappointing result. Out of the Wildlife Section in addition to prairie dogs, we will be trapping sage grouse on the Parker Mountain this next week to move to the Sheep Rock Mountains which is the Vernon Unit. From our Habitat Section, right now is time they've got all their proposals in and are waiting to hear on funding but something I wanted to share. Since the inception of the water shed initiative which was about 10 or 12 years ago, in the Southern Region, we've treated 53% of all the acres in the State that have been, that have had habitat treatments done on them, that's happened in the Southern Region and we've done that with 34% of the funding so by far in terms of dollars per acre, we lead the pack on that. And also just in terms of volume. So that's something we're pretty proud of is paying off in terms of wildlife. Out of the Outreach Section, we have our dedicated hunter program is building again. There is no longer a cap of 10,000 on it it's now capped by percentage at each, on each general season unit so there is the possibility that it will go over 10,000 and we're quickly building back towards that to make sure we can accommodate that. The Outreach Section starting the first part of May, our Regional Outreach Section will have projects, we will have weekly projects for dedicated hunters that they can just go online, learn more about and sign up to come, so we'll just have a running set of weekly projects for dedicated hunters to work on. Out of our Aquatic Section, Richard wanted me to mention that the ice is off most of the mid and low elevation lakes and its quickly coming off some of the higher elevation lakes. I actually heard Rusty talking about was it today that you were out fishing at Panguitch Lake and did well?

Rusty Aiken: It was starting to warm up a little.

Kevin Bunnell: Starting to warm up a little bit. And we have started our gill net survey, we were out here at Minersville last week and fish populations are doing well there. Lots of trout in the 17 to 22 inch range and maybe even more excitingly, a lot of wipers, up to 8 lbs in Minersville and a lot of them in the 4 to 6 range which is a heck of a nice fish. So, I hope people go and take advantage of that. And then one other note, our pond that's out on our property out in Indian Peaks, we haven't stocked it with fish for the last 6 years because we haven't had enough water, t hats changed and we will be putting water, or the water is there, we will be putting fish in that pond and hopefully people will go take advantage of it. It's a place, particularly the folks out of Delta, Gene, I think have taken advantage of that in the past and so help spread the word that that will be available as a place to go fishing again starting this Spring. And unless there is any questions, that's all I've got.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you Kevin. I just wanted to add too, yesterday in St. George we had a great event, we had a Special Needs fishing event that was sponsored by the Southern Utah Anglers, DWR was there to help us, Sportsman from fish and wildlife provided a lot of hats for us. But we had over 350 special needs kids that showed up with their aids and a lot of volunteers, dedicated hunters, and it was a great event. The weather wasn't the best but we had, I think we fed maybe 600 hot dogs to all the kids and they all went home with hats and a few fish and it was awesome and we are going to continue to do this each year and we appreciate all the help and the Dedicated Hunter program really worked and without that program we couldn't provide these type of events and so we appreciate the dedicated hunters to come help us.

Kevin Bunnell: I apologize Dave, you can see, I had that written down right here, but I skipped over it and meant to come back to you and forgot.

Dave Black: That's good.

Kevin Bunnell: Just one other note, I may slip out early tonight if I get a chance, I have a son that's playing a ball game down in St. George so if you see me slip out the side door, Phil Tuttle will come and take my place up here for the rest of the evening but we'll just kind of see how it goes.

Dave Black: So normally right now I would explain the procedures as we go through but maybe as the seats fill in a bit more we'll revisit this but remember if you want to comment you need to fill out a comment cards and we do prior to that there will be a time for questions. This is not the time for your comments but if you do have a question, there will be some time allowed for that and then there will be time allowed for your comments and depending on the attendance we may cut that to 3 minutes per individual and 5 minutes per group. If the attendance stays the way it is now we probably won't have a limit on the time for comments. We do have 2 microphones, the microphone on your right is for the DWR, the one in the middle will be for the audience to come up for either questions or comments and when you do come up remember to state your name, that way we can get that on the record as well. So, let's start with our first presentation. This will be from Justin Shannon and it's the Bucks, Bulls, Once in a Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2017.

BUCKS, BULLS, AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017

Justin Shannon

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any questions from the RAC? Layne?

Layne Torgerson: I just got one question, on those 10 archery permits on the Henrys, I know that when last fall I kind of went back through my notes and was looking at these, and when I went through this RAC, it was brought up and I made a note of it, we were talking about 4 or 5 permits, and then it came up 10, I was just wondering where that number came from? Was it recommendation from somebody or?

Justin: Yeah so in November we try really hard not to talk too heavily about permits and the reason is because the RACS and the boards are setting hunt boundaries and season dates and then it's this round of RACS that we present permits and so if I told you that we were only going to have 5 permits, I was wrong and I shouldn't have done that. Because this is really when we take that information through.

Layne Torgerson: Yeah I don't think it was you, I think it was something that came up, it was just a note that I made that night at the RAC meeting that as we were talking about this process, of these archery once in a life time archery permits you know that we were going to, I think kind of keep it conservative this first year and I just, I've had a couple phone calls and emails asking where that number came from, how we came up with 10.

Justin Shannon: Yeah where it came from, I can tell you that. In talking with the biologists on the Henry's, his approach was, we got into a big debate through the RAC and Board process about are we adding permits or are we gonna take permits from rifle hunters. And it's really hard to answer that when you only throw 3 or 4 permits at it and so with 10, if we do this a couple, 2 to 3 years in a row we can really get a feel for what that success rate is gonna be, because if your success rate is 50%, compared to 90% for a hunters choice rifle permit, and you issue 10 permits, you are adding 4 more hunter opportunities and so we kind of wanted a high enough sample size to be able to answer this question in a couple of years and so that was the logic behind the why.

Dave Black: Okay, Gene?

Gene Boardman: On all these recommendations, on elk, is age objective the only criteria?

Justin Shannon: Yeah so, your question is when we set permit numbers are we only looking at the age objective, is that what you are asking?

Gene Boardman: Right.

Justin Shannon: Yeah for this presentation, yes. For bull permits, we look at the age objective, where we are in relation to that, and then we take trend into account as well. So, if we're seeing major declines, or steady declines we try to get out ahead of that with permit decreases. Or if we see major increases in the age objectives, we feel we can throw a few more permits at them. So yeah, its age and trend.

Gene Boardman: Ok another question. Is Utah the only state that manages elk by age objective?

Justin Shannon: You know what I would have to look into that. I know some states manage bull to cow ratio, Ken do you know of any other state that, Gene I can look into that but I don't know that off the top of my head.

Gene Boardman: You put out a questionnaire to hunters after a season, usually it asks about hunter satisfaction, is that not right?

Justin Shannon: Yeah it is, we get that information as well.

Gene Boardman: It's never factored into anything, is that correct?

Justin Shannon: So, our management plans aren't written that we would manage off hunter satisfaction, it's something we look at, the biologists look at it all the time. And its information that we use and we consider, but it doesn't drive the permit recommendations one way or the other, Gene. But it does help, I mean it's, it really, looking at hunter satisfaction, if we were gonna do an increase, and it was through the roof, then we could probably be a little bit more liberal with permits, but if your age objective is increasing and your hunter satisfaction is above average or just average, you maybe not increase as many permits, if that makes sense.

Gene Boardman: Okay, Brayden?

Brayden: Just a question for you on, question on Monroe that I've been asked and I said I would ask to you but it might be better for the local biologists, on the Monroe, we're increasing permits there and the trends are showing an increase in age, so that's following the plan, the concern I'm hearing on the Monroe is they're worried we've killed out the lower age bulls, due to the spike hunts. Is it possible that you as you kill the lower age class and so all that's left is the upper age class that you get an artificial high age kill and because you are missing that middle age class do we have anything that we are looking at there, any concerns with that?

Justin Shannon: Well it is a hard question to answer Brayden because the one thing you don't know is how many older bulls are stock piled on these units. And you know at the Monroe, we cut the spike hunt on that. How many years ago did we do that, was it 2013, 2014?

Vance Mumford: (in background) This will be the 3rd year.

Justin Shannon: This will be the 3rd year, so, that is the only unit in the state that we've really done that to address, so how many, how many mature bulls are stock piled on these units, is really tough to tell because you can tell a mature bull from the helicopter survey, but you can't say oh yeah it's a 9 year old or it's a 7 year old, you just know it's a 7 year old bull, so it's tough to answer Brayden, unless Vance, you have anything to add, but.

Dave Black: Anybody else? How about the audience, do we have any questions from the audience? Just remember to state your name when you come up, thank you.

Questions from the Public:

Dave Brinkerhoff: Dave Brinkerhoff, Henry Mountain grazers. My question is on the elk permit, on the Henrys and I know we don't, I'm just wondering if we are continuing to issue, with the deer tags, an elk permit, is that still going on this year?

Justin Shannon: Yes, are you talking about the antlerless (inaudible) control permits?

Dave Brinkerhoff: Yeah.

Justin Shannon: Where if you have like a bull tag or a buck tag you can kill a cow? Yeah, that is happening and that will be part of my next presentation.

Dave Brinkerhoff: What about a bull tag on them?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, it's still an any bull unit. So, if you want to kill a bull on the Henry's you can just go buy a tag over the counter.

Dave Brinkerhoff: Okay, thank you.

Unknown person in background: (Inaudible, off mic)

Dave Black: We're talking about the bulls, we haven't started the antlerless, so if you can some questions on the bull tags, you can come up.

Verland King: Verland King Wayne County grazers, you brushed over the antelope real quick, I'm wondering how, from what I understand you haven't counted them yet, how do you know how many to hunt if you don't know how many is out there?

Justin Shannon: The reason I brushed over the prong horn quickly is because I couldn't read it, I got my glasses now so we can spend some more time on it. So, these are just the buck permits and so the antlerless permits will be part of the next presentation on how many we issue for that but generally on pronghorn we take a look at classification data from the fall and in some cases flight data when we have the chance to survey it before these RAC meetings or last year's flight data and what we try to do is manage for 15 to 40 bucks, or I'm sorry, 25 to 40 bucks per 100 does. And so, we issue those buck permits in accordance with that.

Verland King: Is there any more of those sheets around?

Justin Shannon: These packets? Yeah, there is one up on the table, I will grab you one.

Dave Black: Okay Gibb.

Comment Card:

Gibb Yardley: I am Gibb Yardley from Beaver. I think that the DWR should assign one person to announce these meetings in every paper in Utah. Nobody knows about these meetings, you can see the size of the crowd you got. I've talked to people after people. I had a hard time finding it out. our cattleman's magazine, they had a little piece there, that says uh, April 4th, SR, April 5th, NR, and so on,

nobody knows what that is, they don't know them initials, peoples got to know the times and the dates of these meetings and what they're about, and every newspaper.

Kevin Bunnell: Gibb, Gibb, we do send out a statewide news thing but newspapers choose to not pick it up if we send it but we do send it out to every newspaper in the state.

Gibb Yardley: You do?

Kevin Bunnell: We do.

Gibb Yardley: Well that's good I appreciate it but they're not picking it up I guess that's their fault then because the farm bureau didn't have one thing in it, the cattlemen's, you couldn't figure out what it was, there was no dates or places and uh, so we've got to get that out to people so we know. Now, I, my family has run cattle on the Dixie National Forest, my granddad got a permit in 1908, I mean, yeah 1908, we've been running cattle there ever since. Now in our family we have 5 families that depend on this. This is our business and I want to have it so my grandkids can keep running there. I'm very desirous of that. We like to see some elk but we like to protect the range resource and we take care of our range and if we don't have the feed we don't put the cattle up there And, we are getting so many elk up there, last spring, it was the worst I've ever seen it on the (inaudible) allotment up in Tommy Creek and that country, we got up there about the 20th of July, that one pasture was just as bare as that floor right there. The elk had got there early and they had taken the whole thing and it made us really short of feed. We have got to cut these elk numbers down some. In the cattle business, if we kept every heifer calf, we couldn't feed them, we'd soon be out of business cause they'd be starving half to death. That's gonna be the same thing with these elk. We've got to take off a lot more increase. And it's, I run on the Southwest Desert as well as the Panguitch Lake Unit. I notice there is a lot of bulls in both those units, And I want to talk about the antlerless permit and I want some time for that but on the Panguitch Lake Unit I noticed they only got 12 this year and they had 14 last year. I think we ought to take 30 out there and on the Southwest Desert at least 50 head of bulls, there is bulls all over out there we see them all the time. The board recommended 29 and we recommend they take at least 50 so I, I want to say, should I keep talking about antlerless now or come back?

Dave Black: Let's have you come back.

Gibb: Okay, thank you very much.

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions from the audience? Okay, we'll go to the comment section, do we have comments on this one? Okay, we have one comment card, that's from Bryce Pilling with the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife.

Bryce Pilling: Bryce Pilling Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We support all the recommendations as presented from the Division. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay we have one other from Mike Twitchell with the Utah Bowmen's Association.

Mike Twitchell: I appreciate it. My name is Mike Twitchell representing the Utah Bowmen's Association. We'd just like to show our support and appreciation for all that the RAC process does and we appreciate the recommendation which has been given by the Division and we support that

completely, thank you.

Dave Black: Okay and then for the minutes if you could add Gibb's comments in to the comment section, we appreciate that.

Kevin Bunnell: Could I have one of the officers give Gibb a comment card so he can get that on the record as well. Brian? And Gibb we'll just call that your, that was more of a comment than a question I assume so we'll record that as a comment.

Dave Black: Okay, any comments from the RAC? Do we have any additional comments? Okay, hold on just a minute. We've got some more coming up. So, Tammy Pearson. Is this on the bulls?

Tammie Pearson: It's a little bit of everything. If I talk once I'll sit down and shut up. Tammy Pearson, Beaver County. I've got a couple of different comments and one thing that I'm, most of you guys know me, I'm a County Commissioner here but more importantly I run a ranch and I am a permit owner and I've got to stick up for the permittees and the livestock community. My biggest concern are the increase in animal numbers. Kevin and I have this conversation all the time. With the elk and that, I, my biggest concern is the increase in numbers and yet at the same time, you know where is the habitat, I realize you know there is a lot of habitat, new habitat going in, restoration and that, but we still have suspended AUMS's with the livestock community and no matter what we do, whether it's the fire reseeds, all those different things, nothing ever gets reinstated as far as the BLM permits or as far as I know forest service permits not only as a permittee but also as a county commissioner, we've been working, Mike Worthen, you know, these resource management plans, and that, trying to reinstate you know these livestock people have been here for a long time, a long time, they are the ones who are out there keeping the water works running, whether it's the springs whether it's the ponds, whether it's the pipelines and that and they put a lot of time and effort, that's what stimulates our community, our county, our economic, also keeps our families here and viable, that's you know that's what we live on. So that's my, my biggest concern is these you know these numbers and I do appreciate you guys are trying to manage them with permits, our other concern also, Kevin and this is one thing we didn't talk about in commission meeting the other day when you were talking about the introduction of big horn sheep, so I'll just say it now and then you won't have to come back, our concern was you know, was the sheep if there was sheep around, but with that Milford Platt fire, that was a huge re-seed, lots of money went back into that, it's a beautiful re-seed and yet the BLM has still not reinstated any of the old, the original AUM's and we've been asking for years, that fire was actually ten years ago in 2007, my, my ask I guess is of the RAC board and that, that you guys use your influence with BLM, Forest Service, whatever else, to ask that we reinstate, we reinstate these kind of things, work hand in hand with the permittees, because I'm all about multiple use, I don't care if you are a miner, you are a timber guy, you are a hunter, fisherman, the permittees, you know public lands was set aside as multiple use and you know, the other side of the fence was picking us off one at a time. They basically killed the timber industry, you know they are working on the cattle, and the, and the sheep and that, you guys know very well that they are working on hunting and that kind of stuff nationwide so I think we all need to have each other's back and we need to fight that battle together and so, that's my comment.

Dave Black: Thank you Tammie.

Kevin: Thanks Tammie. Cody her comments are probably more appropriate for the antlerless section.

Unknown person: I just want to ask her a question. What allotments are you (inaudible) AUM's on?

Tammie Pearson: Everybody in our county.

Unknown: On the desert or on the mountain:

Tammie Pearson: Both. Yeah both. My personally is Frisco, which is in Beaver County and then we have our Minersville # 5 East and West in Iron County and that's some of the big fires so, but there's I mean there's several of these guys, I know, I know state wide it's an issue, it's not just our area.

Dave Black: We do appreciate your comments and the fact that you are here tonight thank you very much. One more comment card, where did it go, Jeremy Chamberlain, Friends of the Paunsaugunt.

Jeremy Chamberlain: Thank you for allowing me to speak. Sorry I was late. So, I'm Jeremy Chamberlain representing the Friends of the Paunsaugunt Committee. And we would like to support the recommendations that the Division have given for the Paunsaugunt elk. We've been working on this for several years. We're making some headway finally. I don't know if you will notice that we, we do have hopefully this will make the ranchers a little bit happier too, we do have a substantial number of permits given for the elk on the Paunsaugunt and this goes into the antlerless thing but we are making some headway on killing some of the antlerless elk there too but, Josh Pollock is our biologist and he's been working with us. The Friends of the Paunsaugunt is a group that has a lot of, several landowners, sportsmen, on that committee and we talk regularly with Josh Pollock from the Division and we appreciate the information he gives us and hopefully he appreciates the information we give him but we do support the Divisions recommendation for the elk on the Paunsaugunt. We also support the Divisions recommendations on the bucks on the Pauns. I grew, I live there and grew up there and I'd actually like to challenge even some of the older guys that know that unit well also that we, we're kind of living the glory days on the Pauns right now, buck to doe ratios are high, overall age class of bucks are up, harvested bucks are up, the number of overall deer is up, so again appreciate all the work the Division and Josh does with that. So, with that, we recommend the Divisions recommendations on the bucks on the Paunsaugunt. Thank you. Actually, I need, I do have a comment, I am just going to put this in your year for the RAC. One thing that we are having issues with on the Paunsaugunt, is a velvet, a velvet buck, a lot of people call them cactus bucks or stag bucks. Josh may want to make a comment or two on this, he knows a lot more about it than I do but we actually started a study on the Paunsaugunt. We have somewhere in the neighborhood of 150 to 200 head of stag bucks on the Pauns. Now we figure we have about 5800 head of deer we got a buck to doe ratio of somewhere around 50. 50 bucks per 100 deer. So, if we got 6000 deer, we got 3000 bucks there close by. We got 200 stag bucks that nobody wants to shoot, that don't do anybody any good, nobody with 18 points or 20 points is gonna shoot em. They are animals that are eating the range and they don't produce, they don't help the does reproduce. We started the study, the Division started a study where we are actually trying to figure out how come we have so many of those types of animals on the Pauns, So just kind of throwing this out there, hopefully you guys will, I know it's not an action item tonight, you can start thinking about it and talking about it, we'd like to include, we have a management hunt that is in late October, early November and we'd like to include and you guys can work this out, you are better at it than I am, but include somewhere in the language where we can shoot the velveted bucks that are still in the velvet that late. And then really we'd love to, we'd love to have a velvet only hunt later than our management hunt that we have now to get rid of some of those, they're not doing the range any good, they're not doing the herd any good, we don't count them, none of those deer are counted in the buck to doe ratio or the overall number of animals in the

herd so they are just kind of there not doing anybody any good and it would give an opportunity, make it a limited entry hunt, give us the opportunity to get rid of some of the people that are in the limited entry pool and help out with the problems we are having there. Thank you.

Dave: K, that is all the comment cards, comments from the RAC before we, well I'll summarize before we make a motion but is there any comments?

RAC discussion and vote

Harry Barber: I just wanted to make a comment to Ms. Pearson. I'll take that back to the Cedar office. I manage the Kanab field office and we regularly go out with permittees and look at numbers within those restoration sites, look at AUM's in those sites and on a few occasions, just over the last couple years we have gone back to those suspended AUM's and restored some of those based on some mutual agreements, not between just us and the permittee, but other agencies as well. So, if you'd like I'll take that back. I don't know who you work with there but I can take this back to the managers there.

Tammie: (background).

Dave: Thank you Harry. Any comments down this way? I'll go down to Gene.

Gene: I got real problems with the cuts on Mount Dutton and Panguitch Lake bull elk. One of the big ones is that in 2015, the expo and conservation tags amounted to 8, there was 100 tags on Dutton and 80 on Panguitch Lake, then you cut those by 25 and 30%, but the conservation tags and the expo tags stayed the same. And now you are cutting again and the conservation tags and the expo tags are still the same. It amounts to, now we've got about 17% of Panguitch Lake tags are going that way. And 15% of Mount Dutton are going that way. So, the only people that are taking these big cuts are the common folk that are relying on the draw and watching their points creep up and up and up and up but there is tags available if you want to pay to play. And it's the same amount of tags that it was from the beginning so, that's one good reason that we shouldn't have any cuts on the Panguitch Lake or the Mount Dutton. We're getting too far abroad on what's fair for the common hunters. And it seems to me that the policy for the fish and game and the board is that we cut aggressively when we cut and we restore extremely cautiously when they are restored. Its gonna take forever for us to get back to the amount of tags that were available on Mount Dutton and Panguitch Lake. I think that hunter satisfaction is fine on those units, and I think there is a lot of bulls that are going to get old without ever going much over 300 points. The obvious reason for age objective is to get bigger and bigger bulls. Not older and older bulls. And we have so many hunters that are waiting and finally draw that tag, they get out there, and there is bulls out there rutting, big bull off in the brush with the cows and some 6 point bulls that are satellite bulls and they're not gonna bust that whole hunt to try to get to that big bull they're gonna try and take the first damn 6 point that they see or the first 5 point that they see or gonna get a chance at. Some of us just are sophisticated enough to really work good with your age management plan. The other thing is we shoot a grundle of spikes we shoot a grundle of cows, somewhere along the line there is gonna be some gaps in the age. And we also have now I understand that you manage cows one way and you manage bulls another way, but for us common folk when we look at it and its 14 to 1 cow tags to bull tags or 18 to 1 cow tags to bull tags, it don't make much sense to us. Especially as our point creep grows and grows and grows. So, I think that we need to, I'd like to see the whole bunch of permits restored this year but if we could just keep from cutting permits this year it would be somewhat of a victory for the average hunter. Thanks.

Dave: Thank you Gene. Mack?

Mack: Seems to me like that Panguitch Lake, Dutton and Cache South ought to be on a limited entry, ought to be dropped down to another age limit cause that's what they've been for the last 3 years, dropped down to 5 ½ and 6 where they fit. And then give the same permits out.

Kevin: Now if you remember those Mack those, we decreased the age objective on the Monroe and increased the age objective on the Panguitch Lake and the Dutton last year, that's why those ages haven't come up yet because they haven't had a chance yet, but we changed those objectives as part of the elk plan last year.

Mack: Then why are we decreasing the permits when they don't make, meet the age objective then?

Kevin: Because that is how,

Mack: You are in a transition period though?

Kevin: Right because that's how you increased the age is you decrease the number of tags, that increases the age of the bulls that is killed. That's how you do that.

Mack: How long does it take to come up to the age objective?

Kevin: We will keep adjusting till we get there.

Brian Johnson: I guess this might be more of a question than a comment but my understanding of the expo tag and conservation tags is they were based on percentages of the available tags so I was wanting clarification before we started.

Kevin: Yeah those are, they adjust but they adjust with a time lag. Because they are issued on a 3 year, 3-year contract so if we make changes during that 3-year contract we don't adjust till the end of it so that will happen, I don't know where we are at in the conservation permit cycle, with the permits Justin, I think we have about another year and a half. So, Gene you are absolutely right, right now those are out of whack because the conservation permits were issued and then the management plan changed and we cut then number of tags, but then when, at the next round they will see cuts in the conservation permits as well. And it happens the same way, so if we increase, so on the Monroe, we've been increasing the number of tags and conservation permits haven't changed there either where they would actually qualify for more now and so it goes both ways

Brian: So, it's 6 in one hand and half a dozen the other?

Kevin: Well, if we're if we are increasing the same number that we are decreasing it works out that way. But anyway, there is a time lag in the system.

Brian: Which we have to have just due to the nature of what we're doing with these conservation tags. There is really, we can't do it yearly because it's, I mean the 3-year program seems to be working really good, right, with the conservation stuff?

Kevin: That is the system that has developed over several years, I mean there is probably other ways to do it but that is the system we have.

Brian: Okay.

Dave: Any additional comments? Brayden?

Brayden: How many on the, specifically to the Henrys Mountains and this came from an email I got, non-resident, archery and muzzleloaders tags are on the Henrys? I believe there is 1 archery and 1 muzzleloader?

Justin: Yeah so for the archery hunt, there is only 1 non-resident, for the muzzleloader there is only 1 non-resident and for yeah, so those 2 each have 1. There is 10 permits total. And because we have a 90/10 split on our resident/nonresident.

Brayden: So, the concern I have there and the thing I'd like the RAC to look at is my understanding is it's been 1 non-resident for both of those hunts for a long time for 10 plus years, which means with the 50% split of the random draw versus the preference draw, non-residents will never be guaranteed that tag even if they have max points. So, what I'd like to see is us look at adjusting that maybe do 2 non-resident archery one year and then the opposite year do 2 non-resident muzzleloader. Or some mixture where we would get 2 tags in a year so that one of those tags would go to the high point holder.

Kevin: (background)

Brayden: Yeah 0 and 2 or the other option would be is you could do even years the tag goes to a point holder, odd years the tag goes to random draw. But some, some method where these non-residents that have been putting in for the primo deer unit in the world, eventually could cash in their 23 points.

Dave: We have had that same discussion on Utah residents on CWMU's where a CWMU only has 1 point or 1 tag then they never go that person with the max points. We have kicked around the idea of alternating maybe 2 one year and not any the next year and stuff like that.

Brayden: And on the CWMU's we've had instances where we've requested that change and we've got it where we have put another tag in there every other year and so I think the same solution, it's a very logical solution.

Dave: Appreciate that comment.

Brian: To Brayden I will say that I think that Utah has the best point system in the West as far as limited, limited, of limited animals to hunt with people that want to do it but there is no reason why we can't tweak, I know it's more work for the Division sometimes or its ore work for us to bring it through this process, but that's what this process is for, I agree with you 100% that we ought to be tweaking this a little bit to make it a little bit better as we go forward. I mean that's, just because we've always done it one way doesn't mean we can't tweak it because I think it's a great idea.

Dave: K, I will go ahead and summarize if there is not anymore comments. Comments from the audience, we had support from the SFW, support from the Utah Bowmen's Association, support from

Friends of the Paunsaugunt, Tammie was here with her concerns and we do appreciate those, okay, and they support us as well, and Gibb was here and his concern for the number of bull tags and thinks that there should be an increase in the number of bull tags on both the Southwest Desert and the Panguitch Lake units, RAC comments, Gene's comments, there is too many conservation and expo tags on Panguitch Lake and the Dutton, and those tags haven't decreased while the draw tags have, and Gene also commented the tags are restored too slowly after cuts, and don't he encouraged us to not cut any tags from Panguitch Lake and Dutton. Brayden's comments which we just heard, find ways to have 2 tags on archery and muzzleloader deer units on the Henry's so we can take advantage of the point system. And so those are the comments, we will entertain a motion.

Gene Boardman made the motion to accept the recommend motion of no cuts on the Panguitch Lake and Mt. Dutton on bull elk. Craig Laub seconds.

Discussion

Dave Black: Do we have any discussion on the motion? Brayden?

Brayden: Gene I like you but I'm gonna have to disagree. We changed the plan last year, we voted that we wanted to change the age objectives last year. We're in the first year of adjusting the permits to reach our new age objectives. How can we ask the Division to manage to an age and then come back and say don't manage to an age? Its illogical.

Gene: Last year we voted that to reduce the cuts that they recommended by 15 bulls on each of those units and it wasn't carried very well to the Board, and the board rejected it, but that's what it came out of this room to the RAC. Was that we didn't have that much of a cut and now we've, we took that much of a cut, we're taking another cut, this age objective is causing a lot of trouble with point and opportunity to hunt. It just isn't, its cutting into the chances to hunt and things are going just on and on and on and people aren't getting the opportunity to hunt. The elk are there, hunt satisfaction is there but the age objective is, it's hurting all over the state, its, we're missing opportunity, yeah, we've got the biggest bulls in the county, but we're doing it at a price.

Brayden: To be clear Gene I don't disagree with what you just said but the Big Game Board asked the division to make these changes and then they did and they are trying to manage them, that's the part that I disagree with, the recommendation, I don't know how one year in we can come back and disagree with that, that's where I have the issue. As far as your other comment s that there is maybe more opportunity, I don't have a disagreement with that. We may be able to look for other things but on this recommendation I don't know how we can have the Big Game Board pass something and a year later go back.

Dave Black: Okay, Wade?

Wade Heaton: I, I mean I agree with the sentiment that Gene's talking about but Brayden is right. I disagree with some of the other recommendations, some of the other increases on general season deer permits and things, but, we're managing to the plan. The Division is doing a great job of managing to the plan. It's pretty elementary math and while I don't like it, if the plan calls for an increase, we basically, I mean there needs to be an increase. What we need to do, if we really feel like we are dropping the ball on the management plan, is let's go in and change the buck to doe ratio, let's go in and

change an age objective, then the Division will recommend the proper increase or decrease or what we think is proper. So, I agree but the way things are right now I'm having a hard time not going with what the Division has recommended.

Dave Black: I agree with you also Wade. We don't have an opportunity right now to change the age objective or the buck to doe ratio but we'll have that opportunity again and that's when we need to really stand up and fight for those things we want to change and believe and I felt we were pretty successful last time in accomplishing those goals. And so, we do have a plan, we can, we can vote, the way you see fit but we would be voting against the plan at this time. So, we need to have,

Gene: We are not here just to rubber stamp the doggone thing. We asked for 5 extra bear tags, last meeting, we were all in agreement with that, I don't see what the problem is with asking for a few extra bull tags.

Brian: You know,

Dave: Let's take a vote. I think we've had a discussion. So, we have a motion on the table and a second, there has not been any amendments to the motion, and so the motion states that we accept the DWR's plan as presented with the exception that we make no cuts of limited entry bull elk on Mount Dutton and the Panguitch Lake units. So, all those in favor of the motion please raise your hand.

Vote

4 for and 7 opposed. Motion fails

Brian Johnson made Motion to accept as presented but include potential changes to allow non-resident bonus tags every other year. Layne Torgerson seconds motion.

Braydon Amends motion

Discussion

Vote

11 for 1 against motion carries

Request to add items to action log:

Wade: So, the items I wanted to talk about is coming back to the general season deer permit increases. We've had some great weather, we've had some favorable conditions and the deer are doing great on the Southern end of the state. We had a lengthy robust discussion about Zion and Pine Valley last year and the problem hasn't gone away, if anything its intensified. And the problem was that you've got a couple units down here on the Southern end that just naturally want to be a pretty high buck to doe ratio. They are good producing units, they are doing great and we are above objective because of that and Mother Nature and lots of other things. So, we keep increasing permits because of the plan. Well, we may be, we will accomplish our buck to doe ratio but while are doing it we are affecting another problem. Which is our hunter crowding which we talked about so much last year. So, I'm happy that the unit is doing well, the majority of the people that talk to me really want to entertain 2 ideas for some of our general

season units. #1 is that we split the rifle hunt to address these hunter crowding issues. The Zion rifle and the Panguitch Lake rifle this year were, the only thing they missed was someone selling cotton candy. Cause it was everything else had that carnival feel to it, they were kind of crazy. They were great hunts but it was just so crowded. So, that's one. Action item #1 is if we could consider splitting the rifle hunt. #2 is let's consider adding a third tier to our buck to doe ratio on our general season units. Right now we're 15, 17, 18, 20, we've got a gap between general season and limited entry, between 21 and 24, I don't know that we need to go that big or that high but I think it's something we need to consider on these units that love to be productive. So that's the second action item. And then let me jump, sorry I know this list is getting long, jump to what the Friends of the Paunsaugunt brought up, we've had some meetings with the Division, we've got a very specific unique problem over there and so I don't want to spend a lot of time on it but that cactus buck thing is a real issue, it's being addressed, we're doing a study, Josh Pollock is really moving forward and doing some creative things there, we're addressing the problem, and it's going great but we've got a bunch of animals that are just mouths on the mountain, that aren't benefiting the herd or anyone, they are not being counted in the buck to doe ratio, they are not being counted in the total population, they don't need to be there in essence and so the way we want to address that is number 1, Friends of the Paunsaugunt brought up, action item #3 would be to include velvet as a qualification for the management hunt on the Paunsaugunt and then action item #4 would be in addition to that, create a separate hunt, a velvet only hunt sometime the first couple weeks of November that anything in the velvet can be shot. Another limited entry hunt and basically it could, it's not going to affect buck to doe ratios because it's not counted but it would help us get some of those mouths off the mountain and help decrease those numbers and help with that problem.

Dave: Okay so the way I understand this is basically you have a motion that we ask the board to put this on the action log list of these three items that you talked about, the split, oh four, a split rifle hunt, add a third tier general season management, make velvet bucks legal on the management hunt on the Paunsaugunt, and then add a specific velvet buck hunt on the Paunsaugunt as well. So, we need a second. Okay we have a second from Rusty.

Craig Laub: I was just wondering if I could ask a question. When is the deer management plans up for review again?

Justin Shannon: So, it was approved November, or December of 2014 so it will be December of 2019.

Craig: Okay, that happened before I was on. Well I want to address other thing while we're talking about deer and management then, I was doing a little figuring on this to get to our objective we need 79,000 more deer is that basically right?

Justin Shannon: Are you talking about population?

Craig Laub: Population, yes.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, we're well below our population objectives, yeah.

Craig Laub: I don't think between the deer and the car collisions and raising that population on the backs of the private property owners we can sustain another 23% I think it is, increase, I don't think we can do it. By the time you get all those deer are gonna end up in town, getting hit or on private property so I think we need t, that is something that needs to be addressed, I don't know when it's supposed to be

reviewed but I don't think we can, I think we are pretty well maxed out the number of deer we can sustain on, on our winter range and private property so I think it's something, if it's not up to review, for a while I think it's something to consider.

Brian: Craig, that, when they wrote the plan, it specifically says they don't want to grow deer on the backs of private property owners, that's why they're specifically doing the range habitat and doing the other stuff and trying to push deer into areas where they are not riding on the backs of. The Division will tell you left and right that they don't want to put deer on the backs of private property owners. I think that's part of the plan, isn't it?

Justin: It is and just to clarify Craig, the Statewide plan doesn't set a population objective. Population objectives are determined in the unit plans, and so the Statewide objective can increase or decrease at the whims of the unit plans. And the unit plans are something that come through every November, every Spring and they have through this RAC for the last several years. Remember the Northeast Region in November came through, objectives were discussed, and the Northern Region will be next and that will be either this November or next Spring, and so as those plans come through, that's really where the populations objectives are set and you have input on that annually throughout the State.

Dave: Okay thank you Justin. Let's get back to the motion that we have on the table. And that's to add these 4 action items to the log for the board. Do we have discussion on those?

Brian: Just a little bit. Wade wouldn't you agree the muzzleloader hunt is already a split rifle season? I mean it's just a single shot. I'm just teasing.

Dave: I guess I just want to make a comment. I agree that we have some overcrowding issues and especially on the Panguitch Lake unit. If you consider a split hunt, let me just throw some things out some things on the other side of the coin to think about. In Panguitch and many of the local schools, they still get Monday off for the deer hunt. It's a holiday. That holiday goes away if you have the split hunt. They still have the Harvest Ball the night before the deer hunt. That goes away if you split. Many of the families go out and hunt. There will be 50 in the camp with only one tag because it's the deer hunt, it's a holiday, it's what we always do. You do a split hunt, that goes away. You are changing a lifestyle, it might be a great management tool, and I'm all for trying to manage the overcrowding issue because its real, but there is a lifestyle side of that coin that is also real in the small communities. In St. George we don't get Monday off, but in Panguitch they do. And that's the people you are affecting.

Wade: Can I comment, I agree 100 percent. So maybe as we start down this road let's consider ways to keep some of that, whether it be our start dates, however we figure that out, maybe let's consider ways to keep it while still addressing some crowding issues and working on some of that. Can I, sorry, I totally didn't read all of my notes. Can I, can I make a suggestion? Can we vote on adding to the action list? The general season stuff and then have the Paunsaugunt thing a separate vote? And then can I add a third thing to the Paunsaugunt? Sorry.

Unknown: You got to change the motion if you got a motion that has 4 things on it.

Dave Black: Lets amend the motion. Okay let's split it. So, the motion that is on the table now is no longer on the table.

Wade: Well the motion would be changed by agreement that we are just voting on the general season ideas. #1 split the season and #2 look at a third tier.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on that? Okay we do. Let's vote on that so we can move on.

Vote

2 against and 9 for, motion passed

Dave Black: Okay let's go with your second motion.

Wade: Okay, second motion would be that we,

Unknown: Okay so the first motion was to investigate ways to address overcrowding on the Pine Valley and Zion, there were 2 ideas there?

Dave Black: Panguitch.

Wade: Just Southern Units but we specifically identified those two but,

Unknown: And the 2 ideas there were to split the rifle hunt and, is idea #1 we want to investigate and #2 would be to add a third tier to the general season, (inaudible) a third tier of buck to doe ratios, okay and that is the motion we just voted on and what was the vote?

Brian: 9 to 2.

Unknown: It passed 9 to 2? Does your motion match mine Cody? Are we in line here? Okay, now the second motion is to investigate making changes to the Paunsaugunt and the first is to make velvet bucks legal on the management hunt, add a velvet hunt, and what is your third idea?

Wade: Third idea that came up in the Friends of the Paunsaugunt Meeting, we discussed this a little bit with the Division already is, the Paunsaugunt is unique in its migration, that rifle hunt is very dependent on that migration and timing in the year and all that sort of thing, and the hunt dates as they creep forward in the calendar really effects that hunt. And so, the thought was because of that and because its probably more unique to that area that most others could we set the hunt dates on the rifle hunt so that it ends the 31st of October every year. So, we would have to count back the right amount of days so it basically starts the same day every year too regardless of which day except Sunday.

Unknown: So, this motion is to investigate making changes to the Paunsaugunt, velvet bucks legal in the management hunt, add a velvet hunt that is only for the Paunsaugunt and then to keep the rifle hunt on the Paunsaugunt so that it ends October 31st every year? Okay so, we now need a motion and comments on this.

Dave Black: Do we have a second? Rusty. Okay, now we'll take comments.

Unknown: On the velvet you are saying now make velvet deer legal to shoot, aren't they already legal so isn't that kind of redundant on where we are?

Unknown: They're not in the management hunt, if they have more than 3 forks on one side they are not legal management bucks.

Unknown: So, you are saying legalize every velvet?

Unknown: Every velvet buck would be legal on the management hunt.

Dave: Let's vote.

Vote

Motion to request to add items to action log

12 in favor motion carries

Brian: I have one more of those. As a guy that has got a couple of kids, it's really hard to know what the odds are for the youth stuff. I'm just wondering if we can, if you guys would support me in making a motion to have the Division break out the youth general season tags so we know what the odds are on the youth, on the general season tags for the youth because so many go to youth, so many go, they just don't break it out that way. It would help out parents to know what units to put their kids in for.

Dave: This is for the action log as well?

Brian: Yes.

Dave: Do we have a second?

Brayden: I'll second that.

Dave: Do we have any discussion? All those in favor.

Vote

Unanimous

ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017

Questions from the RAC:

Dave: K, do we have any questions from the RAC?

Brian: What day do these go on sale? Cause as your local non-consumptive I'd really like to know what days all these elk tags go on sale.

Justin: I can look it up real quick when I sit down but I think its sometime in July, July 19th or 21st. I will get you an exact date. Spike is July 11th, the antlerless is generally a week after.

Mack: On the antelope on the Parker, what is your objective?

Justin: If I remember right its 1500. Is that correct Vance?

Mack: What is the population?

Justin: Vance do you want to field some of these, or I'm sorry, Vance do you, I'm kidding, Jim?

Jim: About 2100 this year. That's been the trend for the last couple.

Craig: On the Southern Region on the elk, I don't agree with your idea there, every one of those units that you've cut the number on are all over, way over objective except for Fillmore, I, I don't understand your thinking there. I don't, I just don't follow?

Justin: Do you have specifics on one unit or another?

Craig: Well the Southwest Desert, the objective is 975 and your estimation is 1200 and yet you cut 50 tags.

Justin: Lets stick with that one for a second Craig. Jason, do you want to speak to that one?

Jason Nicholes: Yes, we dropped 50 tags. We did reduce the population last year from 1550 down to the 1200 with the 600 permits that we had last year. This, the thing that we had that really helped us out to reduce our population this past year was our cow/calf production. Normally we have about 50 calves per hundred cows, this last season it was 25 calves per hundred cows. This recommendation here with 550 permits, even if we have 50 calves per hundred cows should bring us in right to our objective of 975.

Craig: K well you can blame the mustangs for that. Okay we'll go to Panguitch Lake for Gibb here, you are 400 over there and you dropped that one by a hundred.

Josh Pollock: The only thing if you look at it we didn't actually drop it. The only thing we dropped 25 permits basically because we took a hundred of those permits and put them onto the private lands only permits as well, so really we're still just 25 off of, and that's we cut one of the hunts there, that's the Sandy Creek hunt, that was at a 7% success so anyway we just dropped that one off and we'll also issue (inaudible) depredation permits in that area as well to kind of help take care of that.

Craig: K that was the main two that I was concerned about.

Brian: The Zion, is that a lot of the same? You've taken a few from the Zion and then added to the private lands? Makes sense, that's where elk die.

Josh Pollock: Correct.

Dave Black: So it looks like we're just trying to be more effective in what we're doing so you've moved them around. It might be the appearance that we've reduced the number of tags but really we've moved them into another area with a higher percentage of kill?

Justin: Yeah what we are trying to do is avoid playing ping pong with our elk. Where you have a public land hunt and a lot of these elk move onto private land and then as soon as that hunt is done, they come back. I've got, if I can show this, I know it's not a Southern Region Unit, but it might make sense what we're trying to accomplish here.

Dave: K, thank you. I guess my other comment is I think the goal here is we want to kill more cows in areas that if you present it in a manner that says this is gonna be a more effective way to remove cows and we are going to reduce the amount of tags in this area and we are going to increase it in this one, but our goal is to pull these elk off, we just want to make it clear so, so, the ranchers or whoever know, and I support this idea, is if we are over objective, they need to go away and this is the most effective way to make em go away.

Justin: Yeah Dave and I would add to that it's not just about killing the elk to the objective, it's about killing the right elk and so if you have elk on the landscape and you have elk that are causing problems to private landowners, kill them first, so that is the approach and you gotta get to objective anyways, so. Good points.

Dave: Any other questions before we open it up to the public? Gene?

Gene: Last year you went with a lot of private land tags and how did this work out as far as the sportsmen are concerned? Were they able to access that land without high trespass fees and or at all?

Justin: Some were, some weren't. You know private landowners in some pockets of the state did charge for access. Others didn't in some cases. The sportsmen that didn't have that hunting opportunity, they existed, they were there. We had sportsmen that weren't able to access private lands. But really if you think about big picture and step away from that one permit, really what we're getting at is we are helping the average public draw sportsman because not only did we kill 1500 elk on private lands, we pushed a lot of elk back onto public lands so if you had that public draw tag your success rates were going up and that was really the goal to help public draw sportsmen down the road.

Gene: But you took a lot of public tags off and put them on private land, right?

Justin: Yeah temporarily. We are going to have a time when we increase public draw permits but we are trying to retrain elk on a lot of these units.

Gene: Just generally, it worked good as far as your elk management, just generally was it good for the hunters?

Justin: Yeah, the hunters that had those permits, absolutely. Yes. There were hunters that were disappointed because they couldn't access private property and there is no getting around that but it's no different than a hunter not being able to get a mitigation permit and access some of the same private lands. It just depends on how you look at it and who you talk to Gene but we did get good feedback.

Gene: Okay it, I will slip in a comment here. Its, it's a changing situation and it's tough to access private land. It used to be if you went to Wyoming to hunt antelope, you'd go to a landowner and ask if you could hunt on his land and he'd say yes you can but make damn sure you kill a damn antelope on my land. And then the Texans came in with money.

Justin: It wasn't only killing antelope it was (inaudible), too.

Dave: K, Mack.

Mack: I got a question on the antelope again. Why was the trapping last year cancelled?

Justin: Do you want to tackle that one Jim? I can speak generally, let me give it a shot and if Jim can do better. We took a survey and the prong horn were not near the traps. Most of the prong horn that were seen were 10 plus miles away from the trapping location.

Mack: My next question is how are we going to get the antelope down to objective? Here we are, you've got 600 more. So, you are only getting 300 tags.

Justin: For us this year, we do plan on trapping again, this winter, and,

Mack: If you are going to trap, trap, according to your biologists there were plenty around Bicknell Pond, they could have trapped.

Justin: Is that the case Jim?

Jim Lamb: Yeah, we had some near the Bicknell Reservoir trap, we didn't have any near the (inaudible) trap and it was an unusual winter in that we didn't have em, we generally trap in December. We had none close to either trap in December so when we surveyed in January we had had some move near the Bicknell trap but we still had none near Jakes trap, we still had a lot quite high on the mountain just because we didn't have any snow at that point. We got a fair bit of snow after that but.

Justin: If we can too, one thing we're looking to do this winter is not just take prong horn off, we will certainly do that, as we do our trapping efforts, but the other thing is I've been talking with Jim about getting GPS collars on some of those prong horn to figure out where they go, what they are doing, how they are behaving, what their survival rates are, some of that stuff.

Mack: What is the success rate on your antelope, doe antelope hunt?

Jim Lamb: The last two years it has been horrible, under 40%. Fifteen years ago it was very high. But the antelope have changed the way they live on the Parker and you know that cause you are there. And I quite frankly believe when I talk to people on the phone and tell them they need to go hunt in the aspen and the spruce for prong horn they hang up the phone and say now that guy is an idiot. But, that's where they've moved to and so you can go drive 200 miles on the Parker if you want out in that big open country in the fall and you won't see an antelope.

Mack: Yeah, I know that or if you see em they are 2 miles away. Quick as they see the dust of your vehicle they are gone. You know this is called a hunt, not a drive by shooting.

Jim Lamb: Yeah for many years it was simple to go up there and drive the roads and get plenty of shots of prong horn and I think people became accustomed to that and now that it's different, they figure the reason they can't do that anymore is cause we just don't have any antelope anymore on the whole

mountain. And we have quite a few.

Mack: Yeah, we have plenty. Just a story to that, we were called out to look for some cows out near Pollywog Antelope in the middle of November, on our way home we found a pickup going the opposite direction and talked to em, they were antelope hunters, they couldn't see any antelope so they decided to look for elk. That was the joy ride and I told em to go down to Kelsey's nipple there was plenty down there and they just shrugged off and took off.

Jim: It is interesting that we have a lot of people get those doe prong horn permits and when it comes right down to hunting them I think they are there for an enjoyable experience and killing an antelope may not be the highest thing on their agenda.

Mack: That is why, how we going to get them down to objective, that's what I want to know. You know, we've been working on this for a while, what if you cancel the hunt I mean your trap next year? What's gonna what are we gonna do?

Jim: I don't think we are going to do that. I'll certainly lobby that we trap for sure. One of the things that we are going to do this year that we have not tried before, is the doe prong horn harvest is going to be split up into 3 different time frames. We'll hunt some of them in August, we'll hunt again in October and we'll hunt again in November and hopefully that will increase the success of those doe prong horn hunters maybe hitting those animals at a different time of year when they don't expect it quite as much and we can get a little bit better harvest.

Mack: I agree. Shoot a lot more in August when they are available.

Jim: That is the hope. So, we've got permits in all 3 of those time frames and we'll just see as we get the results from the harvest surveys what those look like when they are finished.

Mack: The only thing we are really hurting is the resources.

Jim: I think because of, if we look at the production of those animals on the Parker, if the resource was suffering, their production would suffer and it is not.

Mack: Well I'm looking at the resource for us people who use the same range.

Jim: I think your calve weights are still pretty darn good.

Mack: But, and we, on the range of the antelope, livestock uses that about 45 days in the Spring and that's all. The rest of the time the prong horn are there and then the elk move in. When we come in the Spring again there is nothing. That's the problem that we have as producers.

Jim: K, but the elk haven't been there the last 2 winters. Very, very few. Before that yes there were a lot.

Mack: Besides that that is sage grouse habitat and winter range too.

Jim: Yeah and they are doing ok.

Dave: Okay, do we have any further questions from the RAC? Okay we're in the question section so any questions from the audience and then we'll move into comments but let's take questions right now.

Questions from the Public:

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. In the private land hunts, most of them, all of them were in the Northern part of the State last year right?

Justin: Let's take a look. So, the ones that are in white they were held last year, so it looks like the Paunsaugunt, La Salle, San Juan some of those were Southern Utah.

John: What is the criteria for creating these additional four hunts? If the model is good and its working why not do a bunch more?

Justin: Yeah, we certainly can. There is nothing in the plan or anything like that that limits us from putting these on units.

John: What was the decision to do those 4?

Justin: For this year? Well we could probably ask the biologists that are here. The Dutton? What was justification for adding those to the Dutton?

Josh Pollock: I am the Biologist for the Paunsaugunt as well and so last year we just did it there to try and see and we had really good success, it was in the high 50% success and so because of that we just wanted to try, we have elk on private land on those units and I thought because we had that and also that was kind of the State wide averages as well percentage on those and so I just thought why not try it on the Dutton and Panguitch Lake where we have elk that are on private lands, try and move them off to help get that higher harvest, that's why I did it on those two.

John: We were glad to see this program offered and I guess my question would be why don't we do it on all of them?

Justin: Do you want me to take a stab at that or is that more rhetorical? Yeah, okay.

Dave Black: Okay, next question.

Mike Twitchell: Mike Twitchell just representing myself. I have a question here, I notice 11 new antlerless deer hunts and just a little bit to understand the season dates. I will speak mainly or question mainly the Antimony Plateau because that's the one I'm perhaps the most familiar with. Looks like we have 2 new hunts at 50 per unit and they are both in October, maybe Josh could help me understand a little bit about the timing of those hunts and why maybe so late in the year.

Josh Pollock: So, the boundary first of all is probably the most important thing. It goes from Dry Wash over to about Center Creek, just barely South of there and it goes up onto the just onto the forest boundaries so it's a pretty small area, and then Johns Valley Highway, so it's a pretty small area right there, and last year we had roughly 1200 deer in the agricultural fields in Antimony Creek, Center Creek,

Poison Creek right in through there so, the rationale behind that is to kind of help reduce those numbers there. The thing is there is still plenty of feed for those deer to be up on the ridges and that, they don't need to be down on their winter range where they are going to spend the winter, so, we are trying to hopefully hit them and put pressure on them for basically the first of October when they try to move down, to push them back off of that private land so that they won't want to come down there so early and it will help keep them off. We're doing 50 permits per hunt so it's,

Mike Twitchell: And that is not a big number. The one thing that I have noticed on that is that those deer we hunt that dedicated hunter wise, we hunt that all 3 hunts, and we've noticed the last couple of years, maybe the last 5 especially that those deer are coming down especially earlier and earlier than what they have been and so we are actually starting, is it the Divisions attitude that we're seeing that as the problem that we are trying to mitigate, we're not necessarily trying to hunt the resident deer, we're looking to try and keep the deer up the hill later in the year if we can.

Josh Pollock: That is my thought on it because there really is not that many resident deer that stay in that Antimony area through, in that portion through the summer.

Mike: You are talking Center Creek Ranch and the bench mainly is the problem area. And can I assume that that would be similar in some of these other areas as well, you know there is New Harmony on here, Pine Valley, Quichipa? Are we seeing the same problem in those areas also?

Josh: I am not going to answer for those guys I guess but I would say yes. They are all depredation related, trying to keep those deer off of those,

Mike: That satisfies my question, thank you.

Justin Shannon: Mr. Chair can I answer a previous question?

Dave Black: Sure.

Justin Shannon: John you've known me long enough that you know I'm not the quickest guy in the room, in the Central Region RAC there was, the Vernon was brought up as another unit that could have a private land only permits and as they asked the biologists and regional staff what their thoughts were and no reservations against adding that to the unit, so it's, you know these are things that we are trying to solve problems with so if they can solve problems we will certainly implement them, so if that helps.

Verland King: Verland King, Wayne County grazers, private landowner. Just a question on these private land permits, I assume the DWR sells the permit to hunt on my private land?

Justin: Yeah so its not, its valid for any private land in the unit and so if you go to Wal-Mart or the Division Office and buy a private lands only permit for one of these units, if you have written permission and the ability to access these private lands, you can hunt any of those private lands, it's not tied to an individual's property.

Verland King: Okay. So, if I am a private landowner and I've got elk on my land, I know in the past like around Lyman you have to send the permit or send an application in, pay so much for an antlerless permit. You are feeding the, the elk, but you have to pay for a permit to kill one, so? It doesn't seem fair

or right but that's how it is.

Justin: Just to be clear this doesn't take the place of the mitigation permits or the vouchers or those types of things. We still have that program in place, this is more to stream line it, if you don't, you know if you aren't really up for talking to the Division and wanting to come in and make your case, just go to Walmart and buy some permits.

Verland: But even if I do go to the DWR I still have to send application into Cedar City and pay that money and then get a cow permit to hunt on my land?

Justin: Yeah, I think the first 2 are free and then any vouchers after that, yeah.

Pete Yardley: I'm Pete Yardley, I am a rancher. I liked what Brayden said and I want to comment, let's play these rules both ways now. We agreed to a 3-year deal when we was over on the permits, on the Beaver. We're dropping them now 80, besides they are changing it to a muzzleloader hunt for a hundred, lets protect our resources a little. You've got ranchers right now that are being cut, on these permits and now they are changing the rules. Ryley done a great job of selling this and saying hey, let's just try to keep it to a number for 3 years, get em back in check, then we will renegotiate. We sat in a meeting last summer down in the Forest Service Office and negotiated. Now they are already wanting to jump the numbers. Cause you are not going to get to objective unless you take the elk, to get them down. If, what would you guys think if I turned out 500 extra cows? Every one of you would have a fit. So, let's make it good for all of us and let's protect our resource and get the range land conditions back in satisfactory condition before we increase. That's one question. The other is 50 head of deer on the Beaver. Selena right now can tell you, there is more deer than that living in Pine Creek in the hay fields let alone all the rest. I want to see you increase your deer herds but not on the private ranchers. Thank you.

Brayden: Was that a question to me?

Dave Black: I didn't hear a question.

Brayden: Pete, you said question and you said me specifically, I'm trying to figure out if there was a question to me or what you were saying?

Pete: (off mic) Before you said (inaudible) on a three year plan, why are we coming back to it, just a little earlier, kind of the same principal, (inaudible), why are we revisiting changing the numbers one year in, (inaudible).

Dave Smedley: You know we didn't, I tried not to drop it by too many permits to go from 880 to 800. We did drop the population objective a little, or not the objective, the estimate a little bit, but what we are trying to do is avoid overkilling, hopefully we are, if weather permits we are on schedule to fly I think in the next year, if weather permits, or 2 years, but the other part is we are planning on addressing depredation concerns pretty heavy, we tried to hit them pretty hard, so to discuss the muzzleloader hunt we put a hundred tags on the muzzleloader, I think we will have pretty high success rates there so we are still trying to reduce the herd, we're not, we are not trying to prevent that so, I think we still kept it high, hopefully we see high success on the muzzleloader and if we need to increase depredation permits it's something we can look at and we can be more aggressive on that as well.

Pete: (Off mic)

Dave Smedley: I wasn't aware that he agreed to 880. But a high number is what we are trying to go after still. Let me look into that Pete. With 80 tags difference we're looking at maybe 40 elk with high success rates and we can overcome that with depredation permits.

Pete: (Off mic).

Dave Smedley: So, it depending on the hunt they ranged from 38, it was average 45% success. So, I think we will have higher success rates in that muzzleloader hunt which will help a little bit so we'll look at it and if we need to adjust next year I'm happy to go up, we just,

Pete: (Off mic).

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions from the audience?

Mack: Dave, I got a question for the biologists. Are these elk still, are they coming into the fields now in the Spring now like they did a year ago? The elk coming in the alfalfa fields?

Dave Smedley: We do have some in the Spring but I think right now we have a few, in areas we have a lot less last year, there is a little less that we've noticed this year. So, there are still elk in the Spring.

Mack: What are we doing to get em out?

Dave: Right now?

Mack: Yeah.

Dave Smedley: I haven't been doing any hazing, I don't know if Selena has been doing any hazing right now. But we can go after and haze those.

Pete: (Off mic).

Dave Black: We'd like to get that recorded so everybody hears that so if you could come to the microphone, we'll have that on the recording, thank you. Sorry.

Pete: The trouble is, is when they leave the fields and they just go to the Spring range. That's why I think we need to get back to our numbers. I think you can sustain your elk in the summer, it's in your Spring and your Winter that it's just tearing all of the resources apart. I think that's why we gotta get our number, or like we talked, we talked in the Forest Service Office last summer, of getting some winter habitat for these elk so they are not in the hay fields and not on, just on your re-seeds along I-70, and along there and just pounding them out. Let's protect our resource and then start to build your numbers. Don't build your numbers before take care of your resource.

Dave Smedley: I understand that Pete and my goal, I do have a goal to get to objective and I don't see cutting permits by 80 is going to prevent us from doing that.

Pete: (Off Mic).

Dave Black: Okay, thank you, any other questions? Okay let's go to the comment cards. The first one that we have, they didn't want to come up, this is from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, they support the Divisions recommendations as presented. The next one is Verland King followed by David Brinkerhoff. We do have quite a few comment cards if we can keep them 3 to 5 minutes we'd appreciate that, thank you.

Comments from the Public:

Verland King: Verland King, this time I am representing Wayne County Commissioners. I was asked because they couldn't attend today and they asked me to come in and talk to em and Its, just, I just heard Jim say I think your cows are doing pretty good. Well, its, it's hard to say how much better they would do if we didn't have all those antelope and all those elk out there. Right now we've got in Wayne County we've got producers that are being in a fight with the park to get, to stay there, they are fighting over a little cactus, they think the cows are tromping the cactus, it's the environmentalists' way of pushing the cattle off, this allotment that's in the park. Well, DWR flew the park counting elk, 1500 head of elk there. That allotment holds less than 200 head of cattle, so they are trying to get the cattlemen off and there is this big herd of elk and its gone up every year. Couple years ago they counted 150 head how there's 1500 head there. So, there's a problem. I'd like to see you guys do a hunt down in the Capital Reef National Park. Okay, let's all grab our guns and go. Anyway, the Commissioners wanted me to ask the DWR to keep their numbers in check. This antelope deal, they are hunting the same 300 head as they recommended last year. Well that was supposed to be with trapping a bunch of them. I run out on this same range as my spring range and summer range and there is no telling if we had the elk and the antelope in check how much better our cattle would do. And it's not just pounds of calf, its breed back rate and a whole lot of different things. But, you know the antelope right now they haven't counted, the guess is 2100 head. Well, I went out the other day and I counted a tenth of those just on one little drive and the same with the elk, 1500 head, I counted 250 head and they weren't, they weren't on the mountain they were on the BLM down on our Spring range that we want to go to in 15 to 30 days. They are taking the resource and that's what it's all about is the resource. We need to, we need to keep these numbers in check and time and time again DWR will say it on the elk but they don't. We can't count elk, we don't, we basically don't know how many is there. And, they need to keep the numbers in check to prevent, to protect the resource and when you do that you've got to figure on the drought situation cause it comes and goes and DWR is always 2 or 3 years behind the drought as far as getting their numbers down. Whereas the producers have to come out, go on late, less time, take less numbers if the BLM or FS decides that there is a drought. And the first time I'd ever heard anything, Wade talked about earlier, an animal that's not producing what you want. That's just what livestock guys are doing. We sell our bulls maybe 5, 6 years old because they may not, they lose their sex drive, they're not producing. Well I finally heard somebody say these stags aren't producing horns and so we gotta get rid of them and it just irks the livestock man that's what we're, that's what it's about. Our resources are there to grow horns. And that, I guess that's about all I got to say but the County Commissioners would like the numbers in check because they are affecting the, the livelihood of the ranchers and the people in Wayne County. Thank you.

Dave Black: Verland, I have a question for you, the elk that are in the park, are they there all the time or do they come out so that there would be opportunities to manage those or is that a?

Verland: Well you will have to ask the biologists.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Jim Lamb: I spent a day in the park last week and I couldn't find any elk. Doesn't mean that there are not still some there. So, I believe at this time they are still going back to the mountain in the summer and in the spring.

Dave Black: Ok so is that the Boulder Mountains they go to or?

Jim Lamb: Thousand Lake Mountains. Part of the Fish Lake Thousand/ Lake herd.

Dave Black: Okay. Thank you.

Jim Lamb: And I do have a hunt on the Northern part of that bunch of elk, proposed today, to try to kill some of those that are not in the park.

Dave Black: Okay, David Brinkerhoff is next followed by Mike Twitchell.

David Brinkerhoff: David Brinkerhoff, Henry mountain grazer/private land owner. I'd like to comment on the prong horn right at this point and to be able to comment on the buffalo at a later point so whenever that is brought up, so. I'd like to see the numbers increase. I'm right next to this winter range/spring range that these guys are talking about. The last year we've had those antelope come into town right there. My pasture I see em go back and forth coming in to water. I have a neighbor on the North of me that's had 25 to 35 of those antelope coming into his field all summer long and this didn't use to happen. So, I'd like to see the numbers increase on those antelope and at least get em down to objective. As far as the trapping goes, I think it's a good thing but my question is where are these antelope going? Where are they going? In our (inaudible) permit we had antelope showing up down there probably 6 or 7 years ago. So, if you are trapping these antelope I would like to know where they are going, I know I don't want them on my permit in the desert which is just above Lake Powell. I think that when they are trapping these, and I think they need to have a plan and maybe they do but wherever these antelope are going they need to be notified, the Commissioners, the people, the permittees, or wherever they are going and they need to be willing to accept this antelope, don't just load em up somewhere and go dump em in some different country maybe where they are not even located, so that is my comment.

Dave Black: Thank you. So, after Mike we will have Jeremy Chamberlain.

Mike Twitchell: Again, Mike Twitchell, I'm supporting the Utah Bowmen's Association. We, as a group would like to show our support at the Divisions recommendation and accept that completely, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. So, after Jeremy we will have Gibb Yardley.

Jeremy Chamberlin: Jeremy Chamberlain with the Friends of the Paunsaugant. Just a matter for clarification on that stag hunt. Those are sterile animals and they don't reproduce, they don't help reproduce and they don't do any reproducing themselves and so they are actually a hindrance to the

resource, to the range, it hinders the cattlemen and the sportsmen and so that was the purpose in wanting that hunt is so that we can rid those animals, they don't do the sportsmen any good and they don't do the cattlemen any good either So it wasn't about antlers or anything like that, it was just the fact of you guys got, I know that,, I mean my dad runs cows and if he's got a sterile cow or a bull that doesn't produce he gets rid of it and that's all that we're trying to do with that, with that hunt but, anyway, we also the Friends of the Paunsaugunt support the recommendations of the Fish and Game for the antlerless hunts on the Paunsaugunt. One thing I would like to say about the private land hunts, tremendous, the success that we had there working with the land owners and the land owners working with the sportsmen, we were able to have I think 25 or 30% better success on those hunts compared to just a regular hunt that you have to draw. This is a guaranteed tag if you get in line quick enough I guess. You can just buy those over the counter for the public for the public guy to just go and get one so it's a little bit easier that way. Thank you.

Dave: Gibb, and following will be Steven.

Gibb Yardley: On this paper you haven't even got Panguitch Lake or the Southwest Desert even on here and you don't have the objectives on there. How come those units aren't on this paper? They're not on there, they're not on the one I got and they're not on the ones my kids have got. We don't know what objective is and how many of these elk you want to take off. I want to just say one word about the antelope. I feel for those poor people on Parker Mountain they've had a time ever since I can remember, (inaudible) but we don't want those antelope trapped and turned onto some of our other ranges. And I think that that's happening because we never had any antelope right around Beaver here. Last year there was between 40 and 50 on my private land out here about 5 miles and we've never have antelope before so I think they've been turned loose there. And we don't want em. They need to harvest them with the rifle hunt. On these elk, what is the, what is the recommendation for Panguitch Lake, it's not on the paper.

Dave Black: We'll get that for you in just a minute here Gibb.

Gibb Yardley: Well I wanna know so I can talk about it. What is the recommendation for Panguitch Lake and what is the objective. It seems like to me the objective last year,

Discussion with Josh Pollock and Justin Shannon

Gibb: You have got to let permits out to get the numbers down. We just cannot have that excess amount and save the range resource cause I told you what happened last year on some of our pastures, the elk were there when the first blade of green grass showed up and they just ate them off before we ever got there with cows. And they say well we can stand more because we've done all this reseeding down here by Panguitch, between there and Hatch town. And it is the most beautiful scene I've ever seen. They've chipped all those trees, but that's winter range, up on our summer range there has never been nothing done and that's where they hang all summer long and all spring it don't have a chance because they get up there, they follow the snow up. So, I'd like to recommend and I never had a chance to look at this but I think they ought to issue 200 more permits than they've got on here to get the objective because they only get a 50% kill. Now the Southwest Desert, what does that say? Okay, now, we need that many out there and we fought for years to get it but they only took like 45 or 50% off so I would recommend taking at least 8 or 900 tags to get that objective amount and we'd like to hold them to that objective because this year we had one of the driest summers we've ever had on that desert out there. And we've

still got just as many of the elk and more of the horses but there is no sense getting into that but, the elk are devastating those ranges on the desert just as much as the horses in some place so please take some more of these cows off. Thank you very much, appreciate it.

Dave: Thank you Gibb. Steven, followed by Pete.

Steven Yardley: My name is Steven Yardley and I just want to touch on like what my dad was talking about, on the recommended antlerless elk hunts. There is obviously a page missing because it goes down to the North south of Greendale and that's the last hunt that's on there that tells the objective and last years and that so we need to have that on there but any rate, on the West Desert they talked about how the calving rate last year was so low and that was part of the reason why they knocked off the number of elk that they were going to harvest in the antlerless hunt. But part of the reason that number was so low was because it was a dry year and the resource was being affected and there is all those mustangs out there on top of it and there is some of our pastures that we have reseeded that we haven't been able to use on account of the wild horses and the elk. They are just feeding the heck out of it and we developed a spring and put up an elk fence around it and the elk literally uprooted the fence to get at the water and we spent all the time and all the money and all the resources to develop it and then they did that. Well we need to have those permits high enough that the resource isn't harmed because that's why the calving rate is so far down. I heard one of the biologists talk about we don't want to have an overkill on some of these units so we are being careful to reduce the number so we don't get too far below objective. There is nothing wrong with being below objective on some of these units. There is a lot of these units that are year after year after year after year they are over objective. Like Pete mentioned, if we were over our permits year after year after year, we'd be apt to lose our permits and rightfully so. Because we're affecting the range resource. Well, the wildlife need to be held as accountable as the livestock are. And they were talking about on Parker Mountain on how the Antelope are over objective year after year after year. Let them go out and shoot the damn things. Let them take their guns, you don't even have to have a permit, and let them get down to objective or if you want to sell permits for five dollars apiece, if you want, take a helicopter out there and gun some of them down and let em lay, the resource is what is at stake here and it's not good for anyone, it's not good for the wildlife, it's not good for the livestock and it's not good for the hunter when the range resource is compromised because of overpopulation of any animal and over grazing that occurs consequently. On the Panguitch Lake Unit they talked about the objective being 1100, the population is at 1500 right now, they reduced that this year from the 725 from last year down to 625. Well if anything that needs increased so that we can reach objective and I'd like to see that happen, just like my dad mentioned, reduce them down or increase the number of tags issued by about 200 on the Panguitch Lake Unit. There were some of our permits that we went up on that we couldn't even use the pastures because the elk had grazed it before a cow ever stepped foot on it and when we got up to it there was little if any feed left. The pine, the spruce beetle kill on the Panguitch Lake unit and the deadfall that has occurred because of it has reduced the elk habitat in the higher elevations and in the summer range so while there has been a lot of winter range restoration projects that have occurred on the Panguitch Unit, the amount of elk habitat available to em on the summer range has been reduced if anything and I think that that is pushing them down out of the trees and out of the understory that was there and putting them on the meadows and making it so there is not feed for the livestock and permittees that run on those ranges.

Dave Black: We need to get you to wrap it up.

Steven Yardley: And so I'd like to see an increase on the Panguitch Lake Unit of 200 and on the

Southwest Desert of 150 so that we get em to objective, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay we have Pete Yardley followed by Jason Kleen.

Pete Yardley: The only thing I have to say when you start looking at objectives and that you need to look at your range land health before you make a decision whether you are going to go up or down. To try to keep it in check so the ranchers are not bearing the burden because when you talk with the Forest and that they are the only ones that they can control and it should be a joint deal where you try to make the resource for all of us and make it better for everybody. Thank you.

Dave Black: After Jason we will hear from David Christensen.

Jason: Hi there I'm Jason Kleen, Fish Lake National Forest I'm the District Ranger on the Richfield District. I'm here representing the Forest Supervisor Mel (inaudible) and my 3 other counterparts, Kurt Robins on the Fremont River District, Kathy Johnson here on the Beaver District and Brian Monroe on the Fillmore District. Kathy had a letter than Mel (inaudible) the Forest Supervisor has helped put together. So, I will just read through this it's a little over a page. Thank you for giving the Fish Lake National Forest an opportunity to provide comments. We appreciate and value the ongoing coordination with the Southern Utah Resource Advisory Committee and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The Forest Service is committed to assisting the Division in management for sustainable park relations of big game by providing quality habitat that is well distributed across the National Forest landscapes. We recognize the necessity for the Division to manage the population numbers that are in balance with the habitat conditions and support this effort. So, a couple of unit specific comments, I'll start with the Beaver Unit. Livestock producers continue to express concerns to us about high elk numbers on the Beaver Unit. Our mission and desire is to continue to provide sustainable habitat that will balance the needs of both the domestic and the wild (inaudible). We request the Division remain within herd objectives and we support the 2017 proposed harvest objectives on big game in the Beaver Unit. So, Monroe specific, so we continue to remain concerned about aspen and rangeland habitats on the Monroe Mountain. We appreciate the aggressive antlerless elk hunts that occurred in 2014 and 2015. Unfortunately, fewer antlerless elk hunts were offered in 2016. We believe aspen and range land habitats on the Monroe Mountain will benefit greatly from short term aggressive antlerless elk hunts. With completion of the Monroe Mountain aspen ecosystem restoration project, EIS, and with implementation starting this past year, we believe short term aggressive antlerless hunts will result in less (inaudible) pressure on aspen and increase the ability of this new aspen regeneration treatments to successfully recruit. We are also concerned about wildlife impacts through range land habitats especially on the Manning allotment. In 2016, just prior to livestock entry we measured high wildlife utilization in the different pastures. Livestock producers holding permits on that allotment continue to express concerns over wildlife impacts. We will continue to monitor utilization and share those findings. Our desire is to provide sustainable habitat that will balance the needs of both domestic and wild (inaudible). And in summary on the Monroe Unit, we request that you implement a short term aggressive antlerless hunts to keep the population at a reduced level during this critical time while large landscape (inaudible) are occurring. These antlerless hunts will also help reduce impacts to range habitat on the Manning allotment. So to be able to target those, the correct elk, the right elk, we request that you consider offering a full hunt for antlerless hunts to be able to better target elk utilizing the higher elevations that are using aspen and the range. With time these treatments to restore aspen habitat on the Monroe will result in many benefits to livestock and wildlife for continued and sustainable future use. In 2016, on the Monroe Unit we treated approximately 4500 acres of vegetation near Monument Peak. In this

upcoming year Dr. Sam Sinclair from BYU will be monitoring aspen in this area. If his studies find aspen browse to be too high he will coordinate with the Division to determine and apply an appropriate response as we have done in the past. And then in conclusion, the Fish Lake Unit and the South Manti Unit, we are concerned about historically low numbers of deer in the Gooseberry and (inaudible) Lake areas. We propose that the Division conduct studies to assess reasons for these historically low numbers and request that the Southern Utah Resource Advisory Committee support this effort. Once again thank you for your willingness to work with us to maintain and restore habitat across the Fish Lake National Forrest and we appreciate this opportunity to provide comments. Thank you.

Dave: Thank you. So, then we'll have David followed by John Keeler.

David Christensen: I'm David Christensen. I'm President of the Parker grazers. We usually have a board meeting oh, about January or so just to kind of come up with the concerns on Parker Mountain and then we'll have a general meeting here in 2 weeks where we get ready for the cattle to go out on the mountain. But there is a lot of concerns with the grazers. Probably the number one concern is if we can remain on the mountain being trust lands. And then a lot of concerns like that but a few things that were brought up, most of them have been covered but one is about every 2 years in 10 we have really hard winters on the Parker. The wind occasionally does not blow if you can believe that there and they will get a heavy snow and the winter range is quite limited on the West side of our valley, and a lot of the wildlife will adapt and move. I noticed this winter with the heavy snow a lot of the deer will move on the East side. The antelope seem to stay congregated in quite a tight area especially when you have heavy snow. And one thing that I noticed, I'm a pilot also, one thing I notice on those heavy years, and I never seen this before, you find holes in the snow that those sage hens are actually down under the snow. They are living underground, they are living like Viet Kong and you can ask Jim about that, he's seen that and you know one producer said there is blood on the snow, go check that out. I flew around and I did find one spot where there was blood by where the sage hens were, you could see where they were. but my, one concern we had is in that crucial area where we could have a listing of this grouse, we want to be real careful that we don't overload the resource, especially in the winter You know in the summer there is a big vast area, people go out there and a lot of times they can't find that many antelope but in the winter a lot of times they have to concentrate especially on hard winters. And so the board, the Parker Grazers Board really wanted to keep the objected so on those real hard winters we didn't end up killing off our grouse. We don't want the grouse like the prairie dog, so that was one thing and then most of the other stuff I think we've covered. The Commissioners called, they just want to know where the antelope are going oh and then one other thing, we're going to count tomorrow, they usually invite a permittee to go and I've been going and they've been really good to invite us and I feel like they're doing a real good job other than we would prefer that they make sure we count when they are concentrated. You know more in January or February especially if conditions are right you can get a good count. Tomorrow we probably will not get that great of a count because you know we've noticed the antelope are already dispersing, its its really hard to count when they are everywhere. But any way that was just one thing. We do appreciate a lot of the things that have happened on the Parker Mountain. There's been a lot of work done, the cattle are doing good, we hope we have a good future. Do you have any questions for me as a grazer? As the President? Any questions about?

Dave: Nope. Appreciate your time. That's good information though, thank you. So, we have John Keeler followed by Lee Tracy.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. We'd like to request that you add to the private lands only,

the Monroe, Boulder, and the Plateau. Like to encourage you to support these rancher's concerns. It's something that continues year after year after year and I think one of the biggest problems is even though there are a considerable number of permits issued, that the success isn't quite as good as it ought to be and those elk are not being killed and I think this private lands deal looks like a way to get that done so we encourage you to consider those. Another thing that might be added to the presentations in the future at this meeting would be a report on acres that have been treated and some of the monitoring data that has been accumulated so that we can see what is growing and producing out there in order to better help make some decisions. That might be something that we should include. Thank you.

Dave: Thank you, John. So, after Lee, here's one with no name. We will just read this one.

Lee Tracy: I had a duplicate up there so if you are looking at mine with no name, sorry about that.

Dave: That's you.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, Enoch, Utah speaking for myself. As a member of the Mule Deer Committee I really appreciate the proposals that we've been given on the antlerless particularly as control of the populations. I know that killing antlerless deer is not a very popular thing to do these days but in fact I appreciate that the Division has added some doe hunts to some of the problem areas that we manage. And I appreciate that. Now that's my good side. Here's my bad side. I do that with the caveat that this RAC and the Wildlife Board recognize that the Mule Deer Plan is drafted for not only advice but for some guidelines and that they continue, you continue and the Division continues to manage the populations and the buck to doe ratios with the hunts necessary to keep them under control. And, any deviation such as transplants, or increased population objectives or an increased buck to doe ratios or any other little tricky things that prevent the increased tags be monitored very closely because people are beginning to catch on and it won't be long before people will question whether our general hunts are being managed for objectives or for something else. Thanks.

Dave Black: K, that's all the comment cards I have so we'll turn the time over for comments to the RAC.

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Okay, Brayden.

Brayden: I want to talk about the Beaver unit antlerless and then Dave and I have talked about this quite a bit and in fact I need to thank Dave for his work. Oh, there he is. Dave has been really good to talk and work with the locals here and we very much liked Riley and were apprehensive with his leaving but we've been nothing but pleased with Dave's efforts here so having said that I'm going to disagree with him. Slightly, he knows it's coming though. On the Beaver cow hunts, the majority of the issues on the Beaver unit are on the Northern end of the unit. That's where most of the grazing problems are and most of the issues with the elk are. Currently we are proposing 3 cow hunts in the Beaver Unit, 2 of those hunts would be unit wide and one would just be that Northern end. The concern I have and we actually discussed this earlier tonight, is elk love to move where they don't get shot. And they are really good at doing that. Shooting at elk is a very effective method of teaching them new habits so in the Beaver Unit the Northern end is where the problems are, and yet that's the most difficult area to hunt. What I'd like the RAC here to consider is helping maybe train those elk a little differently. We need to kill elk on the

Beaver Unit, its over objective, that's, I'm not here to fight those numbers at all. What I'm asking is that we do the first hunt on the Northern end, that would help push those elk off of that Northern end, and hopefully help train em. They'll spread out to the unit, on the second hunt unit wide, kill em,, get those numbers down and then the third hunt go back to that Northern end and again train em to try to get em off that Northern end. The goal there would be twice, two out of the three hunts we would be pushing them off of that Northern end and hoping to help with the ranching and the problems up on that Northern end, so that would be my proposal on those cow hunts on the Beavers to change the early hunt to the Northern end only.

Dave: Any other comments? Okay, Harry?

Harry Barber: This is a comment recommendation that came out of the Cedar office for the BLM, I wasn't sure when it would be appropriate to read that but I'm assuming it would be okay to read this now?

Dave: Sure.

Harry Barber: This is a request for Northward expansion of Cottonwood antlerless deer hunt boundary for 2017. And I assume, Teresa did you get this message, so this won't be news to you? There is 6 short points that the Cedar office listed to defend this rationale for requesting the Northward expansion. Should I go ahead and read those?

Dave Black: Yes.

Harry Barber: The Cottonwood antlerless hunt is based on habitat damage from wintering mule deer on the Parowan front. That's #1. #2, the BLM Bone Hollow grazing allotment is in an improved allotment category and includes areas on both sides of SR20 used as a WMU boundary between Panguitch Lake WMU #28 and Beaver WMU #22. #3, data from UDWR range trend study above Fremont showing declining trends in (inaudible) cover, and (inaudible) intercept cover for preferred shrubs similar to trends found on Soy Back Knoll and Cottonwood. #4, anecdotal evidence, direct observation, vehicle collisions, etc. suggest high mule deer movements across SR20. Mule deer within the Cottonwood area on the Panguitch Lake WMU #28 may also be using the Bone Hollow area on the Beaver area WMU #22. High densities of mule deer are observed in both areas from January through May. #5, the Beaver WMU #22 is estimated 1700 animals over objective while Panguitch Lake WMU #28 is also estimated at 1500 over objective. Lastly, #6, the rationale used for the hunt can be extending into the North side of the highway to include the same crucial winter range deer habitat on the Beaver.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Additional comments? Wade.

Wade Heaton: I think we've had some good discussion. There has been a lot of good points made. The one thing that kept coming back to me was I don't see anybody in the room that doesn't understand that our units, our elk units are over objective. And there is nobody in the room that doesn't want them to be decreased so that they are at objective. And so, I think there is some of us that maybe don't understand the strategy behind it. We keep talking about let's increase permits, we're over objective, lets increase permits. Well, we can print all the permits we want that doesn't equate to what we want, our goal. Our goal is dead elk and printing permits doesn't equate to dead elk These strategies that we're trying to do, this private land only hunt, mitigation permits, control permits, those are the ways we're killing elk. I

mean to me really, its hats off to the Division. Nobody wants to get our elk at objective more than they do, it's their job and they are very good at it. Truth is, we're having a hard time killing elk. So they've gotten pretty creative, they've come up with some new ideas and used some new tools that are killing more elk. So even though we are decreasing permits in some areas, we're increasing in others with the intent that more elk will die. And I think that's something that we can all be on board with. And so, I think we need to remember that as we look at some of this stuff. Dead elk is our goal, not number of permits. So, my hat is off to the Division for being creative and trying to do some of the things they're doing.

Dave: Wade do you believe then that the plan that the Division has is working towards that same goal or is accomplishing that the best they can?

Wade Heaton: I really do. Let me share a quick story with you. Private land only permits were issued on the unit where I spent a lot of time last year. We've been throwing permits at those elk for years and they keep increasing. Didn't matter how many we printed, they just, the hunter success went down. The more permits we issued weren't killing more elk. So, we issued 125 private land only permits and more than quadrupled the number of dead elk. We flew the unit this year and a few people were questioning the biologists about where were all the elk, you didn't count very many. And the answer was, they were in people's freezers. That's where all the elk were and that's where we want them. And so, I 100% agree with the direction we are headed. We are getting creative and we are killing elk.

Dave: K, good. Appreciate that comment.

Brian Johnson: On that note, I know that the Yardleys are upset that the Panguitch tag numbers have dropped in the public draw but if you look at that there is a hundred on the private and so what you've done is you've allowed someone theoretically who has access to private property, he doesn't have to draw a tag, he just goes and buys one, and he's got a better chance at killing an elk than the dude in the public draw that doesn't have access to that private land. And so like Wade was saying if you've got a person that you trust as a private property owner, and you will allow him to hunt, he just has to go buy the tag and then he gets to hunt on your property. It's a brilliant start to a solution. I don't think that we're there yet, I think that as we keep doing this we'll find other ways to put elk in freezers but everybody up here realizes the need for that and I think it's a good move. I think that you guys are looking at that yellow number and I know that yellow number up there drives you guys crazy when there is a yellow number up there, but like the Zion Unit there is a yellow number but they add 250 private land tags. You lost 60, I mean it's a simple, it's a great, I mean there is more permits there. I think it's a great, as we move through this I think it's a great tool.

Dave: K thank you. Good comment.

Mike Worthen: I tend to agree that we're moving in the right direction, no questions asked. I just have issue at sometimes it looks like we're being stagnant and for example the Paunsaugunt 140 objective, its increased last year from 200 to 300 and we had the same number on private land permits that was supposed to take care of a lot of this which it probably did but it still increased by a third over what it was the previous year. No change. It's the same thing. Is that moving in the right direction? And I think maybe we need to look at each one of these and the strategies that are involved. Are they working or do we need to put more into those private land hunts and increase them? Panguitch Lake which is right below that one we decreased that and we're still over objective. We did go down, no doubt about it, but

it's a very slow creep. And maybe that's what we want, I don't know. And I know the ranchers and the landowners are probably looking at a little faster creep than over a ten-year period. Any way that's just some concerns that I have. Maybe we need to look at this more across the board and okay what are we doing here, does it make sense to keep it the same number as last year even though its creeping up, just some things to look at.

Dave: I just wanted to add to Mike's comment, I think I speak for all of the board if not the majority of the board, the right direction for us is to move to objective. We're not up here trying to preserve, we're trying to move to objective, to honor those agreements and to get to objective, cause I think we're all sympathetic to the concerns that have been brought to us today.

Gene Boardman: I think that it is important to manage the elk and what's been discussed here is good management. I have some problems with the private land hunting, for one thing, if you put it on private lands do you cover enough area. If the elk hear three shots and they go off the private land and are standing there on the BLM land, 400 yard further, are they off limits for the hunt? Can't you, I know they've done it in the past, said that private lands plus a half mile or something. On some of those hunts Course that that will cause people to try and hunt that half mile because they can't get on private lands. I don't hunt private lands. We had a tag one time in John's Valley, we got over there and we didn't know exactly what the deal was but there was a herd of elk there on the East side of John's Valley, and Sorenson's wouldn't let us on their land, the polygamists wouldn't let us on their land and the pot grower in between sure didn't want us on their land and so we went to the other side of the valley and killed an elk that wasn't hurting anybody. And so that, that's the experience with private land hunts that many of us have had and if we could smooth that out a little bit, for the hunter, I think we would help private landowners and we'd help the livestock men a little bit if can just get a little more, more opportunity there.

Dave: Thanks Gene. I'd like to move this on.

Wade Heaton: I'll be super fast. I appreciate what Gene's saying. But I think that's a small percentage of what's going on out there. Maybe they just didn't like the fact that you were driving a Ford instead of a Chevy, I don't know why they didn't let you on, but the reality of it is, with these types of hunts and this new strategy, the season is 6 months long and I know on the units that I was working on and the private property that I was helping and dealing with, we were practically paying people to come on. We were trying to get the hunt lists so we could call all them and ask them to come hunt. If you've got landowners with these issues, you are not going to have to ask them if you can go on their property, they want you on there cause they want the elk dead. And I think that's probably more of what we're gonna see with these units and these types of hunts. Private property owners with the problem are gonna want you on, you are not gonna have to beg to get on so I really think that's gonna be the vast majority of what we see.

Dave Black: Let me try to summarize the best I can. Let's go to the comments from the audience first. We have support from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, there are others as I see, Mike Twitchell as I go down, that support the plan as presented. We have some concerns out there We have some concerns in Wayne County on the Plateau with the number of antelope that are over objective and some of the concerns are that they don't feel that we're gonna get to objective soon enough and that we need to do maybe something a little bit more there. We have some concerns that are with elk in the park, or that have been in the park and may not be there now. We have concerns from the Yardley's on Panguitch Lake and the Southwest Desert and they've recommended that we issue more antlerless elk tags to do

that. I think we've talked about maybe some different strategies to accomplish that but that's their concerns that they've brought up as well. We have a letter from the Forest Service that has asked that maybe we modify some of these boundaries and on the Beaver let's see, I might need some help here, Beaver Unit they are concerned about the high elk numbers, they requested the Division remain within herd objectives. The Monroe Unit they had some concerns about the, I'm just reading real fast here. There is no, they are requesting an aggressive hunt there, antlerless hunt. We had a request from John Keeler that we add some private land permits to the Boulder, the Monroe and the Plateau Units. And, we had support from Lee Tracy on the plan as presented particularly the antlerless deer hunts that have been created. When we get down to the RAC comments Brayden had some concerns about the Northern end of the Beaver Unit, and suggested that we, that the first hunt be on the North, the second hunt on the side and unit wide and the third hunt would go back to the North, that was a suggestion there. Harry read a letter to us from the BLM and they wanted to, Harry can you summarize that just real quick? They wanted to modify that unit? Move the boundary, North over onto the, onto the Beaver portion. Okay. I think others were general comments but as you consider your motion, we could come and address some of these specifically if you want, we can not address any, or we can include them in a motion. So, if you have some specific things you want to address let's do those before we look at the main motion or take a main motion and try to address them. For instance, if you want to address the Beaver Unit, let's do that in a motion by itself. That's if we want to move forward with it. Cause once we accept the main motion we're done unless we amend it but we can address things in a motion if we want to address them specifically. Okay hold on just a minute. I know at the board meeting, if there is specific items that they will discuss them and vote on them and see if that is something that we are in favor of and then they'll go to the main motion but we can do, we can do the main motion and do it with amendments as well. I think we can do it either way, at least they do it there. Sometimes it's easier for discussion I don't want to miss some of these if they are important to you, and so let's see if we can weed out the ones that's important to you and discuss those and see if they're gonna stay or not. Okay, we will start down here to the right.

Mike Worthen made a motion to accept the BLM's proposal to expand the boundary without increasing the number of tags.

Dave Black: Can we cover it that way Justin?

Justin Shannon: Do you have questions about it for the Division is that what you are asking?

Dave Smedley: I am not opposed to looking at that, I've actually talked to the guy that's recommended that and to go out and look at the habitat and see where he is discussing. I think the big concern with just expanding a boundary is we lose more of a targeted doe hunt and if we are gonna look at that, like next year I would be happy to look at addressing a specifically targeted doe hunt in that area rather than make those boundaries so big.

Dave Black: Does that change your motion? We don't have a second on that yet.

Mike Worthen: I believe the existing recommendation takes care, does include the doe hunt on that area and they are increasing it by 300 and anyway they are increasing it so if it is not possible to extend that hunt across the highway, North as suggested by the BLM, then the motion is null until maybe next year if you can look at that possible option to do that. Or make another hunt on the other side but are we too late for that in this meeting to recommend another hunt on the Beaver side?

Justin Shannon: You are not too late to recommend a new hunt if that's the way the RAC would want to go. What gets complicated is when it comes to defining that boundary and things like that if that is the way the RAC goes, certainly we'd have to look at that boundary.

Mike Worthen: Harry did they specifically define that North boundary?

Harry: There was a map included that they had but I don't see why that couldn't be, that could be negotiated afterwards, (inaudible).

Justin Shannon: Yeah, I mean what I'd ask is build in some flexibility if that is the way the RAC wants to go.

Dave Black: Okay do we have a second?

Mack Morrell seconded.

Dave Black: Okay, discussion.

Brayden: I have discussion on this one. What are the dates on that hunt? And while you are looking up those dates I have some real concerns with this. A lot of those deer that are being shot down there are coming off the Beaver Mountain. Now I recognize that we have some habitat issues down there, some depredation problems, however, the last thing we want to do is start killing more deer that don't go down there that are on the Beaver Mountain. That, that area there North of Highway 20 used to hold hundreds and hundreds of deer. It doesn't anymore. There is feed all over that Coyote Bench. In the winter you can even go drive it right now and there is unused feed all over it. So, we do not want to kill more Beaver Mountain deer.

Justin Shannon: Brayden, just to clarify you are talking about Panguitch Lake, Cottonwood, is that the hunt you are discussing?

Brayden: Yeah what's the dates on that?

Justin: Those dates are December 2nd through the 17th.

Brayden: Okay so here would be my thoughts, if it's that late, I would guess that not that many more deer are gonna migrate down there from across 20, the migration is pretty much done at that point, leave those deer North of Highway 20 alone.

Dave: Any further discussion? Gene?

Gene: The hunters are (inaudible) targeted to kill so many deer on that Parowan front, if you extend the boundary you need to increase the numbers of, for, the number of deer you want to take or else it just dilutes what you had planned for the Parowan front.

Dave: Okay, any further discussion?

Brian Johnson: It seems like it's a pretty specifically targeted area that we are trying to do on this Cottonwood, am I missing something? Okay, I just wanted to make sure that that's the intent is to keep all those, to take care of those deer that are there. Okay, so.

Dave: We have a motion and a second. And that's that we enlarge that unit without increasing the number of tags. If it's a specific boundary to be negotiated in the future on the North side of Highway 20.

5 in favor, 7 opposed. Motion fails.

Dave Black: Now another topic that we want to address before the main motion, if any.

Brayden made the motion to make the first hunt to be on the North end, the second hunt unit wide, and the third hunt on the North end. Additionally, to add an additional 80 permits to the North hunt.

Dave Black: Do we have a second? Okay we have a second by Rusty. Now a discussion, Wade.

Wade Heaton: Just a question Brayden, I'm unfamiliar with the area, but you made the comment that the Northern end is the hard end to hunt, are our success rates gonna go down, are we gonna kill fewer cows if we try this?

Brayden: That's a great question and all I can do is speculate there but I speculate yes. That Northern end is substantially more challenging so the majority of those hunters are hunting the South end. The South end really we are not getting many complaints. All the complaints or the majority of the complaints by far are coming from the North end. Personally, I'm not against dumping all kinds of permits on that North end. It doesn't matter how many you put up there, those elk are gonna hold up, but if you can push em off that North end and train em to go South we are gonna mitigate a lot of our problems on the Beaver.

Mack Morrell: What about the agreement they had on the numbers being the same for three years? You better go back to 880.

Brayden: Again, I have no issue with that. However, let me clarify, there was discussion that we have a lot of cow hunts on the Beaver for 3 years, I don't ever remember it being an agreement per say, but I don't have any problem with going to 880.

Mack: Well according to the permittees there was.

Brayden: Again, I have no issue with that if we're concentrating on the North end.

Dave Black: Okay so right now it's not part of the motion unless we make an amendment to the motion.

Craig Laub seconded the motion.

Dave Black: Any discussion on that?

Wade Heaton: I would just love to hear what the Divisions thoughts were on both this, the motion and the amendment, whoever the biologist is.

Dave Smedley: I have talked at length to Brayden about this and we've discussed my concern so we went to the North end to address depredation concerns on that last hunt. And that was my hesitancy because I was worried the low success and when we need to kill the cows and so I was thinking we would do it this year and if it was high success we would dump more into it next year. I'm not opposed to it, and if we do increase, if the direction you choose is to increase the number of permits I would like them on that North end.

Brayden: You can kick me under the table if I'm going the wrong direction here but Pete is probably the biggest in the room, he would be the majority permit holder on that North end I would be kind of curious to hear his input on this. Unless that is out of line.

Wade Heaton: Mr. Chairman, while Pete is walking up could I ask Mack a question? Could we change the amendment to say that all 80 of the new permits go in that North hunt?

Mack Morrell: Yeah that's good.

Dave Black: And the second is okay? All right.

Pete Yardley: I think your North end you need to go from Indian Creek North, not just right along I-70 because they kind of migrate right there. But it is tougher to hunt. It has one road across the middle, and it is really tough to hunt. Your, I think you have a good idea with giving your private land, Pine Creek, your private land tags will only work if you can (inaudible) because you come off the freeway, before you get off the freeway then elk are leaving the fields and that is not our greatest big concern is what is in the fields, it's what it is doing to our summer allotment and until we can get something addressed down by the freeway, I think we've got to be pretty aggressive on the North end until they have some winter habitat. But I think he has a good idea, I think what Brayden suggested will help but limit it so they can't go clear over the top cause the elk that you have that's up on Fish Creek and that, they're not the problem elk. Are they? Okay. But our main problem is just right in I-70, right along that corridor, they hang up, when they fenced it, it took their winter country because they used to cross I-70, now they are hung so they stay right there and as soon as it greens up they start. Thanks. Hope I've answered part of your questions.

Dave: Thank you. That is great. Okay. Let's vote.

Justin Shannon: Mr. Chair, before you vote, just a point of clarification, which hunt are you asking to be in the Beaver North?

Brayden: There are 3 hunts, right?

Justin Shannon: Yeah and can I give you the season dates so your, so the first hunt is October 7th through the 29th. There is a second hunt that goes November 1st through November 9th and that's a muzzleloader only hunt. And then there's a third hunt that goes November 25th through December 15th. Which of the 3 were you talking about having on the North?

Brayden: (Off mic).

Vote unanimous

****Went back to vote on the original motion. The vote previous was to add the additional 80 permits.**

RAC voted on Brayden's motion, vote was unanimous.

Rusty Aiken made the motion to add Boulder, Monroe, Plateau, SW Desert to private lands only permits. Craig Laub seconded the motion.

Brian Johnson: I got a question. So, all these other ones that they've done this to, and I know that we all want to go home and I do too, when we've done private lands we've dropped the, the public draw tags, is that something that you are willing, are you going to specific that or leave that open to the Board or what are your thoughts there in that motion? Clarification, just wondering.

Rusty: To take tags away from the public tags to fill them in with the private.

Dave Black: Further discussion? All those in favor?

Brian Johnson: Made the motion to accept remainder of the recommendations as presented. Second by Harry Barber.

Mack Morrell amended the motion to add 200 permits to Panguitch Lake and 150 to SW Desert, Craig seconded.

3 for, 7 opposed. Motion failed.

Dave: Back to the main motion that we pass the remainder of the plan as presented by the DWR. All those in favor?

11 for, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

Dave Black: Let's take a five-minute break and then we'll come back to the item #7.

BREAK

Dave Black: We're ready for a motion that we can discuss regarding the antelope.

Mack Morrell: I make the motion to pass the Divisions recommendation with the amendment to increase the antelope tags by 300 permits and split the additional tags between the first and second hunts, no additional tags on the third hunt. Seconded by Craig Laub.

Dave: Discussion. I guess this is my discussion. I agree that we need to remove additional antelope. My question is, issuing that many tags is that going to accomplish what you want to do or are we better served by making sure they do the trapping and the relocate and know that they are gone that way as

opposed to hunter success on 300 tags, that was my question.

Mack: There is no guarantee on trapping and when they do, they don't get 300, they get about half that many. This is, and if we spread the additional permits on the early hunt in August, it would be more successful.

Dave: So, is that where you want the hunts or do you want a majority or where do you want the additional tags?

Mack: If we got 3 hunts of antelope, split the additional in the first and second hunts.

Dave Black: Is that part of your motion?

Mack: That's correct.

Dave Black: Any further discussion?

Brayden: I'm having heartburn on this one. Because in, can we ask a question of the Division, I'm just trying to figure out why the Divisions numbers are where they are at because it does appear like they are a little low. Maybe not aggressive enough but I know that you have done really good at managing this area so I'd like to know why the numbers are where they are at if you could give us a little more details there.

Jim Lamb: I think actually part of the trouble is just the effort that is put into harvesting prong horn on the Parker. For many years it was a road hunt. You had ample opportunities. I took a young man hunting prong horn with me one day and he had 37 shots before we hit one. And we were always on, you know right by the road. We didn't walk anywhere. Two years ago when I took an individual hunting, we found the 5th group that we saw, I figured out where they may go, he walked down and hid in some rocks, and then I went on a 2-mile jaunt around them and they happened to walk past him. So that is hunting prong horn now a days. I don't think your typical doe prong horn hunter wants to go to that effort. I don't think they do so our success rate has dropped dramatically. I have a paper in my bag that I could grab that would tell you what the success rate was 15 years ago and what it was last year and it is less than half of what it was then. So that's part of the problem. And the other part of the problem is those animals have decided they are going to abandon all that country where it's easy for them to die and they are going to go hide in the spruce and in the aspen on the West side of the Parker Mountain and on the South side of the Parker Mountain. I have prong horn that go on top of the Boulder, you've been there? How much timber is there between the Parker and the top of the Boulder? There is a lot and they go there. Some of them even go off on the East side and end up in Sunflower flat occasionally, I never see them stay over there, they are over there right in the middle of the summer and then they are gone. So, I assume that they go back over the top where they came from, and end up back on the Parker at some point. So, it's a bit of a mix of a change in hunter dynamics and change in prong horn dynamics. That has not allowed us to harvest as many as we would like to.

Brayden: So, is this a case where you feel like increasing the numbers may actually decrease success?

Jim: It did, well a few years ago Mack suggested that we add 200 permits to the number that we tried to kill, we killed 30 additional prong horn the year before so we'll kill a few more. Now the thing that is

different this year is we have an August time frame and a October time frame and a November time frame so if we put those extra permits in those early, those different time frames that may give us some more success so we may actually harvest a substantial number more if we put those permits in August and October.

Brayden: Alright let me get in my real question here, what is your feelings on this proposal, are you opposed to it or are you okay with it what, do you want to go with your original one, where are you at on this?

Jim: If this proposal passes and the Wildlife Board approves it, we will manage it the best we can. And I will do the best job that I can with it.

Brayden: That sounded like a politician answer.

Jim: If the proposal stays where it is I'll manage it the best that I can. I do need to kill more prong horn on the Parker and I do need to be able to move more prong horn off if I'm never gonna get to objective. Part of the reason these prong horn change their habits so much is between 2005 and 2010 we hunted them intensively and we trapped intensively to get to our objective of 1500 and we actually overshot it and we got a little bit below that and it changed the way the prong horn on the Parker are. It changed the way they act, it changed the way they live.

Layne: I just have a question Jim, is there any, has there been any issue with any of those prong horn that are on that East end of the Mytogi? I mean are we having any depredation problems with any of them?

Jim: We don't, we have a few that come into the pivot right below the Horseshoe Dugway, last summer we got up to about 50 in there, I issued some depredation permits for that pivot and when I called the landowner to see if they harvested any in there and to see if they needed any more permits he said that they were holding off shooting them because they had 2 nice bucks in there and he had 2 hunters that wanted to shoot them in September. So, they didn't hunt those prong horn in the pivot until after the hunters had harvested their bucks and then they went in and got the 5 doe permits that they had and weren't interested in having more. So, I do have a few coming off of that rural pines bench area into that, into just that pivot, I haven't had any more come off into Dick Taylors or, no I haven't. I have a few though working those reseeded up on top of there the number has been running about 100 when we do the census there is usually about 100 prong horn up there.

Dave: Thank you.

Gene: Can I ask a question on it? What, if you trap what is your optimistic number that you are gonna take off of there?

Jim: The cool thing about the trap is if Justin asked me to trap 250 prong horn I'm gonna do my level best to trap 250 prong horn. He asks me for 350 and I'm gonna try and trap 350. It's rare that I don't meet the goal with the trapping. And so, whatever number they request we can usually trap that many.

Gene: Then what are you going to do with them?

Jim: Gene, there is a real process for where those animals end up going, there is a lot of work that goes

into that, way ahead of when they are trapped and so wherever they end up going, notifications have been made, letters have been written, all kinds of things like that. Now, the interesting thing is that a lot of times I don't know where those prong horn go. And I don't worry about it. If they ask me to trap 350, they can worry about all that and I'll just go trap 350.

Wade: Mr. Chairman can I ask another quick question? I'm just gonna ask it. How far over objective are we?

Jim: Our objective is 1500 and we are at about 2100 right now so we are 600 over. And I anticipate we, we'll fly tomorrow, our census flight has been pushed forward 2 times now because of weather so tomorrow is the next day we're gonna try.

Wade: Mr. Chairman, can I make a comment? This actually pertains to the motion. So here is the thing, I think the Division has their hands tied a little bit and maybe can't be as honest as some of us up here, I don't see any antelope hunters in the room so I'll be real honest, your, this is generalizing but for the most part your antelope hunters are not your tip of the sword killers. And, for the most part to compound the problem even more, your antlerless hunters don't fit into that category so here we've compounded the problem, we have an antlerless antelope hunter that is not the deadliest hunter we have on the mountain and that is our problem. We can keep throwing permits at this it will not result in any more death and so that's my big concern is are we even doing the right thing here. If we split it up into some different hunts and have some strategy behind it maybe but again our goal here is not to have more permits it's to have more dead animals.

Gene: Well we're talking about management of the animals here and that's mainly been the course of conversation of this antlerless part and what its mostly about but there is also hunting opportunity and I continue to speak out for getting to where it takes 3 points to draw a doe-a-lope now a days, it used to take 3 points to draw a buck. Hunting opportunities just don't, we need as much hunting opportunity as we can too and so they wasn't able to trap this year, lets shoot em.

Dave Black: Let's vote. All those in favor. We're gonna vote on the motion. The motion was to add 300 additional tags, 300 right? Additional tags to the Parker Unit and we're gonna split those 150 on the first hunt and 150 on the second hunt and no additional tags on the third hunt. That's the motion and the second.

Jim: I just want to make sure you understand the first hunt is 13 days long, the second hunt 22 days or 23 days long so if you want to, yeah because I've got to get it in before the bow hunt. So, if you want to just throw that into your thinking process, sorry.

Mack Morrell: If you think they are all going to show up you are wrong. I know. The antelope will be there, the hunters may not.

9 for, 3 opposed, motion passes.

Dave Black: We are not at #7, the CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations. Covey Jones will be presenting.

2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Covey Jones presenting

Dave Black: Questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Questions from the Public:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Layne made the motion to accept as presented. Rusty seconded the motion. Unanimous, 1 abstained.

Dave Black: Now we move onto item #8 which is the Antlerless Variance Request.

2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS VARIANCE REQUESTS

Covey Jones presenting

Questions from the RAC:

Dave: Questions? Wade.

Wade: Not a question, comment, I'll wait.

Dave: I guess my question, just direction up here, even though you can't recommend it, we can still vote that the variance be accepted, is that correct? That's why it is here?

Covey: Yeah that's the discretion of the RAC and the Wildlife Board, I can just tell you the Division's position on it.

Comments from the RAC:

Dave: Okay Wade, comment?

Wade: So, I sit on this CWMU Advisory Committee as well, and let me tell you a little of my thoughts on it. We flushed around this thing for an hour or more and here is what it boils down to, at least to me. We have private property owners who care about wildlife and want to help wildlife. And they have no

means of, there is nothing in place, there is no tools in place, nothing to motivate them to do it. There currently is not a landowners association on this unit. They don't meet the CWMU requirement and so we are basically telling them sorry, nothing fits you, sorry. And to me that's not good enough and here is why. These guys really are great, they love wildlife and they want to promote wildlife but if we can't give them something in return to do that, they are gonna turn into private landowners and just hate them. This property is prime elk habitat. I voted to approve the 6600 acres just by itself. And here is the reality, it's not all, not every acre is the same. They are not all equal. That 6600 acres is a better CWMU than CWMU's we currently have approved that are 15,000. And so, our thought was let's reward the landowners that are helping wildlife, that are benefiting the herd and this property does and so while I am not big on making exceptions we've got to throw these guys a bone somehow till the rule gets changed, we gotta help em out somehow and to me this makes a lot of sense cause we need these guys on our side.

Brayden: I want to piggy back on that comment real quick. We're not only rewarding the landowners we're also rewarding the sportsmen. They get some of these tags and they get access to this land they may not otherwise get access to.

Dave: They raise elk that go into other areas as well. So, it's a win-win. Appreciate your comments, you can excuse yourself from the vote. Or can you vote?

Questions from the Public:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the variance as proposed. Rusty Aiken seconded. 9 for, 3 opposed, motion carried.

Other Business

-Dave Black, Chairman

Dave Black: We have no further business that I'm aware of except I'm not sure when do we replace the new RAC members, are we gonna see these guys next time or do we not? So, its Mack and its Layne oh and its Dale Bagley that are coming off, those three so we'll thank you guys next time but we do appreciate you for all that you've done and all that we've learned from you. Okay, calling this meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

**Southeast Regional Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main Street
Green River, Utah
April 5, 2017**

Motion Summary

Approval of agenda and minutes

MOTION: To approve the agenda as written.

Passed unanimously

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written.

Passed unanimously with one abstention

Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017

MOTION: To direct the Division, as an action log item, to consider having a split-season general deer hunt on units they deem appropriate.

Passed 5-2

MOTION: To accept the remaining Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Passed 4-3

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Passed unanimously

2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

Passed unanimously

2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation, denying the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Request.

Passed unanimously

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

April 5, 2017 ↻ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Members Absent

**Kevin Albrecht, Chairman, USFS
Sue Bellagamba, Non-consumptive
Keith Brady, Elected Official**

Blair Eastman, Agriculture

**Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson
Todd Huntington, Vice Chairman, At-large
Karl Ivory, BLM**

Kent Johnson, At-large

Derris Jones, Sportsmen

**Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen
Christine Micoz, At-large**

Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

Gerrish Willis, Non-consumptive

Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Others Present

Dr. Mike King, Wildlife Board member

Public in attendance: 15

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

My name is Kevin Albrecht and I am the southeastern Chair. We have Charlie Tracy, our livestock rep; Karl Ivory, an agency representative; Derris Jones, Trisha Hedin, Todd Huntington and Sue Bellagamba, a non-consumptive rep.

**2) Approval of the Agenda and minutes
Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

Kevin Albrecht - Have we had a chance look at the agenda? With that, is there any discussion or approval of the agenda?

Karl Ivory – I move that we approve the agenda as it is written.

Derris Jones – I second that.

Kevin Albrecht – We have a motion to approve the agenda by Karl Ivory and seconded by Derris Jones. All in favor? Passed unanimously.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay how about the minutes? I'll entertain a motion.

Karl Ivory – I move that we accept the minutes from last RAC as they are.

Derris Jones – I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Derris Jones. All in favor?

Sue Bellagamba – I'm going to abstain since I was not at the last meeting.

Kevin Albrecht – Unanimous with one abstention

VOTING

Motion made by Karl Ivory to accept the agenda as presented.

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed unanimously

Motion made by Karl Ivory to accept the minutes of the Dec. 14, 2016, meeting as presented.

Seconded by Derris Jones.

Motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Sue Bellagamba)

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

It was a snowstorm in early January and that was our last Wildlife Board meeting, and I was already in Salt Lake, so I offered to have Kevin stay home and not battle a snow storm and fill in for our RAC and he took me up on the offer. If you remember, we met in December and the Board meeting was in early January. We discussed waterfowl recommendations and bear recommendations. There were a few people from the public at our Southeastern Regional RAC meeting that had concerns about bear hunting on the La Sal's and the pursuit season and things like that. There were sportsmen there that supported those seasons and those activities also. At the Wildlife Board meeting, it was interesting, several of the bear hunters, both with the pursuit tags and with bear permits, spoke to the Wildlife Board and expressed their opinion that there wasn't any conflict and that everybody that they met on the mountain during their bear pursuit seasons and harvest seasons that it was a positive experience. They felt that some of the people who expressed their opinions here at our RAC didn't necessarily like hunting and was trying to give bear hunters a bad name. That was an interesting part of the Wildlife Board meeting. There were two or three hunters that showed up and express that perspective. The Wildlife Board went through each one of the issues that were brought up here at our RAC, including there was a bear season date concern among our RAC members here. We had a hound season that conflicted with the spike elk hunt, I believe, it was in the Book Cliffs. Does that sound familiar? The Wildlife Board was trying to evaluate how to resolve that concern. What it came down to was that there's only so many dates that you

can push these hunts in. They were weighing in if they should have the bear hunt during this spike elk hunt or do we have it during a limited-entry deer or elk hunt. In the end they felt that the Division's recommendation was the best way to go and that was to have that hunt during the spike elk season. They agreed with the Division's recommendation.

There was also a lot of discussion here about the number of hounds both during the pursuit season and during the hunt season. The Wildlife Board is interested in exploring that idea, however that idea hadn't gone through all of the RACs. It was an issue that was specifically brought up in our RAC. It is my understanding that in a year from now, the bear plan will be going through a review period and the Board felt that it would be appropriate to include those issues and those questions during that review period and not address them now because it hadn't gone through the public process. So the motions in regards to the number of hounds and hounds concerns that came from our RAC will be brought up and discussed during that bear review period. I am sure we will be hearing about that in about a year from now. The board ended up approving the recommendations for black bear, with the exception of two different things. There was a motion that they add two permits from the spring hunt to the summer hunt on the South Slope Diamond Unit. And that was passed 4-1. There was a motion for the Division be directed that they round the numbers down instead of up when setting the permit quota for non-resident harvest and pursuit bear permits. And that was passed unanimously. The Waterfowl recommendations also passed unanimously. That's all I've got. Any questions on that?

**4) Regional Update
Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

This will be a quick regional review. The ice is coming off of most of our reservoirs. It has been a cold long winter for a little bit and now it is getting warm and everything started to melt off really fast. Our Aquatics Section is really busy. You've probably seen and some of the press releases about Millsite. Because they are fixing the dam and the water levels are going to be so low, we increased the fish take to 16 fish. We want people to fish Millsite and take a lot of fish. We would like them to take all of the fish out of there before it gets too low. My question was, "Why don't we just leave it open and say that you can take as many fish as you want?" But the way that we work as humans is that we are very competitive, and if we give you a number of 16 fish as your limit, you'll fish harder to reach that number than if we just said it was unlimited. By giving a cap at 16, we will take more fish. Later this summer and fall will be doing rotenone treatments up the Ferron creek drainages, but not in Millsite itself. We have a lot of spring gill nettings going on, and I have all of the dates with me. If you're interested in joining us on a gill netting survey throughout May in both Emery and San Juan counties let me know. That is always a fun activity. We just started stocking our community fisheries. That happened last week.

We have some habitat projects going on now. Just this week, we met with all of our sportsman groups in the state. And these sportsman groups have committed millions of dollars towards habitat projects. We hear a lot about conservation permits and

banquets and a small percentage of our tags go to these banquets and expos to the highest bidder, and that generates a ton of money. The great news is most of that money goes right back onto the ground. This week we met with our sportsman groups, and they committed almost \$3 million statewide to be put back on the ground, and, of course, that money we matched with state money and federal money, BLM funds dollars, other non-profit organization money. This is to do great projects for upland game, big game, nongame and all kinds of wildlife species. We just wrapped those meetings up this week and it was exciting. We have other projects going on—we have some sagebrush planting on Porphyry Bench that took place yesterday. We have some Russian olive removal projects up Gordon Creek. Most of you know Daniel Eddington, he was our habitat manager for the last four years and before that he was our restoration biologist in this region for five to six years prior to that. He took a job in the Salt Lake office and he might come back; if he doesn't like Salt Lake then he can come back and join us. Right now he is seeing how this new job is going to treat him and how he likes it. He will be overseeing the restoration program statewide for our agency. In the meantime we will have Nicole Nielson, who is our habitat restoration biologist, be the acting habitat manager for the next six months.

Law enforcement has been busy as well. They have been enforcing the shed antler closure, which ended on Saturday. They have been gearing up for the AIS season and they have an event coming up on May 13 called "Cops, Bobbers and Badges". This would be a kids-family day in price at the Carbon County Fairgrounds. We did this last year and it was a huge success so they are going to do it again this year.

We have had some clinics. We had a turkey clinic on March 17 in Price, and had about 35 people attend, and then we had a predator clinic on Friday night a few days ago, and we had over 40 people attend, which is a lot for our area, and I think we are going to look at making those clinics available throughout our region. This year they were in Price and maybe next year we will take them down south and do some clinics down there. We have gotten some good responses and people enjoy learning how to be more successful at Turkey hunting and how to kill coyotes and other predators. We have a sage grouse viewing event this Saturday at Emma Park. We are hoping the weather cooperates and it's a RSVP-type event because we only have a limited amount of parking spaces alongside of the road at Emma Park. The list is full and people are excited to come from all over the United States, actually. So we are hoping that the weather cooperates.

We have been capturing and transplanting wildlife the last few months. A lot of the species that you see on the slide here are species that we caught and took blood samples from so we could test them for diseases or put GPS collars on so we can track the movements. A few of those, specifically the elk and deer statewide, we have moved from one unit to another. In some areas there are nuisance deer and elk and in other areas we want to supplement the population; we take them from Heber Valley and other places throughout the state where we need more elk. Or in the case of deer, it's Bountiful and urban deer and take them to different parts of the state, including the southeastern part of the Manti. Our sage grouse lek counts are underway and we are currently doing deer classifications as well. USU is coming next week to work on a sage grouse study and placing 13 callers on sage grouse up on the Tavaputs. And with that I will answer any questions.

Kevin Albrecht - One question that I have been asked a lot is with the way that the

winter stacked up especially early, how did our wildlife overwinter?

Chris Wood - Guy or Justin want to answer that?

Justin Shannon - Do you want here or statewide?

Kevin Albrecht – It would be good to get state wide also.

Guy Wallace - We just got the information and most of our units did pretty good. The fawn survival was down a little bit on some units like the San Juan unit was 50 percent on survival but the Henry's and the Southeast Manti were both higher with 80 percent or right around there in the region. Adult survival was pretty good, but of course, in northern Utah it was lower, and Justin could probably speak more to the Northern Utah. The region was mixed with those couple of exceptions.

Justin Shannon - At a statewide level the adult survival was good throughout the state anywhere from the mid-80s up to the mid-high 90s so far. So adults have done well but some of the fawns have struggled and you will see that in the presentation that I give. Areas like the Cache, South Slope, the Oquirrh-Stansbury, that northern part of the state where we did some feeding and other efforts. Fawn survival is anywhere between 20 and 40 percent right in that area. The rest of the state for fawn survival, though, San Juan is at 50. The other ones are well above 50.

Kevin Albrecht - Thank you.

Karl Ivory - Chris, I have question on the rotenone. Was that tied in with the Millsite dam renovation or is that something else, like working with cutthroat trout or something there in the Ferron drainage?

Chris Wood - It is both. The water level is getting low enough that we don't need to rotenone it and there is concern with the and municipal water so we are not going to rotenone the actual reservoir but the creeks upstream are being rotenoned and have been for the last few years to restore native cutthroat trout.

Chris Wood - Just two more things, we have a new employee that works for us his name is Daniel Olson. He is our new employee that will be working out of the Salt Lake office and will be working statewide. We have a new initiative going on it is called the migration initiative and he is going to be the lead on that. Daniel received his education in Utah.

Daniel Olsen - I am from Idaho originally but received my master's and doctorate in Utah.

Chris Wood - He will be running that migration initiative for us. We are going to be putting GPS collars on big game, upland game, fish and all kinds of things. We will be tracking movements. Our director was inspired by the migration patterns of antelope and deer in Wyoming and saw a presentation. So he decided that we needed to determine the migration patterns and movements here in Utah. Daniel has been working in Oregon for the last three years so he brought him to lead that effort. So hopefully we will be seeing more information and data from him in years to come. And lastly, Karl Ivory's last RAC meeting is today. He has been with us for four years so his term is up and instead of taking another four-year term he thought he would hand the baton off to Dana Truman who is also here. She is the new wildlife biologist for the BLM. She will be taking over starting next month. We have a print for Karl and he gets to pick which one he would like and take it home with him. We would like to thank you for all of your service and all that you have done. It is a big time commitment to be on the RAC and we appreciate your service for all you do and representing who you do. Next month, there will be six of you

who it'll be your last RAC meeting. We are currently interviewing new RAC applicants and in our next meeting, July or August, we will have seven new faces on our RAC. Come in May and we'll have a gift for the rest of you.

Kevin Albrecht - Thank you, Chris, for that. With that we will go to our first action item: Bucks, Bulls and OIAL.

5) **Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017**
Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht - I think I'll open it up for questions but I want to start off with a comment. Justin was giving this presentation I thought a lot about, Justin talked about where many of us have began eight or 10 years ago on the RAC, and at that time, there was a lot of turnover and there were many of us that were new to this process. And I'm certain we were like a pack of hungry wolves trying to give that explanation to. Thinking about the explanation that we had then to where we have come now with how you have broken that out by the units and really shown us what you give to each unit and now that it's in management units for the concern sportsmen, you can now really see where you're targeting and what you're doing. I think that is really helpful in the way that you gave that presentation. I think that will help the sportsmen. Thank you. With that, I'll open it up to questions from the RAC.

Todd Huntington - Justin I appreciate all that you have done to help me learn how these things work. I thank you. To what do you attribute the success of the desert bighorn? The trend since I have been on the RAC until this year has been down or maybe stable until this year, so what happened? How did we grow some more sheep?

Justin Shannon - It is interesting. We didn't find another Zion where there is 800 sheep. It seemed like it across the board that the sheep on the north San Rafael for instance where we have had one permit, those sheep are doing better and they are coming back and we are getting more of a class-3 and -4 rams. It has been just a lot of small contributions throughout the southern in the southeastern part of the state. Probably the biggest increase was on the Kaiparowits-East. The last time we surveyed that, there was a lot of mature rams. I think we counted 28 class-3 or class-4 rams. So with that you can increase additional permits. You're right, because in 2010 we were slashing pretty heavy and we're looking at our sheep permits in our program. Things really turned around in some of these units. Our Rockies I am more concerned with now which wasn't the case in 2010. I think some of these things cycle, but there is no silver bullet. We just didn't find another Zion it is a lot of little contributions. I wish we could find another Zion. That would be great.

Todd Huntington - It is encouraging, especially with the north San Rafael that used to be five or six permits then went down to one and now we're up to three this year. I will propose that we stay at two but that is for a little bit later. I think that's exciting.

Karl Ivory - Just a question looking at the late-season muzzleloader hunt, overall what was the success rate with that?

Justin Shannon - On the late-season muzzleloader hunts?

Karl Ivory - That is on the regular units. That is actually a draw hunt.

Justin Shannon - I can go pull it up for you. It is interesting because some of these late-season muzzleloader hunts they have just as high as of a success rate and we harvest the same quality of bulls that we do on the early. In some units and it has been just to spread out the hunters a little bit and in others it tends to be not as good of the hunt as the September hunt. As far as an actual statewide number I don't think I have that.

Karl Ivory - That's fine.

Todd Huntington - You're talking about the deer hunts, Karl?

Justin Shannon - Oh, sorry. I thought you meant elk. Forgive me. I thought you meant the late-season rifle elk hunts. So that draw hunt on the late-season muzzleloader I went back and read the comments and looked at the data. We have people that are spending double-digit points to put in for some of these. And the response is really favorable. The one request that we continually get is can we push it later into the rut. I get it, if I had that tag would probably ask for the same thing. It was pretty clear with the mule deer committee that we would keep that early into November with the muzzleloader.

Karl Ivory - Okay.

Todd Huntington - I have a question about the management hunt particularly on the Henry's. We approved the muzzleloader and the archery options there, which I was against. We didn't increase the management tags on the Henry's, we just split those out. Why?

Justin Shannon - I will show you. It's a good question.

Todd Huntington - If you were going to increase them, then why did you just leave them all rifle and leave them late?

Justin Shannon - You look at the buck to doe ratio in 2014 it was 48 and 2015 it was 65 and last year it was 47. Without having that 2016 number we are looking at that big jump and saying, "Oh my goodness. We are going to be well over 55 and we need to increase more permits." And it seems like on that unit when you have more than 30 in the five-day hunt, it can get crowded, especially when you're trying to take your time. With a hunt that has an antler point restriction it is the hardest big-game hunt we have with trying to figure out three or less on what we are doing. I guess to answer your question we didn't anticipate that dropping back down to 47, and looking at the data now you can say maybe that 65 was an anomaly and we weren't that high. Maybe were not as low as 47, and that's why we manage on it three-year average. But it was our expectation that we should be prepared for what we do if we are over 55 and we wanted to recommend more permits.

Todd Huntington - You're not changing them. So why not just leave them any weapon rather than at the two seasons and have to go through all of that?

Justin Shannon - The reason we need to put some permit numbers in that is because people have already applied for it. If you're not comfortable with the nine number, that's a starting point, so if that's too many and you'd like to see more in any weapon, the RAC can have that discussion. But it was just a way that we could get a feel for what these hunts were like. We wanted to increase the sample size a little bit and get a feel for what success rates would be and get a bit more feedback. Do you have anything to add Wade?

Wade Paskett - So, ever since the management hunt began in 2010 there has been serious overcrowding.

Todd Huntington - Oh yeah, 30 is too many, no doubt.

Wade Paskett – Yeah, but in one hunt, in that five-day hunt. And when you get yelled at because a hunter’s daughter, what quality of hunt is that, year after year after year. And you have 30 hunters and each of those guys have five to 10 ATVs running around and you get beat up all the time about “it’s too crowded, too crowded,” and so this was a way to distribute and make a more quality hunt on the Henry Mountains and that was the only purpose for it.

Todd Huntington - More quality except for the guys that drew the limited-entry muzzleloader and limited-entry archery. Their quality just went [down].

Wade Paskett - But by the time the hunt starts, they already know what buck they want and have spent the time, and by that time the hunt starts...

Todd Huntington - You and I will have to agree to disagree on that, Wade.

Wade Paskett – Fair enough.

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions?

Trisha Hedin - You will have to refresh my memory. So when we had the whole deal with archery hunters with once-in-a-lifetime, I thought the final decision, and you will just have to refresh my memory, was that they simply were going to get an extended season. But now, and tell me if I’m wrong, that I’m deciphering this wrong. Now I see that we have given them tags for bison and mountain goat.

Justin Shannon - Correct. Do you want the back story on that or why that decision was made?

Trisha Hedin - Let’s review.

Kevin Albrecht - We voted that in our RAC and it went to the Wildlife Board, and I thought it was going to go exactly like we voted, and in the very last minute, that didn’t happen. So they voted to go the other. But at that time they did say it was going to be very limited numbers. “Trial”—I thought that was the language the board used. I think we have an opportunity here today to talk what those numbers are.

Trisha Hedin - Because again, I thought we weren’t giving them tags and that they were just going to get an extended season is what I thought they were asking for.

Justin Shannon - That was the recommendation that was brought forth, but as a public process worked itself out, that was not the way the Wildlife Board voted. So now we what we have is a similar thing it was brought up earlier. We’ve had hunters apply for the archery-only bison hunt and the archery-only mountain goat hunt and so we have to put some permits in there.

Trisha Hedin - I get told “no” all the time on my draws.

Justin Shannon – Yeah, but you’re also given a chance, and I think if we give them a zero chance, that might be problematic.

Trisha Hedin - I feel like we kind of got, okay, that is interesting.

Kevin Albrecht - In the Board that is how they voted.

Trisha Hedin - To actually give them permits not just extend their hunt?

Justin Shannon - In all fairness to the Wildlife Board, it was pretty split among the RACs. There were some that...

Trisha Hedin - I watched it and I understand that.

Kevin Albrecht - Any other questions?

Questions from the public

No questions.

Comments from the public

Eric Luke, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW) - I just want to commend the Division and complement them. We appreciate all the time and effort that is put in to putting these recommendations together. We know the biologist spend many hours out there doing their counts. We appreciate that. Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife supports—and I'm going to go ahead and save us little time on the other items here—we support all of the recommendations for all of the agenda items on the 2017 big game permit recommendations as presented by the Division. We would like to ask that the board consider looking into creating some split seasons on a few of the general season deer units. I believe particularly some of those that had increases on permit numbers this year to address hunter crowding.

Kevin Albrecht - Thank you.

Jace Guymon, Utah Bowmen's Association - We agree with all recommendations put forward by the DWR for the big-game permits. I'm excited to see the archery-only hunts went through for the once-in-a-lifetime, and I'm hoping in the future we get some of those for all of the once-in-a-lifetime hunts. For right now we are going with all of the recommendations.

Shayne Thompson, SFW - I would just like to support Eric and back him up on that. Couple of comments on the archery only permits. Really, they should room for increases so I don't think they set aside tags on that buffalo. They are going to have more tags so they just give them a section of them, is what I understood. I don't know if that's true or not, but there is going to be an increase on the buffalo tags, so I don't think they deliberately added just for the bowmen. On the comment for the split seasons, I personally was involved in some overcrowding and we are adding tags to that and in over two years on some of these units you have private land and the public land is limited. There were hunters on 2-foot centers on some of these areas. Try make that a little better in some way, I know it's harder for them to police or really to regulate them. But in the last two years, a couple of units that I have been on have been just slammed on the public ground. The bucks are still there, and one unit that's actually going to start affecting the Paunsaugant a lot. I think those bucks migrate out of there and I think increasing them too much in the crowding there is really going to effect that unit as well. I know some of the hunter pressure on their distributing at different times might be better experience or something like that. But anyway, thanks for all that everybody does. You guys, and all the work that's been done for this presentation.

Harvey Howard - I would like just to say that I would like you guys to look real close at that split season thing on the general season hunts. Maybe a five-day hunt that is a little bit later maybe into the first week of November and maybe a seven-day hunt or eight-day hunt that a little bit further forward. I know there are a lot of people out there competing for hills and stuff like that. When you're in a wheelchair you kind of see that a little bit more. So you notice that, and it would be nice just on a general hunt to have that ability. The other thing is when you guys are putting in "no motorized vehicles beyond this point", and the gates are locked stuff like that, keep us guys that are in wheelchairs in

your thoughts and whatnot. I know there are some roads that have been closed, whether it's the Cold Springs area or the Gordon Creek area. Those roads have been there for almost 100 years now and it isn't any worse for the wear and the times the years that we are in there hunting is not critical winter time and stuff anyways. If you could just keep those things in mind for me and my other comments were on the antlerless so if you could call me back later.

Kevin Albrecht - Thanks Harvey. With that, that is all the comments from the audience. We will open it up to the comments from the RAC.

RAC discussion

Trisha Hedin - I will try not to go back a couple of meetings. But Jace and Shayne, I am an archer, so I support archery. I just have a problem with starting to give tags because, as I have mentioned, next will be the muzzleloaders. We are just starting a trickle-down effect and they're going to say, "Well once-in-a-lifetime, they got special treatment make a special tags." So now the muzzleloader's are going to come and I just think that were getting ourselves into a cycle. These guys are so bogged down with season dates that it's not even funny and that's where it comes from. That is where my issue comes from. I would like that tag. If I get a better chance because am an archer sure. But yet, I see the big picture and that's what bothers me about it. So I'm going to propose that, and I understand that we cannot eliminate them now, but I want to cut them way down. Ten on the Henry's is a lot. That is my proposal on that. And the other thing that I wanted to state, and it's just kind of off topic or not on that topic but, I noted because I am a Book Cliffs fan, you took a tag from resident pool on the multi-season and gave it to a nonresident. I guess I really would like to throw out the idea of removing nonresidents from a multi-season hunt. Because the reality is I think one of the statistics that we got recently was that the average hunter on a once-in-a-lifetime or a limited-entry was like four days. There is no way that a nonresident is going to come out four days and go back to California and come back out. I just think those multi-season tags should be preserved for residents. I think that the people that apply for them are the people that work 80 hours a week. They want that chance to go out and hunt once in a while and those guys are holding tough. I know some of those guys have a lot of points and now we just gave one away. This is just a thought. I don't think a nonresident would utilize that tag the way resident would.

Todd Huntington - That was on elk?

Trisha Hedin - These are elk and I think they took one from the Books and one from the Manti. Just a thought.

Karl Ivory - Just from point of discussion on these archery tags, like it has been mentioned, there was an increase that was going to happen, so some of those were donated to archery? Or was it an increase and the archers even got more?

Justin Shannon - Both. We did increase permits on the bison, and Wade, correct me if I am wrong. We did increase permits on the bison population this year on the Henry's. But what we do is we figure out where is our current bison population and if it's here and we need you get to here we figure out how much harvest we need. So when we set these permits for the hunter's choice hunt and if you want to harvest nine bison you issue 10 permits because their success rate about 90 percent. In this situation, we are not sure what

the archery success is going to be. And we can admit that we have no data. But we looked at what was on the bison permits, maybe they will harvest at 60 percent success rate. And so in that regard, we were increasing permits anyways. But we probably added more because we estimated a lower success rate.

Karl Ivory - So it's based on a target number that you're trying to get?

Justin Shannon - Exactly. With archery you can either throw six more permits into the rifle hunts or you could do 10 archery permits and will probably harvest the same amount of animals.

Karl Ivory - My other question is, is that a different season too? Is it earlier?

Justin Shannon - It's early into October.

Kevin Albrecht - I can speak a little more to the confusion. The first time this was brought to the RAC, if you remember, it wasn't brought by the Division, it was brought by the Utah Bowmen's Association. And the first go-around, they didn't propose that they have a separate pool to draw from. They proposed that the draw be from the one pool, the pool that everybody put in for, the once-in-a-lifetime pool. If they drew that then they could hunt the archery hunt. The second go around when they came back through I think that is what was misunderstood a lot by our RAC because it wasn't announced a lot. That is what was lost is that they would have a certain number of tags separated just for the archery. That is where a lot of our RAC is expressed a concern because that pool was separated just for them that those guys that have been applying for the once-in-a-lifetime for so long that it would take some from their pool. Even if it increased this year, over time, it would take from the pool that they have been drawing from and a lot of our RAC expressed that they felt that everyone should be in for the same draw, and if you're going to have a separate hunt, you would have that. I thought maybe it would clarify that.

Derris Jones - Is there a reason why all of the archery bison tags are just on the Henry's? Why didn't we spread them out, some to the Book Cliffs and some of the other bison units?

Justin Shannon - You know I don't really know. Other than just to say that this was moving pretty fast and furious at the Board. Kevin and I were there, and there were times that I thought it was dead in the water, then there were times that we were going to pass it for bighorns and other species and then it kind of settled here. So I don't know if I have a good answer for you. Again, it wasn't a Division proposal. So it's not like we came and said, "Here is what we are thinking." It was more like, "Let's try it." And the other thing that I would say is with this hunt, this actually serves somewhat of a purpose on the Henry's. It is not just a social thing and we can get into that but, one thing with the bison on the Henry's, often times when you start hunting with the rifles and have 20 to 25 permits in the early season in November, those bison started get pushed down to Swap Mesa and some of these areas that are really difficult to access. So the logic behind this was if we could harvest some with archery equipment and do it surgically and quietly, maybe we wouldn't push those animals down as much. And those earlier November hunts we wouldn't have as many hunters and maybe keep them on the mountain a little longer. Other than that I don't know if I have a better answer, Derris.

Kevin Albrecht - I would just add my perspective to that. I think that part of that was we thought that this was dead in the water and it wasn't going anywhere. When they decided to do it, there was a lot of emotion in the meeting and a lot of people were really wanting

it to pass. When the Wildlife Board did, they asked that it be implemented at a slow pace. I think that's why you're only seen on few units to see what it's like initially.

Is there any other comments?

Some of the notes that I have taken, so if there is any discussion on the split season deer and also on the archery bison and the multi-season for nonresident hunters are three. Is there any other topics for discussion?

One comment that I have on the split season general deer. Tonight is the first night that I have heard that brought up. One of the thoughts that I had is as the state has gone to these general season deer units and they're going to be things come up, and sportsmen are going to see issues. To me that is one of the nice things about those units if there is an issue that comes up you can try something. I know the same time with that being said the Division for the proclamation and for the ease of reading they like to keep things the same and they don't like to confuse the hunters and have one that is totally different. But at the same time, if it's not a problem on all of the units and maybe a select few, maybe just like with the bison permits, you can see if this works and maybe it's a tool to be able to help that social issue. That's just a thought.

Derris Jones - My feelings on the split deer season is that we are going around in circles. We used to have a whole bunch of small deer units to distribute hunters then we decided to let the hunters distribute themselves, so we blocked them all up into bigger units. On the Rocky Mountain bighorn, we had a crowding issue on the Nine Mile-Range Creek unit so we split the unit in half and that made a lot of the hunters mad because they couldn't decide whether they want to hunt early or late. So now are splitting a unit into two units, two smaller units, and I just think crowding is, people are going to go where the best hunting is. And if you don't like crowds then go where the crowds are small and the hunting is not quite as good.

Kevin Albrecht - Other comments?

Trisha Hedin - The only other comment I have on the split season is you start pushing into November then all of a sudden...

Kevin Albrecht - So, I didn't address that but I would just ask if we do entertain the split season that we wouldn't give any dates. That would be given to the Division for their— because there are so many other seasons. I think there is a muzzleloader season right then.

Trisha Hedin - I guess that is the point I want to make is the schedule is so packed.

Kevin Albrecht - I would say that if we do entertain it in any way that we don't tie the Division's hand. Do it as an action log item and let them research that to see if it's something that they want to entertain.

Charlie Tracy - I make a motion that we do that, because that'll just let them look at it and see and because we really don't know what it's going to do. I mean you have to be a lawyer anyways to read the proclamation and try to understand it. How you could ever keep track of all the stuff is beyond me. I think let's just make it what you said there, a log action item, and let them look at it and that's fair. So I make a motion that we do that right now.

Kevin Albrecht - We will do that as a separate item. So Charlie Tracy has made a motion that the Division make an action log item to have a split season general deer on units where they feel would be appropriate or that would be for discussion. Is there a second?

Keith Brady – I will second that, I think that is fair for the DWR to look at it.

Kevin Albrecht – So the motion was by Charlie Tracy and seconded by Keith Brady. All in favor. Five in favor, two opposed.

Charlie Tracy - I make a motion that we go ahead and accept the stuff as it's been proposed by the Division.

Kevin Albrecht – One thing I know there's a point of discussion is on the archery. Would you like to go ahead with what the Division's proposed?

Charlie Tracy – Yes, I don't think they're going to change that.

Kevin Albrecht – Possibly there may be some people that may want to reduce numbers. So there is a motion on the table by Charlie Tracy. Is there discussion on the motion? Do we have a second on the motion?

Karl Ivory - I second that motion.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Karl Ivory. Any discussion on the motion?

Trisha Hedin - I think I would like to add a couple, and if nobody seconds it, that's fine. I would like to make a motion to reduce the permits on the archery-only once-in-a-lifetime bison and goats.

Kevin Albrecht - What would you like them to be reduced to? She is asking if it could be amended. And he would have to agree, but I think you ought to give Charlie a number of what that would be and then he would have to agree.

Trisha Hedin - I want zero, but if it is truly just testing the waters, put one in each—one bison one goat. That is if were just doing a test. I just feel like, and Justin even said it, we don't know what we're even doing, and that bothers me and again I really feel like we are getting ourselves into muddy water, and you just wait, I could make a big bet muzzleloader's are coming next. That's why I have the issue with it. So I would say drastically reduce.

Charlie Tracy – I would add drastically increase. Just to be stubborn.

Kevin Albrecht - So you would like to keep yours as you made it?

Charlie Tracy –Yep.

Trisha Hedin - That's okay.

Kevin Albrecht - With that, we will call for a vote. All in favor. Four in favor, three opposed. Motion carries.

VOTING

Motion made by Charlie Tracy to direct the Division, as an action log item, to consider having a split-season general deer hunt on units they deem appropriate.

Seconded by Keith Brady

Motion passed with five in favor, two opposed (Derris Jones, Trisha Hedin).

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the remaining Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Seconded by Karl Ivory

Motion passed with four in favor, three opposed (Derris Jones, Trisha Hedin and Todd Huntington).

6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017
Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht - One question that I've been asked a lot I'm sure will come up, and maybe you can just address. Those that look on the page on the Central Mountains-Manti, it kind of jumps off the page. The difference of what it was before to what it is now, and maybe just giving them an explanation of what led to that or why that recommendation would probably be good.

Justin Shannon - Brad do you want to tackle that one?

Brad Crompton - I will give it a try. Basically we were over objective for a number of years and we put a lot of tags into reducing the herd below that objective. We have gone quite a ways below and we were able to fly it this year as well. So we are quite a ways below it, so we are adjusting more to a maintenance mode and slowly building that herd back to 12,000 elk.

Kevin Albrecht - I knew that would be addressed tonight I knew there would be a lot of questions. I think in addition to being over objective and a lot of the increase, the Forest Service asked the Division for an increase in those tags because of the Seeley fire and there was quite an increase there as well. Now that they have stabilized I think that is part of it.

Todd Huntington - Justin, there is a lot of units where the numbers are over objective yet tags were reduced. I am just curious on why in those spots.

Justin Shannon - The hardest, and maybe I am not doing a good job presenting this, but you're right, the public draw permits are certainly being reduced on some of these units. Some of these units are over objective and with that, with the private lands-only permits that we have seen in many cases, we've pulled those public draw hunts and lowered those and put them here. And the reason we have is because we have to harvest elk to get to objective. It is really about harvesting the right elk. I think for a lot of years in this agency, we were growing elk and that was the goal. And guys like Derris and Guy and others did an exceptional job at that. Now that we have all these elk, I think the current challenge of my generation of biologists is you have them, how are you going to manage them? We have to get harvest one way or the other, and in many cases we are just trying to retrain the elk with shifting tags from the public and putting them in the private. If we have time can I show one more slide on this?

Kevin Albrecht - Absolutely, I think this is important because it jumps off the page. It is saying that we are over but then you were reducing permits so I think this will help.

Justin Shannon - We're just trying to think about this differently. If you can see on the far left that first graph, that is percentage of elk that were on public land on the Wasatch. We have radio collared about 300 to 350 elk on that unit in the last three years. What you can see is they were about 75, 80 percent on public land during the summer, and as soon as these hunts start, they are bailing off to refuge to the point where we only had about a quarter of our elk our radio-collared elk on public land. The sportsmen are saying, "You sold me a camping trip. We went up there and there's no elk." And then we go survey it and we see a lot of elk. These radio collars have taught us a lot about how the elk are using the landscape, so in this instance we tried private land permits the next year on the

Wasatch. They still came off of public land into the private land because they are smart animals. But this time it was only 38 percent were on private compared to 25. In one year we saw a 13-percent increase of elk that were staying on public land. You know, Todd, what this means long term as we come forward in the future with public draw permits, because the numbers are going up again and they will, but what we're doing now is trying to retrain them so when we come back and say the public draw hunters are going to get these permits, the days of 6-percent success rates are gone and it will be closer to 50 because the elk cannot find refuge. Does that help? I know it's a complicated answer.

Derris Jones - On the San Juan you mentioned there are two old cow hunts that are no longer?

Justin Shannon - Yes.

Derris Jones - There was only a reduction of 50 permits is that what I saw on that?

Justin Shannon - Let me look. Yes in your RAC packet that should say 220, and that RAC packet was printed out a week before the RAC meetings even started. But since then we have met and looked at that we are 300 elk under objective. If we did away with the two unit-wide San Juan cow hunts that are there, it's about 150 permits, which is what's being presented tonight, then as we survey that this next year, it's just more of a conservative approach to see what we have because we estimate that we are 300 under.

Derris Jones - The two cow hunts that are being eliminated used to have 150 cow tags?

Justin Shannon - Last year they had 200 and in the RAC packet that was eliminated from 200 to 150, and then with this we just took it a step further and said, "Let's do away with it for a year." And I apologize for that because I want you guys to have the best information and I didn't think sending out a RAC packet the day before was fine, so I would just address here.

Charlie Tracy - So you're not killing any cows?

Justin Shannon - Yes, we still have 50 permits. And then we still have the antlerless elk control permits and the private lands-only permits.

Charlie Tracy - Okay.

Justin Shannon - This is only the public draw permits

Derris Jones - Statewide you're pretty much right at the statewide objective, is that correct?

Justin Shannon - Yes, we are just shy of it. But yeah, we're right there.

Derris Jones - With this new approach of fewer tags higher success, you're pretty confident that this is going to work?

Justin Shannon - Our harvest has been right where we wanted it and projected it. You know the other harvest that is not on here is the mitigation permits, the depredation and those types of things as well. With all of the harvest that we are getting, it is helping the population stay stable.

Charlie Tracy - You have been doing private thing for about a year? Or two years? Or how long is it been going on?

Justin Shannon - We have one year that it has been accomplished and then tonight will be the second year or this fall will be the second year that we do it. On our elk committee, it was interesting because we talked about how we need to give the biologists and landowners more tools, and so this is been away to really target the harvest.

Kevin Albrecht - Any other questions from the RAC? Any questions from the audience? Please come up to the microphone in the front and state your name.

Questions from the public

Harvey Howard - What guidelines, and maybe Brad can answer this better on the Nine Mile-Range Creek, what triggers that being a control unit? It went to the private land-only permits, but still it's an open area and anybody can go buy a cow tag.

Brad Crompton - Correct. This is one that we did not want to bounce back and forth in and out of that program to confuse our hunters. Even though we reduced cow harvest up there quite a bit because we're well under objective, we kept it as a control unit primarily due to access; it's mostly private land up there. So with the few hunters, if you have a bull tag in hand and you happen to see a cow, you have that opportunity to harvest. Crowding becomes an issue just due to the very limited public lands up there. Does that make sense?

Harvey Howard - Well yeah. I don't agree with it, but it makes sense in a way. I got a comment about it. I'll come back.

Eric Luke - Question on the reduction and it kind of goes back to Todd's question and hopefully this will help all of us understand a little better. When we met with the biologist earlier and talked over these numbers, it was my understanding that part of the reason for cutting the tags back even though were still close to objective was the fact that we are seeing the harvest will stay up or maybe even being better than it has been because when you have so many tags in an area, the success rate is so low. And I believe, and correct me if I am wrong, but they anticipate that the success rate by lowering the tags will actually stay where it's at or increase? Is that an accurate assessment?

Justin Shannon - It is similar to the question earlier on how do you allocate permits. We look at the success rate on these and we found as we have gotten smarter on our seasons and our boundaries and those types of things, and we done away with hunts that were candidly not very fruitful for sportsmen, that's where a lot of these cuts are taking place. We found that we harvest the number of elk that we need to make progress towards our objectives, and I think with the reduction in public draw permits and shifting that over to private lands only and other avenues, we still feel really comfortable that we will get the harvest that we need.

Helaman Tate - This is my first time coming to one of these, but as I'm watching this and understand that the Division has their tag recommendations and your new recommendations for next year. Why don't you put another column that there with the success rate so that these guys might be able to make or see what you are seeing when you did the tag recommendations. I know you had it on the overall success rate. But for each unit it's not on there. It just shows your...

Justin Shannon - I think with the problem is we have hundreds of antlerless elk? Are you saying summarized into one? So we could say public draw success rate was 52 percent or 40 percent? Because if I broke it down by each hunt we would literally have hundreds of these so we would be here for a while.

Kevin Albrecht - Do you mean the draw or the harvest?

Helaman Tate - The harvest.

Justin Shannon - Okay, I thought you meant the success rate. I apologize about that. That is something we can consider these are constantly evolving. If we can be more clear we will try that.

Helaman Tate - I just think of the harvest rate was up there and these guys could see what it was they might understand why you're recommending the new number you're recommending.

Justin Shannon - So the total harvest? Or the rate? I'm just trying to wrap my mind around it? The percentage or the number of animals harvested?

Helaman Tate – Either/or.

Justin Shannon – Okay.

Kevin Albrecht - Thank you. Any other questions? So I have two comment cards. We will go with Jace Guymon, followed by Harvey Howard.

Comments from the public

Jace Guymon, Utah Bowmen's Association - I just want to thank you for all of your efforts. We are supporting all of the recommendations put forth by the DWR.

Harvey Howard - I am back to the Nine Mile-Range Creek Unit. We have a situation out there with literally hundreds or in the thousand area of wild horses, a non-native species. I haven't heard anybody talk about that at this point. We are giving unlimited elk tags where elk could be living and we're supporting horses on winter range, summer range, the whole bit. They are not on the private land that you're talking about giving private tags. So I am wondering and just begging somebody to take that to the state and get on somebody's desk jump up and down a little bit. Because they are growing and they are growing in population fast. If you want to see wild horses take a ride up Cottonwood or Cold Springs or somewhere. You can sit on one point up there and look in any direction and see horses and probably count 500 or 600 horses on a couple of different ridges. But yet, we are giving unlimited elk tags on public land so we can't use that resource. So anyway, I just want everybody to keep that in mind and if there is any way that you can make a recommendation to look at it somehow or use power or use something to push that and get them horses taken care of. I know there is a lot of stuff going on federally and maybe we need to get on our congressman's desk and jump up and down. I know I just seen a thing in California that a judge just blocked the deal that Nevada was trying to do. It is becoming a problem. The range is hurting from it. And there's a lot of horses, and it's killing our ability to continue that elk and deer population growth in them areas. I thank you.

Kevin Albrecht - I will take a stab at this. Your comments are well taken. I know this is something that the Division has taken a stand on. The Wildlife Board, I know, prepared a letter and sent that letter. In specific areas where the horse numbers were over that population, the Wildlife Board wrote a letter and asked the federal agencies to manage those to that objective. I know that it was signed by the Wildlife Board and that was sent out. But I think that, like you say, if it is a concern, just like this process, we need to have that voice through your representatives and through your politicians is probably a great way, an avenue for you also to do.

Harvey Howard - I have wrote letters to them. So that's the way we do it. We need to squeak and if you guys are interested in that there is a lot of acreage there that the horses are taking up and elk and deer could be in it.

Keith Brady - One thing that our county is doing is there is a lot of squeakers in our county and so we've had a lot of roundup, not a lot of roundup, but at least the BLM is

starting to do roundups now to get them at an appropriate AML. But you need to get the grazers involved and really hammer the BLM and maybe even the Forrester Service, depending where they are at. But keep hammering them. Tell your state. I think the RAC, the DWR is a good place too. But I think everyone would support you in that because our wild horses and burros are way over the management level that they should be at. It is a problem, not just for hunters, but also for grazers.

Charlie Tracy - They never had a Roundup in that area ever?

Kevin Albrecht – I am not certain.

Karl Ivory - I can address that a little bit more being the agency rep for the BLM. We have coordinated with the Division within the last year and the landowners there and submitted that information. It has gone through the state office and is at the Washington level, too. Is a nationwide problem, for sure, with the overpopulation of horses. Chris Stewart is aware of that, Congressman Stewart, he is the one that is on board with a lot of that information. It comes down to funding and the horse lovers and the horse haters. That is where it comes into legal issues there. We are aware of the problems both on, at least in this area, with the Southeast Region, we have two wild horse populations and wild burrow populations. Our local office every year submits information saying we need to harvest, I mean, gather the horses. I can't remember how long ago it was, probably five to seven years that we haven't gathered the horses. We have had recommendations to just issue hunting permits for horses, and that's not going to happen. Not to hunt them, but to gather them and everybody get a rope and let's go get the horses. You know there is the Wild Horse and Burrow Act, and that is a law that we function under for that. I'm not saying our hands are tied specifically at the local level, but we are being the squeaky wheel, too, at a local level, saying we need to remove those horses through gather on those units. It comes down to your only a double number and a quadruple number like they are in other parts of the states. There are squeakier wheels in other places. So I will leave you with that.

Kevin Albrecht - With that, that was her last comment from the audience. Thank You. Now you go to comments from the RAC.

RAC discussion

No comments.

Charlie Tracy - Well seeing none, I would like to entertain a motion that we pass all the recommendations that the Division has presented.

Kevin Albrecht - Motion by Charlie Tracy to pass antlerless permit recommendations as presented. Do we have a second?

Trisha Hedin – I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Trisha. All in favor. Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2017 as presented.

Seconded by Trisha Hedin

Motion passed unanimously

7) **2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**
Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

No questions.

Questions from the public

No questions.

Comments from the public

No comments.

RAC discussion

Charlie Tracy – I make a motion that we accept the recommendations as presented.

Keith Brady – I second.

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made by Charlie Tracy to accept the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division. Seconded by Keith Brady. All in favor. Unanimous.

MOTION

Motion made by Charlie Tracy to accept the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

Seconded by Keith Brady

Motion passed unanimously

8) **2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Requests**
Covy Jones, Private Land/Public Wildlife Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht - Just a follow-up, Covy. So this at one time was owned by one landowner, but that section in the middle was condemned?

Covy Jones - So let me be clear. It was owned by both landowners. The Fitzgerald family owned some of the property and then the Ronny family owns the RR ranch and they were not the owners when that happened. But the Fitzgerald family was. It was owned by multiple landowners. There was a medication for Strawberry Reservoir that was deemed necessary. So this portion of the land was not condemned. If I said that, I

misspoke. It was probably under threat of condemnation, if that make sense.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay, that makes sense. Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Any questions from the RAC?

Charlie Tracy - So is a privately owned land that we are looking at here? Or who does the land belong to?

Covy Jones - I won't be on the mic. But I can walk up there and point so I could better describe it a little better.

Covy Jones – Okay at one time, this was all contiguously private. This piece, the RR Ranch, it it's private. This piece in between was public. BOR ground. So it goes private, public, private.

Charlie Tracy - Is it BLM or Forest Service?

Covy Jones - Most of it was purchased through the CUP program, which is probably by the BOR. As to who holds fee title, it doesn't matter. It's public ground.

Charlie Tracy - Who is requesting? I guess I am confused.

Covy Jones - The private land owners are requesting the variance.

Charlie Tracy - The Fitzgeralds or the Double RR are?

Keith Brady – Both are.

Charlie Tracy – Okay I get it now.

Karl Ivory – You have a limit of 10,000?

Covy Jones - I guess I should explain that. The minimum requirement is 10,000 contiguous acres.

Charlie Tracy - I got you.

Derris Jones – Is the BOR property considered or can anybody go trespass and hunt? Is it like every other federal land?

Covy Jones – Yeah.

Charlie Tracy – Don't you have several these throughout the state already? Haven't you given variance to some other CWMUs that don't quite reach that 10,000 threshold?

Covy Jones – So I will answer that in a different way. The rule was not always 10,000 acres, if that makes sense.

Charlie Tracy – So it's increased since the inception.

Covy Jones – It used to be 5,000. And then we realized that doesn't work. So as a rule for the elk, the bigger the better.

Kevin Albrecht – So just to reiterate, the Division keeping true just like they do with management plans. There is a management plan and they follow it. They are bringing this here today that the committee met and approved it unanimously, but the Division cannot because of the way the rule is written. They are going to stand by that rule. But the question to us today is to look at this and decide whether we would approve that or need to stand by that rule as well.

Questions from the audience? Any comments from the audience?

Questions from the public

No questions.

Comments from the public

No comments.

RAC discussion

Derris Jones - Is there a compromise where you could put a sliver of the BOR land in to connect the two at the narrow neck?

Covy Jones – That is tough Derris. Again there is public land inside CWMUs as well. I think if it were to happen a noncontiguous variance would be preferable over a public land variance.

Derris Jones – If they put the whole BOR piece in under the CWMU rule, that percent of CWMU additional tags would go to the public at that point. Is that correct?

Covy Jones – That is correct.

Derris Jones - Do you have an idea how many public tags versus what can public use it gets currently?

Covy Jones - So it is important to note that that portion is nasty. The Strawberry River drainage is really, really ugly ground. I don't know how much hunting pressure it gets. I assume there are some guys that are willing to take it on. It is steep ugly nasty terrain. As far as a percentage of public permits, the region was going to do some calculations on what it would look like at 12-2. I did that a few years ago and somewhere in between 12 and 1,500 acres on the Wasatch qualifies for a permit.

Derris Jones – If it is so nasty and not all that huntable, is there an exchange of hunting, maybe trade the BOR stuff for some of the private land open to public? Or are they not interested in it?

Covy Jones - I don't know if they are interested in that. I think they are interested in having the variance to be noncontiguous.

Charlie Tracy - Why did the CWMU committee side with them?

Covy Jones - For them, I guess I should explain this, when the variance first came it was a little different. It was a variance to have a 6,600-acre elk CWMU. And they supported that. The argument was not all habitats is created equally. This property holds a lot of elk. It will prevent the property from providing incentives from developing the property and keeping it open. It provides public access to people who otherwise would probably never see this property. That was their rationale. Realizing that there are a few CWMUs out there that are around this size, that are elk CWMUs and function okay, it can be problematic. After some discussion they felt like it would be better to have a larger acre noncontiguous CWMU then to have a 6,600 acre elk CWMU. They spoke with the Fitzgeralds and the Fitzgeralds were willing to join up. And then we spoke with the committee again and asked them if that changed how would they feel about the variance. The committee stood behind what they said originally. That is if there is opportunity here for public access to preserve land and do those things that that is where they supported the variance for those reasons.

Charlie Tracy - I just see a problem if you do this one, I can think of thousands of them waiting in line to what's next. I sympathize with their problem.

Kevin Albrecht - Aren't there some that are kind of in this situation now, and the Wildlife Board as the Division to try and clean that up and make it uniform amongst these to clean some of this up?

Covy Jones - They have asked us to make sure that the CWMU program, just make sure

that it's equitable and that it's in line. We went through a lot of them this last year and looked at a lot of them and did that.

Derris Jones - Are we looking for motion on this item? I make a motion to not support the variance request.

Kevin Albrecht – Go with the divisions recommendations?

Karl Ivory – Can you show us on the last slide or at least what it says? The next one, the next one before that.

Kevin Albrecht – We have a motion by Derris Jones to accept the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance as presented.

Kevin Albrecht – Any second?

Trisha Hedin – I'll second it.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Trisha. All in favor.

Karl Ivory- Question on the motion. Accept the variance?

Todd Huntington – No, to accept the Division's proposal which is this.

Kevin Albrecht – The question on the motion is, what is the Divisions recommendation? And it is the Division cannot support because of the rules that they have.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor. Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion made by Derris Jones to accept the Division's recommendation, denying the 2017 CWMU Antlerless Variance Request.

Seconded Trisha Hedin

Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on April 27, 2017, at 9 a.m. in the DNR board room, 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City.

The next SER RAC meeting will take place on May 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum, 1765 E. Main, Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
November 17, 2016

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Davis, Sportsmen
David Gordon, BLM
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Randy Dearth, NER RAC Chair
Daniel Davis, Sportsmen
Andrea Merell, Non-consumptive
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture

NER RAC MEMBER EXCUSED:

Joe Batty, Agriculture
Melissa Wardle, Non-consumptive
Joe Arnold, Public At-Large
Brett Prevedel, Public At-Large

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:

Kirk Woodward

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator
Clint Sampson, Wildlife Biologist
Amy Vande Voort, Wildlife Biologist
Derrick Ewell, Wildlife Biologist
Randall Thacker, Wildlife Biologist
Dax Mangus, Wildlife Manager
Covy Jones, Public Wildlife/Private Lands
Torrey Christopherson, Wildlife
Tonya Kieffer, NER Outreach Manager
Rori Shafer, NER Office Manager
Teri Weimer, NER Office Specialist
Boyde Blackwell, NER Regional Supervisor
Covy Jones, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES – Randy Dearth**
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES –**
MOTION to approve agenda
David Gordon
Daniel Davis, Second
Passed unanimously

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING – Randy Dearth**
MOTION to approve minutes
Daniel Davis
David Gordon, Second
Passed unanimously

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE – Randy Dearth**

Randy Dearth – I do not have any info on the meeting.

Kirk Woodward – I can't think of anything different or specific for this Region.

- **REGIONAL UPDATE – Boyd Blackwell**

Introduction of Daniel Olsen the new Migration Coordinator, the division is looking at a new program to track movements of various wildlife species throughout the state. They will be watching how highways, hunting and different species affect the migration of certain species. This will involve all Regions state wide.

Habitat section has started working as soon as they could get out to set aprons on guzzlers to catch runoff water. They have worked on 13 guzzlers and these are mostly lower elevation guzzlers. This is for mule deer and pronghorn in the Book Cliffs. They will provide 2300 gallons of storage capacity. They are preparing food plots for Kevin Conway WMA by Myton and Montez Creek by Ballard. There are about 30 acres of food plots. Aquatics have been working on Starvation for lake management plans and have been out and reviewed comments. Natalie will be collection yellow perch for Red Fleet out of Sandwash. Prey species for Walleye which we have put a lot more in as well. We have Turkeys taken from the Northern Region, nuisance Turkeys relocated to our Region. We have been doing this since 2014, 147 were relocated then and in 2015 there were 192, in 2016 there were 316 and in 2017 there were 255. They have been put on public lands throughout the region. Wildlife Biologists are starting their spring range assessment rides soon and started getting in to look at Sage Grouse. It's kind of a neat and if any of you would like to ride along call one of the biologists and take that opportunity. It's kind of fun.

- **BUCKS, BULLS AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIOIS FOR 2017 – Justin Shannon**
See Slideshow

QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Randy Dearth – Why is there a reduction on the Kaiparowits, Boulder, Plateau units for mule deer?

Justin Shannon – Fawn loss was good. The one thing that jumped out for me was in one year we went from being over to under objective to being under on the buck to doe ratio. When we redid the state wide management we talked about trend and being reactive. This is just a precautionary move.

Daniel Davis – Do you have data on each one of these units for hunter success?

Justin Shannon – Yes, we do. I don't have it here but we can pull it up. If you have a specific question maybe a biologist can help. Success rates throughout the state are really high. For every 100 permits there were about 40 bucks. Archery and Muzzleloader hunts are quite a bit lower.

Dan Abeyta – I was under the impression that the Rocky Mountain Sheep were really struggling here. I thought there would be a bigger reduction. State wide is only a three permit reduction. I was under the understanding they had pneumonia. I would like that addressed.

Justin Shannon – We do have that issue certain populations and in the majority of Big Horn Sheep and sometimes it takes time to show up. When we fly, we issue permits accordingly. This is something we are concerned about long term but based on survey we are where we need to be.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Josh Ripenick – Is the info on the bottom a weapon split?

Justin Shannon – Archery, rifle and Muzzleloader are split because of crowding issues on some of units. That is the why behind it.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Troy Justinson (SFW) – We support the recommendations as purposed. I have been involved in this process for twenty some odd years. It's neat to see that we have made some great headway. We appreciate what is being done. We met Monday with all the conservation groups and we generated close to two million dollars to be spent on projects. A lot of those projects are out in this Region and hats off the biologist for having meaningful projects set out here. We are excited about everything going on out here.

Randy Dearth – We appreciate the SFW and all the conservation groups for all they do.

Justin Shannon – It was actually 2.8 million.

COMMENTS FROM THE RAC:

Daniel Davis – Book Cliffs South, is because of the buck to doe ratio and trying to manage the south side? Over the past three years dropped pretty heavy and then leveled out and then dropped again even more the last two years. I am wondering why with that heavy of a decline, why are we remaining with the same amount of permits?

Justin Shannon – That is great question, let's ask Clint.

Clint Sampson – The main reason for the decline is a timing issue when we do our count. The Biologist in the Southeast Region counts this. We talked about this and one of the reasons he thinks this is because he did his count late and it was after the rut. We also did have a really high success on the hunt it was 100%. They actually killed older mature deer. Between those things we believe there are more deer than we actually counted.

Randy Dearth - Has there been anything we ought to know that has came out of the other RAC meetings?

Justin Shannon – Everything has been pretty straight forward there hasn't been any controversy. I think were good.

MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations

David Gordon
Andrea Merrell, Second
Passed unanimously

- **ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017 – Justin Shannon**
See Slide Show

QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Randy Dearth – Wildlife Board last year approved several hundred permits for two or three counties down in the Southern Region with possible drought and livestock issues, how did that turn out?

Justin Shannon – Southwest desert, from 2015 to now we decreased 300 elk. Some of the elk got pushed back to Nevada but we are still over objective and want to be aggressive for one more year.

Daniel Davis – On the South Slope Yellowstone this year do we have data or numbers of what was removed this last year with depredation?

Randall Thacker – Yes, we have gone thru all the numbers. What was useful this year actually were the private lands only tags. We sold about 500 this last year with 78% success rate which was 350 cow elk harvested. Additionally we did well with the regular depredation permits and vouchers. What we are seeing is that people are getting away from the vouchers and that anyone can purchase the private lands only tag over the counter. Since the tribe stopped harvesting cows the population has grown on us. This is the first year the population has gone down and not continued to grow.

Daniel Davis – Where the tribe held off, and it has been tough management I am hearing that the higher country is a concern with the high country cows. Wanting to push them down to the other areas, is that a consideration?

Randall Thacker – Most of our cow hunts are pretty late the majority are those with antlered tags. The antlerless control tag and private lands only tag is what we have. We still have 7000 elk up there. We have to maintain pressure there especially with a pregnancy rate at 100 percent. So maintaining pressure is what we are working on unless the tribe does change in the future.

Tim Ignacio – We are going to move 1000 head of elk to hill creek. Hopefully we will be ready to go this fall to help you guys and continue to do this.

Jerry Prevedel – On the cow moose we increased Ogden West, are these problem moose?

Justin Shannon – Indicators on where moose are at when our populations get high we do see them getting into town. We relocate moose into different parts of the state and on vacant habitat. From habitat perspective it's wise to increase cow hunts because of mahogany and it's hard to bring that back.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Troy Justinson SFW – We support the Divisions recommendations.

COMMENTS FROM THE RAC:

Daniel Davis – Anthro, when we target what are we targeting for?

Derrick Ewell – The only cow hunts we have are on the west end. Anything east of Wells Draw we haven't hunted in 5 years, by design we want more elk out and less in problem areas. So it's working. We are a little above objective. We cut a few tags this year because we didn't have a hunt that included Nine Mile West Anthro Avintiquin hunt. Because the Avintiquin was included on the Anthro hunt, that changed the numbers. We are a little above objective.

MOTION to approve the Divisions recommendations

Dan Abeyta

Jerry Prevedel, Second

Passed unanimously

- **2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS – Covey Jones**
See Slideshow

QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Randy Dearth – Are there any CWMU that operator boarder line fulfilling their operation.

Covy Jones – Antlerless is a cost and buck and bull is profitable. In rule if it states that they are not harvesting their minimum desired harvest they can be put on probation and eventually have their COR taken away. Not as much in the past but working on that. We talk about how smart elk are and they seek refuge on private ground. We put collars on elk and it has shown it. We need cooperation and management. But we do also have great operators that care as well.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

COMMENTS FROM THE RAC:

None

MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations

David Gordon

Daniel Davis, Second

Passed unanimously

- **2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS VARIANCE REQUEST – Covey Jones**

There is a Rule for Requirements on a CWMU minimum acreage for elk is 10,000 contiguous and deer is 5000. There is a variance process, so maybe they don't meet the criteria on acres but they feel they can operate a good CWMU. This goes to the advisory committee. The committee is made up of the wildlife section chief that sits as a non boarding member; the committee acts an independent party.

Randy Dearth – Is the committee made up of public?

Covey Jones – It can be public, sportsmen, landowners, operators, officials and a RAC member.

See Slide show

QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Randy Dearth – Both pieces of property qualify for mule deer but not elk?

Covey Jones – Yes, currently it is a deer only CWMU.

Randy Dearth - At the Wildlife Board meeting sometime last year there was a couple of landowners, one qualified and one didn't and I felt bad because one was getting tags and one wasn't. Once you start making exceptions it's kind of tuff.

Dan Abeyta – How did all the RAC meetings vote on this?

Covey Jones – It split 50/50. Part of this property is in the Central Region and they had an almost unanimous vote to support the variance. The Northern Region to deny, Southern Region in support and the Southeast Region to support the Division and deny the variance.

Randall Thacker – Half of the property is in our Region, the Fitzgerald property. North of the Strawberry River.

Mitch Hacking – Del, don't you have a cabin in this area?

Del Brady- Yes, but I don't hunt there.

Mitch Hacking – Kirk, on these variances that occur in a certain Region, do all the RAC board's vote on it?

Kirk Woodward – All of these will go to all of the regions but there are specific issues that will only go to one Region but it won't apply if we're going to change something that is written in

rule because that affects the whole state. My two cents is this will affect the whole state if this variance is passed I guarantee that other people will see that and want to variance something like it. This is not isolated, there are other landowners that would like to do something like it and they will see this and use it to try and do other things. I don't think this is an issue that only affects the Central Region. It affects all Regions.

Covey Jones – From a legal standpoint it's a statewide resource so if it were approved people from any part of the state can hunt it. Any of these that are statewide issues if it is not presented to all the RAC's the Division runs a risk of being arbitrary and capricious.

Mitch Hacking – The heartburn I have with that is if the people are here to represent the Northeast Region and are familiar with the region. Somebody that isn't familiar with the Region is voting for things they know nothing about for our Region. I have a hard time with that.

Kirk Woodward – In those instances that is why we have RAC Chairs at the Wildlife board meeting to talk about what your region talked about and region specific concerns. Randy does a very good job of representing your region for this. And if it does happen we will listen to what he has to say.

Mitch Hacking – How would you vote for this?

Kirk Woodward – I have no problem telling you I would vote no for this variance.

Jerry Prevedel – You said the division is working on a program for taking care of this. Why can't we wait until next year when they will qualify for this?

Covey Jones – The division currently has a Limited Entry Land Owner Association program, you have a couple of them in this region. That rule works well as written when there is not a lot of private property and not a large unit. It's easier to get the landowners to participate. 50 percent of landowners have to participate. The Wasatch unit is too huge and not possible.

Daniel Davis – We moved two bear tags and went and was passed by the board. It still gets put in front of the board and then voted on.

Jerry Jorgensen – I am curious how the new program will be changed.

Covey Jones – We are going to have to set side boards and then go to committee and then through the RAC and board process so it's going to be a ways out. Any ideas may look different coming out of the process.

Dan Abeyta – This truly would become a precedent setting if it were approved.

Covey Jones – There are noncontiguous CWMU's in the state right now.

Daniel Davis – Where they grandfathered?

Covey Jones – The rule didn't originally read 10,000 elk. There are some that were grandfathered in. Just last year Missouri Flats which combined with Blackpoint became the Pavaunt Ensign. Because it was a grandfathered CWMU, it was continued to be a CWMU.

Mitch Hacking – If this is passed will it create good hunting opportunities and better management for this area. Will you get a better managed hunt?

Covy Jones – This will provide more public access to ground that does not have much access for elk and there are elk on the property. So, yes from that standpoint, yes.

Mitch Hacking – If money is made on it then it will go to private resources.

Covy Jones – It provides incentive for landowners to manage for wildlife. It would provide public opportunity and there are elk on the property.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Larry Fitzgerald – I would like to ask the biologists if this is good habitat for elk and can support it?

Randall Thacker – It is for sure elk and deer habitat. There are about 100 head of elk on their property or the adjacent property most all summer and fall. Animals are definitely there.

Covey Jones – It is quite different terrain than the Fitzgerald property. It's more of a rut recovery property.

Larry Fitzgerald – This ground was actually sold because it would have been condemned. Historically we were connected. I am open for questions.

Randy Dearth – Who is Burke?

Covy Jones – He is the owner of Double R.

Larry Fitzgerald- In the elk portion we are in the central and for deer we are in the Northeast. I would like get your blessing on this so we can work together.

Andrea Merrell – This is for DWR, is part of the issue a law enforcement issue. Tracking hunters on the non contiguous portion of the property? Is there a concern other than there is not 10,000 acres?

Covy Jones – From rule perspective, the reason for the non contiguous acreage, it is hard to enforce for different reasons. Some property is in one management unit and some in another. There is 5000 in Summit County and 5000 in Wasatch. The other concern is that we made a lot of pieces of ground stick together. It forced landowners to work together. In this situation the strawberry river drainage is nasty; you really can't even walk from one property to another.

Randy Dearth – What is the history behind the condemnation?

Covy Jones - It was sold under the threat of condemnation not condemned.

Rob Fitzgerald – What a wonderful state we live in. I respect you guys and what you have done. Were in a position where we have a wonderful resource. We love to watch them and we have 23 nice bulls that live on the property. Our property dates clear back to the 1860's. Our property was nearly 25,000 acres as of 1985 we were contiguous. My dad hated that canyon so bad he gave it way. The canyon is very tuff country. 1500 acres were donated. I believe being able to concentrate on this property and make it a great resource which opens it up to the public.

Troy Justin – Speaking for myself, this is one of the big things we need to be able to do. The CWMU and landowner plan does need to be revised. We create safe havens for elk they are smart and they know when they are being shot at. By doing this it is going to move elk down to public land for better hunting purposes.

COMMENTS FROM THE RAC:

Mitch Hacking – This variance is not a bad critter and just because you don't have 10,000 does not mean this is not prime hunting ground. That's one reason I support these variances.

Daniel Davis – Does this property fall within a limited entry unit for elk? This is why I think it should be part of a landowner association.

Troy Justinson – The thing to remember on landowner association is that that permit is allowed to hunt the whole unit not just private property. And it does not entitle the hunter to hunt that property.

Daniel Davis – I am really on the fence about this because we ask for this and then in hindsight it is not regulated.

Larry Fitzgerald – This is a unique situation because historically we were connected and the ground was sold. We would buy the ground back for the same price we bought it if we could. Approximately 6000 acres were sold. I hope you agree with this and take a look at each variance individually not across the board. Thank you for your time.

Covy Jones – We would rather have a non contiguous part of ground than include public property.

Mitch Hacking – They would stay all private property? Why wouldn't you want to connect them?

Covy Jones – We would not want to exclude public from hunting the public property.

Mitch Hacking – It wouldn't be a CWMU permit if you included it.

Covy Jones – I understand what you are saying but that's not the variance they are requesting. I don't think there would be much hunting by the CWMU down there. If they are brave enough.

Randy Dearth – This is making the landowners work together in order to get enough land. I would feel better about approving it having them work together than incorporating public land.

Daniel Davis – Would there be a hunt in 2017?

Covy Jones – They would not be able to hunt in 2017. They would be able to apply for it in 2017.

Daniel Davis – With the draw, how would the public hunter be managed?

Larry Fitzgerald – They can access below Soldier Creek Dam. We would not allow our hunters to go down there. Our public hunters would have the run of the place. Either piece of property.

Daniel Davis – How long does it take to get from one piece to the other?

Larry Fitzgerald – 15 to 20 min.

Andrea Merrell – I know it's a concern opening up this process. When did you start this process?

Larry Fitzgerald – We started this in the 1990's.

Andrea Merrell – I don't see this process is easy.

Larry Fitzgerald – And each one is looked at individually.

MOTION to accept the variance request

Mitch Hacking

Andrea Merrell, Second

Passed unanimously

MOTION to adjourn

David Gordon

Daniel Davis, Second

Adjourn at 8:27



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2017

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons, Chair
Certification Review Committee

RE: Variance Request from Mr. Michael Parmley for the possession and commercial use of rattlesnakes.

The Certification Review Committee met electronically February 21, 2017, to discuss the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-53, for the possession and commercial use of rattlesnakes.

Participating were: Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Drew Cushing, Aquatic Section Chief; Krissy Wilson, Sensitive Species; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Rick Olson, Law Enforcement Chief; Dallin Peterson, Department of Health; Barry Pittman, Department of Agriculture; Anita Candeleria, COR Licensing Specialist; and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-53-11. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed no concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts on wildlife or domestic animals.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts** - The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
4. **The suitability of the facilities** - The committee had no significant concerns with the suitability of the facilities.



March 30, 2017

Subject: Certification Request

5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee had no concerns regarding the experience of the applicant for the proposed activity.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved and that the following stipulations be made part of the Certificate of Registration:

1. The committee recommends approval for Mr. Michael Parmley to possess rattlesnakes in the State of Utah for commercial and educational use, with the stipulation that no gravid female rattlesnakes are collected from the wild.
2. The committee recommends that Mr. Michael Parmley add a section to his training about Utah Rules and Regulations concerning the handling and possessing of prohibited snakes in Utah.
3. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Mr. Parmley is not transferable and cannot be sold with his business.
4. The committee requires that Mr. Parmley obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection from the Department of Agriculture for the importation of any rattlesnakes and that all city, county and insurance needs be current.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
Michael Parmley

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR RATTLESNAKE COLLECTION/POSSESSION

Michael Parmley
Barley's Canine Recreation Center
2827 S 2300 E
Salt Lake City, Ut 84109
(801) 598-0232

THE REQUEST:

I am seeking permission to collect and possess approximately six rattlesnakes that currently reside in Utah. I propose to acquire a mixture of Great Basin (*Crotalus oreganus lutosus*), Green Prairie (*Crotalus viridis viridis*), and Western Diamondback (*Crotalus atrox*) rattlesnakes.

FACTS AND REASONS FORMING THE BASIS FOR THE VARIANCE:

I am applying for this variance to be able to obtain rattlesnakes for use in a proven method of canine rattlesnake aversion training. This training has been safely in practice for over 20 years. Humans and their canines frequent rattlesnake territory here in Utah and in surrounding states. Approximately 7,000 people a year receive venomous snake bites in the US. Canines are about 20 times more likely to get bit by venomous snakes and are about 25 times more likely to die if bitten. Snake bites are life threatening, extremely painful, expensive to treat and can cause permanent damage even when the dog or person survives.

The foundation of aversion training is to introduce a canine to a rattlesnake in a safe environment and teach it to never want to interact with a rattlesnake again. I believe that by conducting these trainings I will be able to help protect the wellbeing of rattlesnakes, canines and humans alike.

There are a number of advantages to aversion training. Primarily, it teaches the canines to avoid rattlesnakes all together. Typically, upon seeing, smelling and/or hearing a rattlesnake in the wild, a canine's first instinct is to approach it for further investigation. This unfortunately results in either the dog or the snake getting bit, injured or possibly killed. After completing aversion training, the canine will be able to identify a rattlesnake through its senses of sight, sound and smell and avoid the snake altogether.

An additional benefit of this training is the positive effects it provides to humans. Aversion training can teach the owners how to recognize the cues their dog is giving when they have learned to avoid a snake. My dog, Brandy, was a perfect example of this. Upon recognizing that a rattlesnake was in my girlfriend's path, Brandy walked in front of her to stop her from proceeding closer. As a result of aversion training, I have observed people's perspectives of rattlesnakes change from fear to respect and acceptance. I believe that this will lead to less rattlesnakes being killed in the wild.

I was inspired to conduct this training due to the recent retirement of Mr. Web Parton. Mr. Parton has been conducting his method of Snake Safe Training for over 20 years. Visit www.snakesafe.com for more information on his experience and training methods. Unfortunately, no one else is performing this proven method. I was fortunate enough to mentor under him at multiple venues in Utah before his retirement. Mr. Parton conducted numerous trainings at my business, Barley's Canine Recreation Center, which is located in Salt Lake City. We have received many requests from concerned dog owners looking to enroll their dogs in rattlesnake aversion training, but are currently unable to fulfill their requests. The reason for this, Web and I believe, is the other trainings that are currently being offered are ineffective. The following information highlights some of the other training methods and explains my training procedures.

OTHER SNAKE TRAININGS BEING USED:

1. Using a gopher snake instead of a rattlesnake. This is viewed to be safer for the trainer, but is not useful for the canine. Gopher snakes do not smell anything like a rattlesnake to a dog. The scent of a rattlesnake is a canine's first warning before coming in contact with a rattlesnake. The other reason gopher snakes are ineffective for training is because it does not have a rattle for the dog to hear, which is a second warning for a canine.
2. Using a rattlesnake in a container. This method is ineffective for a few reasons. Most importantly, the canine is prohibited from obtaining a good scent of a rattlesnake. We want the dog's nose as close in proximity to the snake as possible. Different parts of the snake will smell different and we want the canine to be able to identify all of them. In addition, we want the dog to observe how the snake moves. Rattlesnakes are literally invisible to canines when they are still. It is the movement of the snake that canines will see. Lastly, the dog will only get a muffled sound of the rattle rather than its true sound, if it is in a container. The training is most effective when natural habitat situations are presented to the canine.
3. Using a venomoid rattlesnake. This means that the venom sacs are removed from the snake. After much research and contemplation on this, I have concluded that I do not want to put a snake through this painful procedure. Even more frightening, there have been instances of venomoid snakes regaining the use of their venom sacs over time. I propose to use defanged rattlesnakes in my training as Mr. Parton has done in his trainings. He has taught me the procedure to defang a rattlesnake without harming it, or causing any bleeding or bruising.
4. Using high impulse shock collars upon introduction to the snake. The company that proposed this method was completing the training for about 350 dogs per

day. This practice is supposed to scare the dog away from the snake. The problem with this method is that a high impulse shock causes a canine to react to pain stimuli and the result has nothing to do with the presence of a rattlesnake. All learning goes out the window. This is why there is a disclaimer along with this training method as well as all of the other three mentioned above. The disclaimer states that the canines must come back for a retest at a later time. On the contrary, the training that I wish to perform will be for the life of the canine and will require no retest.

SUMMARY OF THE TRAINING PROCEDURE:

I will have a maximum of six canines per training session. Each training will take between three and four hours. The training will focus on teaching the dogs to recognize a rattlesnake through seeing, hearing and most importantly, smelling the snakes. I have directly observed canines pick up the scent of a rattlesnake from over 20 yards away, but in the right conditions they could pick up a scent from about 50 yards away. Scent is the most effective way for a dog to verify a rattlesnake. Once the canines have learned how to recognize a rattlesnake, I will set up scenarios where the dog must walk up to the snake. A low electronic impulse is then applied to the dog to resemble the snake touching them. Measures are taken to ensure the dog knows that it is the rattlesnake, not the human or the place, that is causing the impulse. A final test will be done with the canine to make sure the training was effective.

DEFANGED RATTLESNAKES:

Live, defanged rattlesnakes would be used for the training because this is the most effective and safe method to perform the avoidance training. The canines would be able to see the snakes out in the open, moving around in a natural way. They would be able to hear the rattle clearly. They would be able to get close enough to the snake to smell the snake up and down. All of this can be done safely with a defanged rattlesnake. The procedure that I have been taught by Mr. Parton is a harmless method to remove the fangs that inject venom without bruising or causing the snakes to bleed. This can be done due to the fact that rattlesnake's fangs work on a hinge system and are meant to be released in case a fang is stuck in an object. After defanging the rattlesnakes and removing the replacement fangs, the sacs where the replacement fangs form are checked weekly. If fangs are present in the sacs, they will be removed.

HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT:

A secure room will be built in accordance to the housing requirements outlined in section one of the "*Recommendations For Captive Venomous Reptile Facilities, Enclosures, Tools & Equipment*" document provided by the Division of Wildlife Resources Native Aquatics that is attached to this document. This room will be located in Barley's Canine Recreation Center. It

will be located in an area of the building that does not receive any traffic from the public and minimal traffic from employees. I plan to conduct all trainings in the Recreation center, so there will be no need to transport the rattlesnakes. This facility has been approved by the DWR for former snake aversion trainings performed by Web Parton. I have contacted Salt Lake County Animal Services about housing rattlesnakes and was informed that all issues dealing with venomous reptiles fall under state law. They do not have any special ordinances for such activity.

I will house the rattlesnakes in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section 2 of the same document. I propose to buy my enclosures from Boaphile (<http://www.boaphileplastics.com/cages.html>) and purchase most of my tools needed for the snakes from Midwest Tongs (<http://www.tongs.com>). In addition to purchasing the mandatory and discretionary tools required in section 3 of the document, I would use a homemade loop tool to secure the rattlesnake for the defanging process. I will purchase needle resistant gloves for the process of defanging the rattlesnakes and the weekly fang check.

EXPERIENCE:

Over the past three years I have observed and trained under Mr. Web Parton for approximately 90 hours. In this amount of time, I have learned how to perform all tasks involved in holding successful Rattlesnake Aversion Trainings. I have become proficient at techniques used to handle and control rattlesnakes as well as working with canines and rattlesnakes at the same time. I have successfully led a class under Mr. Parton's supervision. I have also learned how to safely and effectively defang a rattlesnake. I have performed this task and would feel comfortable doing so again. I have also learned to check the sacs where the backup fangs grow and have been trained to remove them before they have time to set into place.

Along with the training that I have gone through with Web, I have also taken a venomous snake training course through the Phoenix Herpetological Society. The focus of this training was to learn about rattlesnakes and to be able to catch and secure rattlesnakes in a holding container. It is the training that law enforcement officers, firemen and firewomen, and snake removers are encouraged to take. We used live, venomous rattlesnakes for the training. I received a certificate of completion which is attached to this document.

Additionally, I have direct experience caring for a snake and have successfully taken care of a ball python for several years. He has been healthy for the duration of his life with me. I am confident that I can be responsible for the appropriate care of rattlesnakes as a result of my training, research and hands on experience.

SAFETY:

Due to the strict adherence to safety procedures for defanging and fang checks, I am confident the public and canines will be entirely safe during all of my training sessions. However, in the event of an emergency, I have established a strict safety protocol to follow.

I recently had a discussion with Scott McIntosh who is the Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and Director of Wilderness Medicine Fellowship at the University of Utah. He informed me that the University stocks rattlesnake antivenom year round. In the winter, there are approximately 36 vials on hand, while in the summer months they tend to have more. He also provided me with the most up to date protocol for treating a rattlesnake bite accident. The following is the list of my priorities in order:

1. Ensure the rattlesnake is placed in an enclosure.
2. Note the date/time of the bite.
3. Contact someone in the facility for help or call 911.
4. Any puncture of the skin by a rattlesnake fang will be assumed to have envenomation.
5. Remove any clothing, rings, watch, etc. in case of swelling around the bite.
6. Clean the wound with soap and water or antiseptic.
7. Measure circumference of bitten appendage measured above and below bite.
8. Mark any lines of redness that have developed and their associated times.
9. Apply a sterile bandage and loosely wrap the affected area.
10. Immobilize the extremity that has been bitten and place at the level of the heart (if possible).
11. Either have someone drive me to the University ER or if I have called 911, wait for an ambulance

SPECIES AND COLLECTION:

I am open to suggestions as far as collecting the rattlesnakes. I propose to collect two Western Diamondbacks from Mr. Web Parton. The advantage of this is that they would have already been through a number of the aversion trainings and would be defanged. The main reason for wanting this species of rattlesnake is that they cover the gamut of rattlesnakes as far as scent goes. This means that if a canine has been through the training with a Western Diamondback, they will recognize the scent of most other species of rattlesnakes. Therefore, people could come from out of state for the training who have different species than what we have here in Utah.

As far as the collection of Great Basin and Prairie rattlesnakes, I propose to obtain snakes found in close proximity to people's residence that have been called in for removal. Most recent studies show that rattlesnakes that have been short distance translocated will return to the same area that they were removed. The reason I choose these species is for a couple of reasons. Great Basin is our local species and it makes the most sense to use the most common rattlesnake from our area. Second, it would be ideal to have a mix of less aggressive rattlesnake species as well as some that are typically more aggressive. The Great Basin snakes tend to become less aggressive with more handling, which would result in decreased use of the rattle and not being as apt to strike. I have seen this happen with some species of rattlesnakes that Mr. Parton possessed. This is great for the canines being able to get within close proximity to the snakes and get a good scent, but not great for them being exposed to

hearing the rattle. This is where the Prairie and Western Diamondbacks would come into play. They are typically always using their rattle and acting agitated. If these are not the preferred methods for capture or not the ideal species of rattlesnakes, I would be open for different methods or options from other experts on the subject.

CONCLUSION:

In this document, I have explained why I am requesting a variance to collect and possess several species of rattlesnakes. I am confident that I can take on these responsibilities. The training that I would like to continue conducting in the state of Utah, as I have stated before, a necessary and sought after service for the protection of rattlesnakes, canines and humans alike. Rattlesnake aversion trainings will provide a great service to the state of Utah. We have a high demand for this training through our canine recreation facility. Both Mr. Parton and I believe that the other aversion trainings that are being offered are not only ineffective, but also may be detrimental to canines. I am confident that my training and experience that I have presented in this document demonstrate that I am responsible and knowledgeable enough to be granted this variance. If you have any further questions, comments, or concerns- please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Michael Parmley
(801) 598-0232

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPTIVE VENOMOUS REPTILE FACILITIES, ENCLOSURES, TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Division of Wildlife Resources
Native Aquatics
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
(801) 538-4830
15 October 2009

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I. SECURED FACILITIES FOR VENOMOUS REPTILES

1. The secured room ("hot" room) must contain only the enclosures used for housing (Article II) and the tools/equipment required for husbandry (Article III) of venomous reptiles. Ideally the secured room is a structure separate from living quarters, but where not feasible, a modified, secured bedroom or basement is acceptable.
2. The secured room (herein referred to as "room") is defined as a room that is sealed and acts as a cage housing caged animals. Rooms must be inspected for cracks, holes, or gaps in the floor, walls, doors, ceiling, windows, vents, ducts, cabinets, sinks, and furniture (no sofas, couches, or other upholstered furniture allowed). All cracks, holes, and gaps must be filled with an appropriate sealant (e.g., caulk, silicon, plaster). Flooring should be vinyl, linoleum, or hardwood; carpet should be avoided.
 - a. Doors must be sealed with weather stripping and/or fitted with door sweeps on the interior and exterior of the door. A door jam fitted with weather stripping will

increase the security of the facility. Doors must have a sturdy lock (e.g., deadbolt, padlock) and must be locked at all times when the keeper is not in the room. A double entry door system (i.e., solid exterior locking door, glass interior locking door) can add a further safeguard against escapee reptiles and allows the keeper an opportunity to inspect the room before entering (Section 4).

- b. Special attention must be given to vents and windows, which must be screened or blocked. If screened, the screen material must be inspected for signs of wear (e.g., weather, sun) with frequency to ensure the screen's integrity.

3. The room must have open and ample floor space for working with venomous reptiles. Clutter free and sufficient floor space is required for working with snakes. The keeper should always be provided with adequate room when working with (e.g., moving, feeding, handling) venomous reptiles. Additionally, clutter may provide refuge for venomous escapees and thus increase the likelihood of a negative encounter. Transport boxes, containers, and other husbandry equipment should be kept in a tidy manner, but when in use should not constitute as clutter.

4. Warning signs (e.g., "Caution-Venomous Reptiles", "Warning-Venomous Snakes Inside", "Danger- Venomous Animals Inside") should be placed at eye level inside and outside of the room and must be posted on the outside of the door. A list of rules should accompany the warning; the list may include: No unsupervised guests; Door remains locked; Shoes only.

5. Placement of light switches should allow for quick illumination and inspection of the room before the keeper enters; ideally, light switches should be placed on the outside of the room, where the keeper can illuminate the room before entering. Alternatively, light switches must be placed in close proximity to the door; keepers must not walk across or noticeably inside of a dark secured room without immediate access to lights. An additional emergency light must be immediately accessible from inside the room in the event of a power failure.

6. Given the amount of electrical wiring typically required for reptile husbandry, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers must be accessible from inside the room.

7. Snake handling equipment (Article III) should be hung or placed in close proximity to the door and light switch.

8. A basic emergency kit (envenomous kit) must be accessible from inside the room. A basic first aid kit, epinephrine kit, bite-plan, and envenomation protocol for *each species* housed in the room must be included. Emergency contacts (i.e., names and phone numbers of doctor, hospital, local zoos, antivenin banks, paramedics) and a brief, but inclusive, medical history (i.e., medical records, allergy information, insurance cards) of

the keeper(s) must accompany the emergency kit. Reference to the location, or physical copies, of spare keys for all animal cages and the room must also be included in an emergency kit.

II. HOUSING VENOMOUS REPTILES

1. To ensure safety for the keeper and the animal, locking enclosures are a must and a back up locking system is recommended.
2. Enclosures should be sturdy, sealed, and completely escape proof. Additionally, enclosures should be easy to clean and disinfect.
3. The enclosure must be designed to allow the keeper outside, visual inspection.
4. No glass terrariums/aquariums will be allowed for housing of venomous reptiles under any circumstance. Plastic or wooden enclosures with acrylic, polycarbonate, or glass doors are preferred. Hinged doors are preferred over sliding doors, as sliding doors may allow smaller snakes (particularly neonates; see NOTE) to escape and are generally less sturdy. Neodesha® and Boaphile® plastics are examples of commercially available plastic enclosures.
5. Because large numbers of venomous reptiles may not be legally possessed, the use of Rubbermaid® and Sterilite® containers for racking systems may not be used. Additionally, such containers can be difficult to secure and escape proof and have a low outside visibility.
6. Housing should provide the necessary factors for captive husbandry of each species (e.g., lighting, adequate ventilation, heat, hide box). For the keeper's protection, lighting, heat sources, hide boxes, and perches should not be placed near the door of the enclosure.
7. Snakes must be four times (4x) the girth of ventilation screen/holes (see NOTE). Under no circumstance should the ventilation come from the door of the enclosure, this must be sealed and alternative ventilation provided.
8. Placement of enclosures should ensure recovery of any dropped or escaped animal. Ideally enclosures should sit a minimum of 6-12" off of the floor to allow for retrieval of an animal and to facilitate outside inspection (rationale: out of sight, out of mind). Enclosures that are elevated and affixed with casters are highly recommended, as they allow for the movement of heavy or stacked enclosures.

NOTE: Viviparous (live bearing) venomous snakes may unknowingly be gravid and small neonates (babies) may surprisingly appear, thus it is important to seal doors and ensure that all vents are smaller than 4x the girth of a neonate.

III. TOOLS & EQUIPMENT FOR HANDLING VENOMOUS REPTILES

Formal training in the proper use of tools and equipment for handling venomous reptiles must occur prior to the possession of venomous reptiles. Although the following list represents a portion of the tools and equipment used by herpetologists and herpetoculturalists when working with venomous reptiles, the tools and equipment listed here are required for captive husbandry. Use of properly sized (half to full body length of snake) and constructed equipment can greatly decrease the likelihood of a venomous reptile bite.

Mandatory Tools & Equipment

1. Snake hooks (snake sticks): In general, hooks must exceed the maximum strike distance of the captive snake, which is considered to be the full (minimum half) length of snake's body. Common hook sizes vary from 36-48 inches. "Tailing" (restraining of snake by holding onto the tail????) of larger rattlesnakes is strongly discouraged. Smaller snakes may require smaller hooks.
2. Tongs (grabsticks): Because it can be difficult to control the pressure of the standard, narrow jawed tongs (e.g., Pilstrom-style), it is recommended that keepers use wide jawed (e.g., Gentle Giant Tongs®), particularly for larger bodied snakes. Controlled pressure and increased surface area on the jaws reduces the risk of injury to the animal. Tongs should exceed the maximum strike distance of the captive snake (Section 1: Snake hooks). Although Pilstrom-style tongs can inflict injury to snakes, they are useful in moving/removing heavy objects from (e.g., hide boxes, water bowls) and introducing prey into venomous reptile enclosures.
3. Restraining tubes: When hands-on contact is required, commercial restraining tubes are required. In addition to decreasing handling stress and injury associated with pinning or using tongs, properly sized tubes are a secure method of trapping the snake's head away from the keeper while visual inspections or medical treatments are performed. A wide-variety of tubes should be kept by every keeper. Note: Pinning of snakes should be the last resort when restraining the animal; spinal injury can easily result from the pinning of snakes, thus is strongly discouraged.
4. Snake shields: Commonly constructed of plexiglass with modified wooden handles, snake shields provide the keeper with a safe, efficient barrier when working inside enclosures. The plexiglass design provides the keeper with a clear view of animals while routine maintenance is performed. Because snake shields provide additional, albeit temporary safety in enclosures, venomous snakes should be removed when performing protracted, routine maintenance (Section 8: Trap boxes)
5. Hemostats (forceps): Although a variety of sizes exists, only larger sized hemostats (>24") should be considered when working with venomous snakes. Hemostats can be

important tools for introducing prey items and for moving small objects inside the enclosure. Hemostats should always be used in tandem with snake shields (Section 4: Snake shields) when working inside reptile enclosures.

6. Snake bags: Body pillow-cases are commonly used as snake bags, but commercially manufactured bags are available. Easily stored and afforded, snake bags are the most common method of confining and transporting snakes. The keeper should reinforce all seams with a sewing machine. Sewing a small loop of material to the top corner, as a means of cinching the opening of the bag, will provide secondary safety when a knot is tied. An additional loop on the outside, bottom corner can greatly assist the keeper in removing snakes from bags with use of a snake hook (Section 1). Inspect all seams (particularly the corners) to ensure there are no holes or weak stitching/material exists, as these can serve as escape routes. Bags with snakes must not be carried near the body, as snakes can readily bite through bags, and must be held above the knot. Additionally, bags reduce the stress on the animal by providing a dark, snug, and ventilated space.
7. Holding containers (Snake bins or cans): The container is a secure escape-proof enclosure where snakes can be placed while general maintenance is performed. Holding containers must be escape proof and must ensure the keeper is safe from strikes when opening and closing the container. Containers must be smooth sided and have a secure, tightly fitting lid. The depth of the holding bin must be proportional to the snake's length, preferably deeper. Venomous reptiles must never be left unattended in containers and must be promptly returned to the secured enclosure after maintenance has been performed.
8. Trap boxes (shift or catch box): Trap boxes are not commercially available at this time; therefore manual construction is required by the keeper. A trap box is a wooden or plastic (>1/2") hide box with a sliding plexiglass or wooden door over the entrance. As with all permanent and temporary enclosures, the trap box must be escape proof and properly ventilated (Article II, Section 7). Operating the door through the use of a snake hook is recommended. A locking mechanism for securing the door is required. Trap boxes are commonly used to safely confine venomous snakes while cages are cleaned and/or maintained. A plexiglass section for viewing is suggested for routine snake health inspections.

Discretionary Tools & Equipment

1. Gloves: Although commercial gloves exist for handling animals, no glove is bite (puncture) proof. Keepers must never compromise other safety precautions when using gloves; however, gloves provide an additional level of safety when working near venomous reptiles. Gloves with ballistic Kevlar lining are commercially available and are highly recommended. When working inside enclosures, gloves should be used in tandem with snake shields (Section 4), hemostats (Section 5), and/or tongs (Section 2). Because gloves can be cumbersome and are not puncture proof, only puncture resistant gloves may be used at the keeper's discretion.

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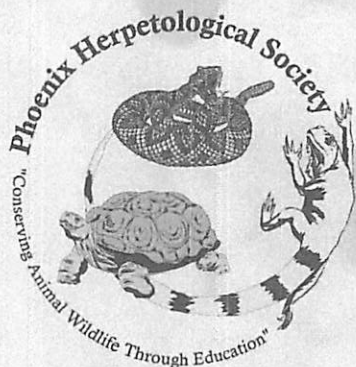
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Phoenix Herpetological Society



This certificate is awarded to

Michael Parmley

**for successfully completing proper
SNAKE HANDLING and REMOVAL Program**

**Training and instruction provided by
professional handlers at Phoenix Herpetological Society**

PhoenixHerp.com

Crystie Baker 12 Nov 2010

Signature—Crystie Baker
PHS Director of Education & Outreach

Date

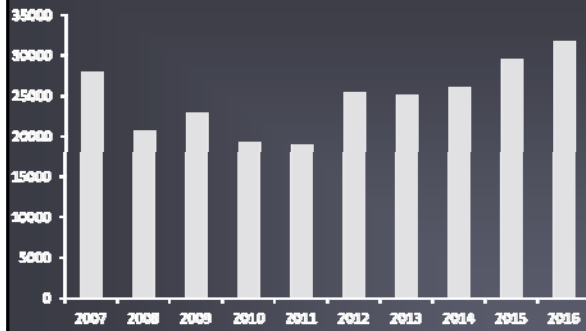
2017 Bucks, Bulls, and Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



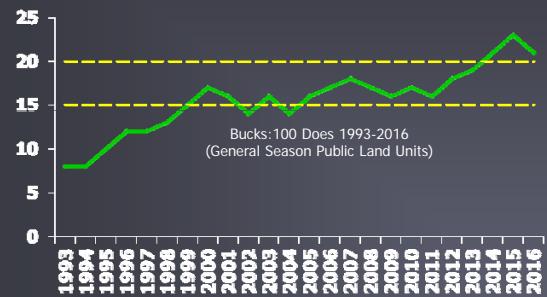
Deer



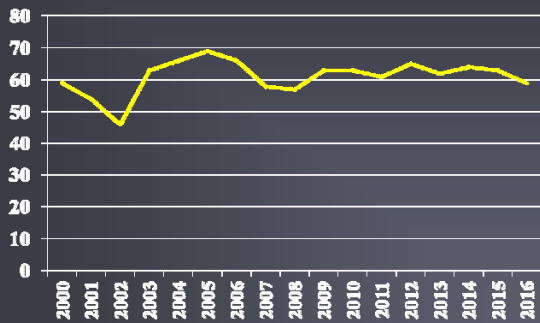
General Season Buck Harvest 2007-2016



Buck:Doe Ratio Trends 1993-2016

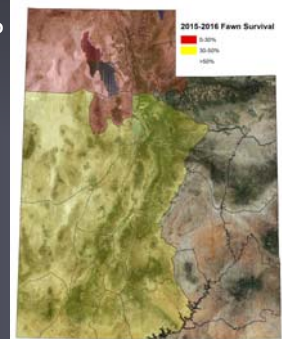


Fawn Production Trends 2000-2016



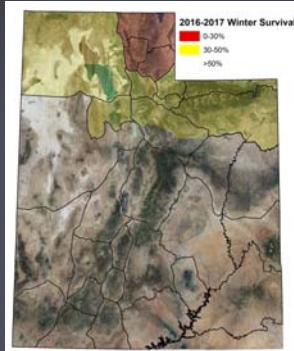
Deer Status 2016

- ▶ Hard winter in 2015-2016
- ▶ Summer drought conditions in 2016
- ▶ Fawn survival was low in many parts of the state
 - Cache = 27%
 - Oquirrh-Stansbury = 27%
 - Wasatch/Manti = 31%



Deer Status (Dec 2016 – Mar 2017)

- ▶ Low fawn survival in many parts of Utah
- ▶ Deer were fed on the following units:
 - Box Elder
 - Cache
 - Kamas
 - Ogden



Deer Feeding Efforts



2017 General Season Deer Permit Recommendation Summary

2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
90,675	89,050

We recommend a decrease of 1,625 permits.

- No change on 12 units
- Increase on 5 units
- Decrease on 12 units

Recommended General Season Permits - NR

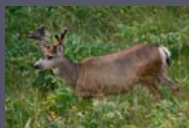
Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec.
Chalk Creek/E Canyon/Morgan S-Rich	18-20	34	38	33	34.8	7,300	7,300
Kamas	18-20	22	28	31	27.0	3,600	3,600
Ogden	18-20	18	25	21	21.3	2,700	2,500
Box Elder	15-17	18	21	19	19.5	4,000	3,800
Cache	15-17	19	20	15	18.8	7,100	6,600
Total						24,700	23,800

900 permit decrease (4%)

Recommended General Season Permits - CR

Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec.
Central Mtns, Nebo	15-17	18	16	15	16.4	4,200	4,100
Oquirrh-Stansbury	15-17	18	27	23	23.9	2,900	2,800
Wasatch Mtns, West	15-17	19	17	16	17.4	8,200	8,100
West Desert, Tintic	15-17	-	-	-	-	900	900
West Desert, West	15-17	-	-	-	-	600	600
Total						16,800	16,500

300 permit decrease (2%)



Recommended General Season Permits - SR

Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec.
Beaver	18-20	19	22	25	22.0	3,150	3,350
Fillmore	18-20	21	25	27	24.5	2,200	2,450
Monroe	18-20	22	22	19	21.1	1,550	1,550
Mt Dutton	18-20	23	22	21	21.7	750	750
Panguitch Lake	18-20	19	21	19	19.7	3,200	3,200
Pine Valley^	18-20	20	26	24	25.3	4,100	4,300
Plateau, Boulder/Kaip.	18-20	20	21	17	19.0	2,200	2,100
Plateau, Fishlake	18-20	23	24	18	21.0	1,500	1,400
Plateau, 1,000 Lakes*	18-20	28	41	21	28.0	300	300
Southwest Desert	18-20	25	19	25	23.0	750	750
Zion^	18-20	24	27	24	24.8	3,400	3,500
Total						23,100	23,500

*30/40/30 weapon split
^22/56/22 weapon split

400 permit increase (2%)

Recommended General Season Permits - SER

Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec.
Nine Mile	18-20	29	32	27	30.2	1,300	1,300
Ctrl Mtns, Manti/San R	15-17	23	23	16	30.8	9,225	8,800
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	15-17	14	18	17	16.2	1,800	1,800
San Juan, Abajo Mtns	15-17	20	24	23	23.4	2,650	2,750
Total						14,975	14,650

325 permit decrease (2%)



Recommended General Season Permits - NER

Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec.
North Slope	18-20	17	24	21	20.7	3,100	3,100
S Slope, Yellowstone	18-20	22	21	23	22.1	1,750	1,650
Wasatch Mtns, East	18-20	28	27	23	26.0	4,800	4,550
S Slope, Bonanza/Vernal*	15-17	17	18	17	17.4	1,450	1,300
Total						11,100	10,600

*30/50/20 weapon split

500 permit decrease (6%)



Premium Limited Entry Deer Units

Age Objective

Unit	Objective	2014	2015	2016	Avg.
Henry Mtns	40% ≥ 5	75%	76%	70%	74%
Paunsaugunt	40% ≥ 5	48%	46%	51%	48%

2017 Permit Recommendation

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Henry Mtns	49	49
Paunsaugunt	135	135

Premium Limited Entry Management Buck Permit Recommendations

Buck:Doe Ratio

Unit	Objective	2014	2015	2016	Avg.
Henry Mtns	40-55	48	65	47	53.2
Paunsaugunt	40-55	46	49	51	48.7

2017 Permit Recommendation

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Henry Mtns – Archery	-	9
Henry Mtns – Any Weapon	30	12
Henry Mtns – Muzzleloader	-	9
Paunsaugunt	25	33

Limited Entry Deer Units 2014-2016 Post-Season Buck to Doe Ratio

Unit	Obj.	2014	2015	2016	3 yr. B:D	2016 Tags	2017 Rec
Book Cliffs, Total	25-35	-	-	-	-	435	435
North	25-35	39	34	34	35.8	196	196
South	25-35	40	30	28	32.6	45	45
Cache, Crawford	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
Fillmore, Oak Creek	25-35	24	28	29	27.1	34	34
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	25-35	19	45	24	29.5	19	19
North Slope, Summit	-	-	-	-	-	200	200
San Juan, Elk Ridge	25-35	36	43	43	40.7	51	51
S Slope, Diamond Mtn	25-35	36	49	34	35.2	86	86
West Desert, Vernon	25-35	33	34	36	34.5	181	181
Total						1,024	1,024

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Ch Cr/E Cyn/Morgan S-Rich	20	20
Fillmore	5	5
Kamas	10	10
Monroe	5	5
Mt Dutton	-	5
Nine Mile	20	30
Ogden	-	5
Pine Valley	10	10
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	5	5
Plateau, Fishlake	-	5
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	5	5
South Slope, Yellowstone	10	10
SW Desert	5	5
Wasatch Mtns, East	35	35
Zion	12	12
Total	142	157

2017 Limited Entry Deer Permit Summary

Limited Entry	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Archery	164	164
Any Weapon	653	653
Muzzleloader	182	182
Multi-Season	25	25
Late Muzz	142	167
Total	1,166	1,191

25 permit increase (2%)



2017 General Season and Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations



2017 General Season Elk Permits

	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
General Season	Total	Total
Spike	15,000	15,000
Any Bull	15,000	15,000
Youth Any Bull	500	500

- Statewide success rate on the 2016 spike elk hunt was 15%
- Statewide elk plan sets spike and any bull permits

2017 Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations Summary

Limited Entry	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Archery	722	742
Any Weapon	1,493	1,307
Muzzleloader	455	465
Multi-season	82	61
Total	2,752	2,675

An increase of 61 Limited Entry permits (2%)



2017 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (7.5-8.0)

Unit Name	2014	2015	2016	Avg Age	2016 Permits	2017 Rec.
Beaver, East	7.9	6.9	7.7	7.5	27	27
Book Cliffs, Little Creek	7.9	7.5	7.3	7.6	45	40
Fillmore, Pahvant	7.6	7.8	8.1	7.8	57	57
Plateau, Boulder/Kaip.	7.9	7.3	8.2	7.8	82	82
San Juan	8.3	8.1	8.2	8.2	64	63
W Desert, Deep Creek*	6.8	5.9	7.2	6.6	25	25
Total					300	299

* Indicates a change in age objective from the 2015 statewide elk plan

1 permit reduction (<1%)

2017 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (6.5-7.0)

Unit Name	2014	2015	2016	Avg Age	2016 Permits	2017 Rec.
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	7.9	7.5	7.8	7.7	152	153
Cache, South*	5.4	5.5	4.7	5.2	80	65
Central Mtns, Nebo	5.6	6.0	5.3	5.6	61	52
Monroe*	7.1	7.8	7.8	7.9	32	37
Mt Dutton*	6.0	5.9	6.0	6.0	75	67
Panguitch Lake*	5.8	5.4	5.9	5.7	55	48
S Slope, Diamond Mtn	6.6	6.8	7.7	7.0	48	52
Southwest Desert	7.6	6.8	7.8	7.4	111	116
Total					614	603

* Indicates a change in age objective from the 2015 statewide elk plan

11 permit reduction (2%)

2017 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (5.5-6.0)

Unit Name	2014	2015	2016	Avg Age	2016 Permits	2017 Rec.
Central Mtns, Manti	6.1	5.9	6.3	6.1	453	457
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	-	-	-	-	5	5
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.5	118	128
Nine Mile, Anthro	4.7	5.2	8.1	6.0	20	36
N Slope, 3 Corners	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.7	40	36
Oquirrh-Stansbury	6.2	4.9	6.1	5.7	25	25
Plateau, Fishlake	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	192	192
Wasatch Mountains	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.7	760	830
Total					1,613	1,785

92 permit increase (5%)

2017 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (4.5-5.0)

Unit Name	2014	2015	2016	Avg Age	2016 Permits	2017 Rec.
Box Elder, Grouse Creek	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.5	21	34
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn*	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.4	7	6
Cache, Meadowville	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	82	82
Cache, North	3.3	3.5	5.0	3.9	33	29
Paunsaugunt	5.3	4.9	4.8	5.0	82	85
Total					225	236

*Indicates a change in age objective from the 2015 statewide elk plan

1 permit increase (+1%)



2017 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations



2017 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations

Limited Entry	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Archery	149	170
Muzzleloader	70	84
Any Weapon	545	595
Total	771	849

78 permit increase (10%)



2017 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



2017 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations

Once-in-a-Lifetime	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Moose	68	68
Bison	96	140
Desert Bighorn	42	53
Rocky Mt Bighorn	35	32
Mountain Goat	102	136

(Archery Only)	2016 Permits	2017 Rec. Permits
Bison	-	10
Mountain Goat	-	5



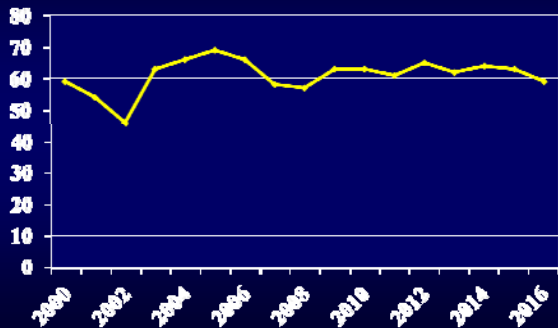
2017 Antlerless Recommendations



Deer



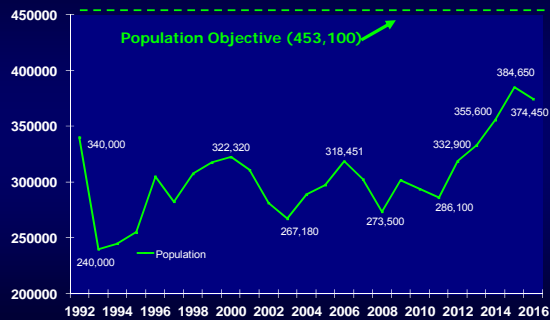
Fawn Production Trends 2000-2016



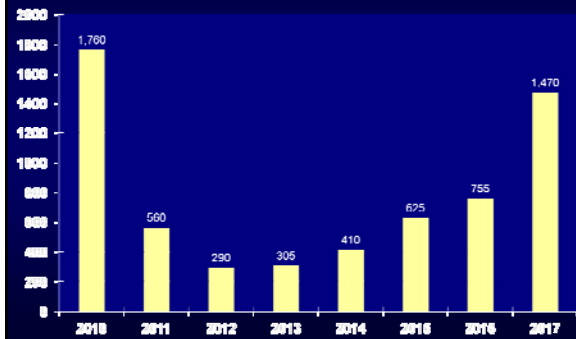
Statewide Survival Rates



Deer Statewide Population Trends



2010-2017 Public Draw Antlerless Deer Permits



Antlerless Deer Permit Recommendations (Public Draw)

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Box Elder	60	60
North Slope	50	50
Beaver	60	50
Monroe	150	220
Mt Dutton	30	90
Plateau, Boulder	0	300
Panguitch Lake	225	250
Zion	100	150
Pine Valley	80	340
	755	1,470

Antlerless deer hunts are designed to address depredation or rangeland concerns.

New Hunts

- 1) Monroe, Annabella
- 2) Monroe, Foothills
- 3) Pine Valley, Enterprise
- 4) Pine Valley, New Harmony (2)
- 5) Pine Valley, Quichapa (2)
- 6) Monroe/Plateau, Angle
- 7) Plateau, Antimony (2)
- 8) Plateau, Fremont River Valley
- 9) Zion, Northwest Zion

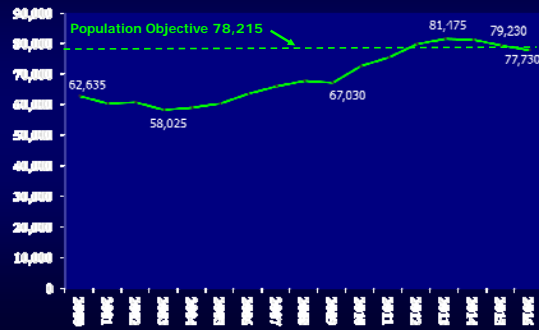
Boundary Changes

- 1) Pine Valley, Enterprise

Elk



Elk Statewide Population Trends



2010-2017 Public Draw Antlerless Elk Permits



Public Draw – NR

NR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Box Elder	675	750	50	35
Cache	2,300	2,350	600	640
Ogden	2,000	2,300	705	470
Morgan-South Rich	3,800	3,850	330	185
East Canyon	1,800	2,450	580	580
Chalk Creek	3,200	4,600	350	350
Kamas	850	1,500	500	500
North Slope, Summit	300	800	250	250
	14,925	18,550	3,365	3,010

Name Change

- ▶ Cache to Cache, East (avoid confusion with deer boundary)

Public Draw – CR

CR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Central Mtns, Nebo	1,450	2,000	100	300
Wasatch Mtns, West	3,400	3,400	160	560
Oquirrh-Stansbury	1,650	950	0	0
West Desert	350	150	10	10
	6,850	6,500	270	770

New hunts

- ▶ Wasatch Mtns, West-Central

Name Change

- ▶ Wasatch Mtns, West to Wasatch Mtns, West-Central (avoid confusion with deer boundary)



Public Draw - SR

SR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
SW Desert	975	1,200	600	550
Fillmore	1,600	1,450	180	110
Beaver	1,050	1,500	880	800
Monroe	1,000-1,400	1,000	15	15
Mt Dutton	1,500-2,000	1,700	475	500
Fishlake, 1,000 Lakes	5,000-5,900	4,400	200	250
Boulder/Kaiparowits	1,200-1,700	1,200	330	240
Paunsaugunt	140	300	150	150
Pangulitch Lake	1,100	1,500	725	625
Zion	300	800	150	90
Pine Valley	50	75	25	25
	15,640	15,125	3,730	3,355

New Hunts/Boundary Changes - SR

▪ New Hunts

- ▶ Beaver, North
- ▶ Beaver, East
- ▶ Mt Dutton/Plateau
- ▶ Plateau/San Rafael, Last Chance Desert
- ▶ Paunsaugunt, Hatch Bench

▪ Name Changes

- ▶ Fillmore, Oak Creek to Fillmore, Oak Creek South on this any bull unit (avoid confusion with cougar boundary)

Public Draw - SER

SER Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Nine Mile, Range Creek	1,800	1,650	0	0
San Rafael	0	30	5	5
La Sal	2,500	2,450	210	210
San Juan*	1,300	1,000	270	50
Henry Mtns	0	25	5	5
Central Mtns, Manti	12,000	11,400	2,650	830
	17,600	16,555	3,140	1,100

* Different than RAC packet (eliminating 2 San Juan cow hunts)

New Hunts

- ▶ Central Mtns, Ferron Canyon Southeast

Boundary Changes

- ▶ Central Mtns, Mohrland-Stump Flat

Public Draw - NER

NER Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
N Slope, W Daggett	1,300	1,600	250	250
N Slope, 3 Corners	700	400	0	0
S Slope, Yellowstone	5,000	7,200	625	550
S Slope, Diamond Mtn/Vernal	3,000	1,900	780	475
Book Cliffs	7,500	5,600	120	120
Nine Mile, Anthro	700	950	400	200
Currant Creek	3,200	1,950	850	0
Avintaquin	1,800	1,400	150	0
	23,200	21,000	3,175	1,595

No new hunts or boundary changes

Over the Counter Permits

▶ Antlerless Elk-Control Permits

- ▶ May take one antlerless elk using the same weapon type, during the same season dates, and within areas of overlap between the boundary of the BBOIL permit and antlerless elk control permit.

▶ Private-Lands-Only Permits

- ▶ Permits valid on private property from Aug 1-Jan 31 on select units using any weapon.

Antlerless Elk-Control Permits

- ▶ Last year, antlerless elk control permits were available on 11 units.

- ▶ 3,998 permits sold
- ▶ 477 antlerless elk harvested
- ▶ 14% success rate

- ▶ We recommend antlerless elk control permits on the following 12 units:

- -Ogden
- -Chalk Creek
- -N San Rafael
- -Pine Valley
- -East Canyon
- -Kamas (New Hunt)
- -Morgan-South Rich
- -SS Yellowstone
- -Henry Mtns
- -Range Creek
- -Vernon
- -San Juan (Boundary Change)

Private-Lands-Only Permits

- ▶ Last year, Private-Lands-Only permits were issued for the first time.
 - ▶ 2,795 PLO permits sold
 - ▶ 1,449 elk harvested
 - ▶ 52% success rate
- ▶ Well received by landowners and hunters.
- ▶ Simplified obtaining permits to harvest cows on private lands (minimized depredation).
- ▶ Redistributed elk on the landscape.

Private-Lands-Only Recommendation

Unit	PLO Permits	Unit	PLO Permits
Ogden	350	Central Mtns, Manti	100
Morgan-South Rich	200	Central Mtns, Nebo	50
East Canyon	250	Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek	2,000
Chalk Creek	1,000	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin	400
North Slope, West Daggett	200	Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	1,000
South Slope, Yellowstone	2,000	Mt Dutton	100
South Slope, Bonanza/Vernal	300	Paunsaugunt	120
Nine Mile, Anthro	200	Pangulitch Lake	100
La Sal	30	Zion	150
San Juan	40		

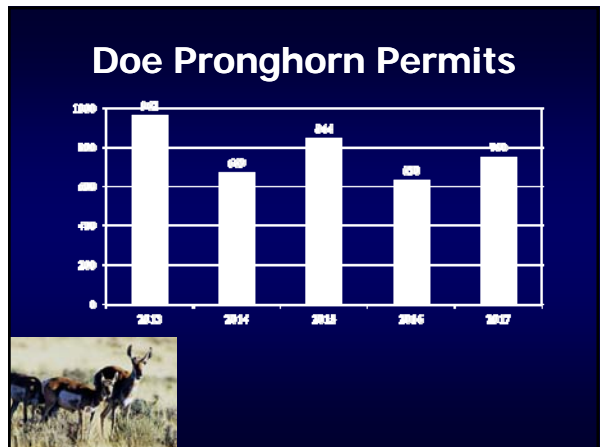
- ▶ We are recommending 8,790 permits.

Antlerless Elk Summary

- ▶ We are modifying the way cow elk hunting occurs in Utah by recommending:
 - a decrease in public draw permits
 - an increase in the number of antlerless elk control units
 - an increase in the number of units that offer private lands only permits

Feedback from RAC Process

- ▶ We propose adding 125 Private-Lands-Only permits to the West Desert, Vernon unit.
- ▶ We propose adding 80 cow elk permits to the Beaver, East unit and altering the boundaries of two hunts (EA1000 and EA1002).
 - New boundaries will be for the Beaver, North portion of the unit.



Doe Pronghorn Permit Recs

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	0	35
Box Elder, Promontory	0	25
Box Elder, Snowville*	50	50
Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	125	125
Mt Dutton, Paunsaugunt	40	100
North Slope, Summit	5	5
Plateau, Parker Mtn	300	300
San Rafael, North	50	50
Southwest Desert, Milford Flat	60	60
	630	750

*Indicates 2-doe permits

New Hunts

- 1) Box Elder, Promontory
- 2) Box Elder West
- 3) Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt
- 4) Plateau, Parker Mtn (2)

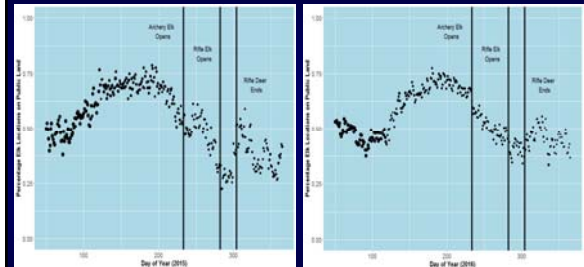
Antlerless Moose Permits

Unit	2016 Permits	2017 Rec Permits
East Canyon, Davis-North Salt Lake	5	5
East Canyon, Morgan Summit	5	5
Ogden	5	5
Ogden, West	5	7
	20	22



No new hunts or boundary changes

Thank you



2017 CWMU ANTLERLESS VOUCHER/PERMIT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS



2017 CWMU Antlerless Voucher/Permit Review

- 62 CWMU CORs previously approved
- 6 CWMUs are requesting changes to previously approved numbers
- 12 CWMUs require Wildlife Board approval
- CWMU request summary: 300/1,216 (vouchers/public permits)

The number of antlerless vouchers/permits a CWMU receives is determined during the bucks and bulls process.

Buck/Bull Permit Options

Antlerless Permits

	Prv.	Pub.		Prv.	Pub.
	90%	10%		0%	100%
Deer & Elk	85%	15%	→	25%	75%
	80%	20%		40%	60%
	75%	25%		50%	50%
Pronghorn	60%	40%	→	40%	60%

Regional Recommendations



CWMU Public Hunter

Northern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	Permits	DWR Recommendation
Double Cone	Elk antlerless	3	8	Change	11 ↓	Approve
Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	Elk antlerless	0	40	Renewal		Approve
Hardscrabble	Elk antlerless	0	15	Renewal		Approve
Mountain Top	Elk antlerless	0	15	Renewal		Approve
Woodruff Creek South	Elk antlerless	0	8	Renewal		Approve
Snowville Flat	Doe pronghorn	1	3	New		Approve
TL Bar Ranch	Doe pronghorn	0	2	Renewal		Approve

Southeastern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	Permits	DWR Recommendation
Minnie Maud Ridge	Elk antlerless	0	20	Renewal		Approve
Redd Ranches	Elk antlerless	0	25	Renewal		Approve
Spring Creek Dodge	Elk antlerless	13	20	Change	17 ↓	Approve
Summit Point	Elk antlerless	15	15	Change	10 ↓	Approve

Southern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	Permits	DWR Recommendation
Pahvant Ensign	Elk antlerless	12	18	New		Approve
Pahvant Ensign	Doe pronghorn	2	3	New		Approve

Central Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	Permits	DWR Recommendation
Coyote Little Pole	Elk antlerless	14	21	Change	25 ↓	Approve
Three C	Elk antlerless	8	12	Change	10 ↓	Approve
Wallsburg	Elk antlerless	2	8	Change	10 ↓	Approve

Northeastern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	Permits	DWR Recommendation
Cottonwood Ridge	Doe pronghorn	4	6	New		Approve

2017 Overview - Recommended CWMU Antlerless Permits

Approximately 80% of antlerless permits for CWMUs are public permits.

Species	Private Permits	Public Permits
Deer	0	10
Elk	236	1,096
Pronghorn	64	110
Total Permits	300	1,216

CWMU Public Hunter



2017 CWMU Variance Request



Variance Request: Double R Ranch CWMU/Fitzgerald Property

- 6,600 acres of land in Double R Ranch CWMU
- 5,600 acres of land in Fitzgerald property
- Mitigation property for Strawberry Reservoir in-between parcels
- Variance to be a non-contiguous elk CWMU



CWMU Advisory Committee Recommendation

- Unanimous vote to accept the variance request



Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Recommendation

- DWR cannot support the CWMU Advisory Committee's recommendation
 - Does not meet the criteria set forth in rule

Landowner Rule Revision

- DWR is sympathetic to landowners in this situation
 - Currently conducting a landowner rule revision
 - Attempting to reach landowners in these situations
 - Planning to bring the revised rule to the Wildlife Board within the year

Thank You

