

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

May 31, 2018, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/hSwwSe99DDI>

AGENDA

Thursday, May 31, 2018 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
 - Kirk Woodward, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
 - Kirk Woodward, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
 - Byron Bateman, Vice-Chair
4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**
 - Mike Fowlks, DWR Director
5. Wildlife Projects Update **INFORMATION**
 - DWR Regional Supervisor
6. Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans **INFORMATION**
 - Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General
7. Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments **ACTION**
 - Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
8. Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64 **ACTION**
 - Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist
9. Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan **ACTION**
 - David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist
10. Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62 **ACTION**
 - Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief
11. Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57 **ACTION**
 - Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General
12. Conservation Permit List – 1yr and 3yr. **ACTION**
 - Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief
13. Box Elder Pilot Mtn. Season Date Change **ACTION**
 - Chad Wilson, Wildlife Biologist
14. Wildlife Board Stipulation and Order **ACTION**
 - Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General
15. **Wildlife Board Appeal – 2:00 p.m. TIME CERTAIN –Mr. Voskan Asaryan** **ACTION**
 - Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General
16. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
 - Kirk Woodward, Chairman

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 2018 - Target Date – Conservation Permit Program Audit

MOTION: I move that we add to the action log item a review of the conservation permit audit process that could include a rule change.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Greg Hansen/Kenny Johnson
Action: Under Study
Status: Scheduled for the May/June 2018 RAC and Board Tour
Placed on Action Log: September 28, 2017

Fall 2018 - Target Date – Archery Season Dates for Elk

MOTION: I move that we put on the action log a review of the season date change for archery elk hunting and add a survey concerning this issue prior to the next revision of the statewide deer management plan in 2022. The Division will report back next year to look at how season date changes would look with the requested change

Motion made by: Calvin Crandall
Assigned to: Covy Jones
Action: Under Study
Status: Scheduled for the November 2018 RAC and Board Tour
Placed on Action Log: September 28, 2017

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 26, 2018, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/wDRjFDZK054>

AGENDA

Thursday, April 26, 2018, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Kirk Woodward, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Kirk Woodward, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Byron Bateman, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Use of Airbows
– Marvin Carlston, President of Shooting Edge | INFORMATION |
| 6. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018
– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator, and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2018
– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator, and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 8. 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
– Mike Wardle, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes
– Justin Shirley, Law Enforcement Captain | ACTION |
| 10. COR Approval for Nuisance Bat Removal
– Kim Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Other Business
– Kirk Woodward, 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
April 26, 2018, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

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

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

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the March 7, 2018 meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log DWR Update (**Informational**)

Big Game Baiting
COR – Power Scopes on Crossbows

4) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the permit numbers by 200 on the Central Mountains, Manti/San Rafael unit.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4 to 1. Kevin Albrecht opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Pine Valley unit at the 2017 permit numbers.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the Division's recommendation for the Book Cliffs from 35 to 15 additional permits.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4 to 1. Byron Bateman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the deer recommendations as presented by the Division.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 4 to 1.

Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we maintain the 37 elk permits from 2017 on the Monroe unit.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4 to 1. Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Central Mountains, Manti unit permit number the same as in 2017 at 467.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the elk recommendation as presented by the Division.

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

MOTION: I move that we decrease the sheep permit numbers from 3 to 2 on the Nebo/Wasatch Mountain.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the 2018 Permit Recommendations as presented.

5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2018 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2018 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the Division.

6) 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

7) Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes as presented.

8) COR Approval for Nuisance Bat Removal (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the COR for Nuisance Bat Removal as presented by the Division.

DRAFT

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
April 26, 2018, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Attendance

Wildlife Board

Kirk Woodward – Chair
Byron Bateman – Vice-Chair
Mike Fowlks – Exec Sec
Kevin Albrecht
Calvin Crandall
Donnie Hunter
Karl Hirst - Excused
Steve Dalton

RAC Chairs

Central – Jason Vernon
Southern – Wade Heaton
Southeastern – Trish Hedin
Northeastern – Randy Dearth
Northern – Bryce Thurgood

Division Personnel

Mike Canning
Rory Reynolds
Bill Bates
Kevin Bunnell
Boyde Blackwell
Justin Dolling
Chris Wood
Jason Vernon
Kenny Johnson
Rick Olson
Justin Shannon
Drew Cushing
Paul Gedge
Mike Christensen
Staci Coons
Thu Vo-Wood
Mark Hadley
Wade Heaton
Martin Bushman
Greg Hansen
Lindy Varney
Teresa Griffin
Guy Wallace
Riley Peck
Randy Wood
Dax Mangus
Covy Jones
Mike Wardle
Justin Shirley
Kim Hersey
Kent Hersey
Phil Gray
Jace Taylor
Steve Newren
Darren DeBloois

Public Present

Marvin Carlston – Shooting Edge
Randy Graham – Shooting Edge
Troy Justensen – SFW
Sterling Brown – UT Farm Bureau
Bill Christensen - RMEF
Nolan Gardner
Greg Bird – UT Wildsheep Foundation
Roy Hampton – UT Archery Association
Doyle Moss
Jesse Hatch

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
April 26, 2018, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://youtu.be/wDRjFDZK054>

- 00:00:04** Chairman Woodward called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, introduced Board and RAC members, and reviewed the meeting process.
- 00:03:32** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.
- 00:03:48** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the March 7, 2018 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:04:15** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
The following action log items were discussed:
- 00:04:44** **Big Game Baiting** – Covy Jones presented the findings.
- 00:18:45** **COR – Power Scopes on Crossbows** – Phil Gray presented the findings. The COR pertains to the archery hunt only.
- 00:25:40** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Mike Fowlks updated the Board on the Utah Prairie Dog Conservation Plan, the down-listing of humpback chub, the success of the Waterfowl Summit and watershed initiative funding meeting, the formation of the Private Aquaculture Committee, the effects of the southern Utah drought, and sage-grouse leks. DWR has an upcoming event - Future of Hunting Summit. IWJV recognized Utah citizens for their work.
- 00:33:38** **5) Use of Airbows (Informational)**
Randy Graham provided information on airbolts. The Board had some questions on the excise tax and types of ammo used for this weapon.
- 00:50:46** **6) Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018 (Action)**
Covy Jones presented the 2018 recommendations.
- 01:17:01** **Board Questions**
The board asked for clarification on the Colorado research, management objective, RAC feedback, permit recommendations, and effects of drought on fawn survival.

01:33:30 RAC Recommendations

All RACs had several conditions for the recommendations and varying dissent on each. They all passed the remainder of the recommendations.

01:47:20 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:59:36 Board Discussion

Chairman Woodward proposed they proceed with the discussion by breaking the items into three subsets: deer, elk, and pronghorn and OIAL. He summarized the motions for deer from each RAC. The Board further discussed the motions.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the permit numbers by 200 on the Central Mountains, Manti/San Rafael unit.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4 to 1. Kevin Albrecht opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Pine Valley unit at the 2017 permit numbers.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the Division's recommendation for the Book Cliffs from 35 to 15 additional permits.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4 to 1. Byron Bateman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the deer recommendations as presented by the Division.

02:28:17

Chairman Woodward summarized each RACs' motion on elk. The Board further discussed the motions.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 4 to 1. Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we maintain the 37 elk permits from 2017 on the Monroe unit.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4 to 1. Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Central Mountains, Manti unit permit number the same as in 2017 at 467.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the elk recommendation as presented by the Division.

02:45:33

Chairman Woodward summarized the motions on pronghorn and sheep.

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

MOTION: I move that we decrease the sheep permit numbers from 3 to 2 on the Nebo/Wasatch Mountain.

02:48:00

The Board discussed the drought situation.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the 2018 Permit Recommendations as presented.

02:51:38

LUNCH BREAK

03:41:39

7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2018 (Action)

Covy Jones presented the antlerless permit recommendations.

04:03:39

Board/RAC Questions

The board asked how often counts occur, total elk permits in the state, pressure and movement, and effect of development on wildlife.

04:12:24

Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

04:26:43

RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the permit recommendations. Southern RAC asked the Board to examine whether trophy bull hunters are impacted by muzzle-loader deer hunters who also have cow tags.

The Board discussed Southern RAC's request to examine the disruption of muzzle-loader deer hunters on trophy bull hunters and why the Southern RAC voted unanimously this time around.

04:36:36

Board Discussion

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC vote. The Board continued discussion on the Southern RAC decision.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2018 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the Division.

04:38:40

8) 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

Mike Wardle presented the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations.

04:46:30 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the recommendations. Southern and Southeast RACs had one abstention each.

04:47:18 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

04:48:08 9) Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes (Action)

Rick Olson presented the program changes.

04:58:56 Board Questions

The board asked about certain scenarios.

05:01:30 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the program changes.

05:01:49 Board Discussion

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes as presented.

05:03:04 10) COR Approval for Nuisance Bat Removal (Action)

Kim Hersey presented the COR.

05:05:59 Board Questions

The board asked about health risks posed by bats.

05:07:37 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the COR for Nuisance Bat Removal as presented by the Division.

05:08:10 11) Other Business (Contingent)

The Board discussed management hunts, recruitment and retention of 12-15 year old hunters, and archery sheep once-in-a-lifetime hunt.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht and then withdrawn.

MOTION: I move that we put the archery sheep once-in-a-lifetime on the action log and include a survey for public feedback.

05:37:46 Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions
May 2018**

Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments

NRO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes - 11 in Favor, 2 Opposed

CRO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes - 7 in Favor, 1 Opposed

SRO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – Unanimous

SERO: Motion – Ask the Wildlife Board, as an action log item, to evaluate the timing of the spring limited-entry turkey season so that it straddles the strutting seasons for Merriam's and Rio Grande turkeys, providing equal opportunity to hunt both sub species.
Motion Passes – 10 in Favor, 1 Absention

Motion – Accept the remaining Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, with the exception of adding a rimfire rifle option for the fall turkey hunting season.
Motion Passes – 8 in Favor, 3 Opposed

NERO: Motion – to maintain one permit per hunter for the fall hunt, accept the any guage BB, and limit the rimfire to depredation and youth only.
Motion Passes – 5 in Favor, 3 Opposed

Covote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64

NRO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes - 11 in Favor, 2 Opposed

CRO, NERO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – Unanimous

SRO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – Unanimous

Motion – Recommend an action log item for the DWR to look at funding, in addition of the \$500,000, from the legislature or, as examples, an increase in permit fees or some way to keep that program going where they do not have to decrease the \$50.
Motion Passes – 8 in Favor, 1 Opposed

SERO: Motion - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – 9 in Favor, 2 Opposed

Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

NRO, CRO: **Motion** - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – Unanimous

SRO: **Motion** - Recommend the Wildlife Board would agree to a multiple use working group that is full-on management with DWR, those stakeholders would be representatives from the landowners, livestock permittees, the organizations, not excluding the wool growers, cattlemen's, Farm Bureau, SFW, FNAWS, whatever the sportsman's groups are, and local government be in place before the Wildlife Board made their decision.
Revised Motion – Recommend that they not approve the proposal as presented until the working group has more time to come together and see if they can come to a reasonable agreement.
Motion Passes - 7 in Favor, 2 Opposed

SERO: **Motion** - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – 6 in Favor, 5 Opposed, 1 Abstention

NERO: **Motion** - Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.
Motion Passes – 6 in Favor, 2 Opposed

Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62.

NRO, SRO, SERO, NERO:

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

CRO: **Motion** – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41.
Motion Passes – Unanimous, 1 abstention

CRO: **Motion** – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55.
Motion Passes – 7 to 1

CRO: **Motion** – To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Drawing Application Procedure Rule R657-62.
Motion Passes - Unanimous

Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57.

NRO, CRO, SRO, SERO, NERO:

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

RAC AGENDA – MAY 2018



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair 4. Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor 5. Wildlife Projects Update
- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief 6. Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans
- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General 7. Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator 8. Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64
- Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist 9. Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan
- David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist 10. Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62
- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief 11. Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57
- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General | <p>INFORMATIONAL</p> <p>INFORMATIONAL</p> <p>INFORMATIONAL</p> <p>INFORMATIONAL</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>ACTION</p> |
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CR RAC – May 1st 6:30 PM
Springville Civic Center
110 S. Main Street, Springville

SER RAC – May 9th 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River

NR RAC – May 2nd 6:00 PM
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W. Brigham City

NER RAC – May 10th 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal

SR RAC – May 8th 7:00 PM
Beaver High School
195 E. Center St., Beaver

Board Meeting – May 31st 9:00 AM
DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, SLC

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 South Main Street, Springville
May 1, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Brock McMillan, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the agenda as written

2) Approval of minutes

The following motion was made by Brock McMillan, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the minutes as written

3) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by George Garcia and passed 7 to 1. Josh opposed.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

4) Coyote Bounty Program Amendments-Rule R657-64

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by AJ Mower and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

5) Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

6) Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Brock McMillan and passed unanimously. Ben abstained.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Conservation and Sportsman Permits.

Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by George Garcia and passed 7 to 1. Josh opposed.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on Wildlife Expo Permits.

Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Drawing Application Procedure.

- 7) Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under Rule R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57

The following motion was made by Brock McMillan, seconded by AJ Mower and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

SCANNED

MAY 4 2018

EMAILED

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 South Main Street, Springville
May 1, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Brock McMillan, Sportsmen
Christine Schmidt, Non-consumptive
George Garcia, Forest Service
Joshua Lenart, Sportsmen
Ben Lowder, At Large
Kristofer Marble, Chair
Alan White, Agriculture
AJ Mower, Agriculture
Kenneth Strong, Sportsmen

Member Absent

Mike Christensen, Excused
Mike Gates, Excused
Danny Potts, Excused
Jacob Steele, Native American

Others Present

Jason Vernon, CRO Reg Supervisor
Martin Bushman, Asst. Atty. General

- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
Kris Marble, RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by Brock McMillan to approve the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Ken Strong
Passed unanimously

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**
Kris Marble, RAC Chair

- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**
Jason Vernon, Central Regional Supervisor

Wildlife

- * Sage grouse lek counts are under way. If you would like to participate let the biologist know.
- * Bear season is ongoing we have started checking in harvested bears.
- * Spring Range rides and browse surveys are ongoing, if any would like to participate contact one of the biologist.
- * Spring depredation ongoing but slower than normal.

Habitat

- * Continuing to install wildlife guzzlers this spring. They have recently installed 3 guzzlers in the Drum Mountains west of Delta. These guzzlers will provide reliable water for chukar partridge, pronghorn, mule deer and other wildlife.

* The Central Region staff is currently finishing some FY-18 Watershed Restoration projects this spring and has proposed 30 Projects for FY-19.

Aquatics

Little Dell

- * Little Dell egg take to supplement hatchery brood production starts in mid June (likely June 11)
- * Like to extend invitation to all the RAC to assist with collection and see the process (contact Chris Crockett if interested, look for follow-up email invite).

Jordanelle

- * Continuing to implement significant portions of 2016 management plan (angler led)
- * 250,000 3 inch kokanee stocked in early April
- * 18,000 Beautiful! 12-inch Rainbows stocked today (improved survivorship and returns from our 12 inch 2017 stocking (i.e. stocking a larger size is working, better returns per pound)
- * Splake going in for the first time late this summer (likely August?), 60,000

Online Angler Survey

* Survey currently being drafted-typically evaluates support for regulation changes and other management actions.

- * Anticipate launch on May 15, one month to respond
- * 5,000 randomly chosen recipients (anticipate 20% response rate)

Utah Lake Festival June 2, 2018

Free Fishing Day-June 9, 2018

Law Enforcement

- * We are almost in the Aquatic Invasive Species season and in the Central Region we are primarily concerned about Quagga Mussels. Remember to abide by the regulations for AIS and watercraft so we don't spread them between reservoirs. We will have the Daniels Port of Entry operational by Memorial weekend and it will operate for the summer season until Labor Day.
- * Sgt. Matt Briggs from Sanpete County was the Utah DWR Officer of the Year/Shikar Safari award winner. He also was the NWTf Officer of the Year.

Conservation Outreach

- * The annual Salem Pond Fishing Event will be held next Tuesday, May 8th beginning at 8am. Volunteers are needed to help the youth fish and this is something that Dedicated Hunters can take advantage of.

4) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Alan – Explain a little bit more on your landowner control permits. Are these permits given to the landowners or just giving out to applicants; what is the process? Jason – We have a process in place that if a landowner has turkeys causing damage on their private property, they can get in

contact with the Division of Wildlife and they will assess the situation and come up with a plan for that particular property and under that plan, a landowner can be issued two permits to take two either sex birds on the property. If that doesn't alleviate the problem, the same landowner can actually be issued a control permit voucher and those vouchers transfer to individual landowner once on the property. So the vouchers are turned in for turkey hunting permits and they can harvest a bird of either sex on the landowner's property. Al - The number of vouchers will be based on the circumstances, I guess? Jason - It is 10% of the population under the plan with a maximum of 15.

Josh - What kind of conflicts do you see? Jason - We have had issues with all of those. I don't know the percentages off the top of my head; we deal with nuisance which is a lot of time droppings on the sidewalk, scratching beds. We also have issues that are "actual damage" to crops or bailed hay or something like that. So, we do have areas throughout the state that have certain degrees of each of those.

Ben - Looking through the guidebook and I saw on your presentation that you mentioned there's areas that you can hunt the fall turkeys in all five regions? Jason - If I said that, I misspoke. There are three regions that currently have a fall season. Ben - Okay and what regions are those? Jason - The Northern, Southern and Southeast Regions. Ben - Where do you find areas for those? I didn't see those in the guidebook. Jason - We publish those on our web page in the fall. Ben - I received a few emails concerns hunting in the fall with a rim fire. I think their primary concern is a safety issue. I generally don't agree with it, but was wondering if you could speak it out real quick? Jason - We have had lengthy discussions on the safety. Obviously we want the hunters to be safe. First and foremost! With the fall hunt allowing rim fire, what we came up with was we currently have multiple hunts for various species going on throughout the fall that allow for rim fire, shotgun, high powered rifles, muzzleloader, archery equipment. One of the things that have been brought up to is hunter orange. An upland game hunter here in the State of Utah is not required to wear hunter orange; so we currently have hunters out there without hunter orange. Ultimately what we decided was it is up to that individual to make sure what they are firing at is a safe and make sure of your target and what is beyond it as well. Hopefully hunters are being safe and take it upon themselves to do that. Ben - And as I understand these fall hunts are typically designed to deal with depredation issues or conflict issues and the rim fire is essentially an additional tool to help with that success of dealing with those issues, correct? Jason - Correct.

Ken - Jason, my concern a little bit is with the rim fire. Will there be a lot of wounded birds that run off and die? I think there are about 90% of the hunters that are capable of using a rim fire cartridge when hunting. I think there is 10% that will go out there at 150 yards and see a decoy and open up on it when there is a hunter very close by and this is my concern on that. Will you give me a little bit more information or opinion? Jason - With the wounding, we hope not. We hope the hunters are being conscious of the distance. The same can be said about a shotgun or archery equipment. You need to know your effected range and being efficient at that distance. I think that the rim fire shouldn't have a lot of wounding loss. It's a heavier bullet than a four or six shot pellet. Hopefully hunters are staying within their effected range. That is the most important thing for that. Ken - I just know there are people out there and I will bring in big game. They are no more than a just a rifle off the shelf and they see a deer at 800 yards and they

are going to shoot at it. I feel like there could be people out there and probably is that would see a turkey out there at 150 yards and think I can get it with this rim fire knowing there is a guy somewhere up there and they don't realize their decoys. I have had so many people shoot duck decoys out from under me. Jason – Most people aren't using decoys as much as they do in the spring hunting. It's maybe less common for fall hunters to use decoys; but again I hope those hunters are making sure of their target and what's beyond it.

Kris – Do you have any case studies from other states in something similar? Jason – Yes, Colorado has a fall turkey hunting season and they have for a long time. We talked with a retired biologist that is now with NWTf and he did law enforcement for 41 years in Colorado and he couldn't recall any incidents with the fall turkey hunting. There were a few in the spring. So it seems like for the most part it's pretty safe.

Ben – Kris, to add to that I know Wyoming allows you to hunt turkey with any weapon. You could shoot a turkey with a 30-06 if you wanted to.

Josh – When it is a depredation case and crops are damaged, do farmers get reimbursed for that crop damage or do they just get tags? Jason – They are not reimbursed. We try to either trap or transplant the bird like our primary tool or if we need to we will go in and issue permits to harvest birds. Josh – Why make this change now? I'm sure you were a part of that process, what has made the change to this tipping point now to address this? Jason – I mentioned that we moved over 2,100 turkeys this year and that is a record number of birds. That is a big strain on our personnel and man power and so we wanted to reduce that impact. There are populations in Cache Valley where there are at the point that we need to start taking action. Turkey populations, they are upland game so their populations can go very quickly and so we didn't want to wait a couple of years. If we have a couple of good springs and right conditions, those populations can grow very quickly and make it much harder to address two years from now than it would be today. Josh – Do you worry about shooting three turkeys in the fall where they aren't on the flats you are reducing hunters success and harvest rates in the spring? Jason - We don't think so. We will monitor that very carefully. We will make sure to do those hunter surveys so hunter success rate are staying above those targets. In most of these areas where we are doing these fall hunts there is an abundance of turkeys a whole group of abundance in many cases so we feel like there should be plenty of bird left for the spring hunt.

George – The northern south/southeast is there a potential fall season scheduled through the Central Region for that over abundance located in Salt Creek? Jason - Yes, I believe so.

Riley – I think moving forward there are some places that we would like to see a fall turkey hunt in the Central Region. I think primarily it would be on private lands and help with some of those over populated areas. I guess to speak to that as well. It's not necessarily going to slow down our trapping efforts either. There are places in our region that we are not going to be able to have a hunt, so trap and relocate is still going to take place, but we do have plans to implement a hunt or propose a hunt through the RAC and Board.

Questions from the Public

Troy Justensen/SFW – Jason, Can you give me a number of how many birds are actually transplanted on an annual basis? Jason – Yes, It varies a lot from year to year depending on how

severe the winter is. But in general, we'll move in anywhere from a low of 600 birds. This year we moved over 2,100 birds statewide. So we are still trapping and moving quite a few birds.

Troy – And as far as areas that are voided turkeys or potential release sites, what does the state look like? Do we have room to put a bunch more turkeys or are we getting close to being saturated? Jason – We definitely have areas that we can put more turkeys and there areas of the state that we feel are saturated. But we do have areas that we can continue to put turkeys and that intent is to keep moving turkeys into those areas and expanding our turkey population.

Troy – On these turkey captures, is this something that needs to be manned by the Division of Wildlife Resources or can non-profit groups get involved, how do these captures work?

Jason – Both the SFW, NWTF has been involved and we do involve groups. We just saw one in Marty's presentation transplant turkeys as far as additional effort, similar to big game, we have to have a plan in place, a translocation site and so often our folks are the ones that are releasing the birds, but we volunteer quite a bit in the past.

Comments from the Public

Mike Pritchett /Self – If you don't know me, I have been involved with wild turkeys since the day they came to Hobble Creek. My brother and I let them go here. We have been involved with them since 1991. I was the President of the Turkey Federation for years and years. I was also involved with Sportsman's and Wildlife. Back in the day, I remember we talked about over the counter turkey sales and I personally being the President of NWTF, I didn't think that day would ever come and here it is, it came. So when Jason called me on this recommendation on this fall hunting and three turkeys and shooting 22's, it was just another day of "Like Wow." Turkeys have been very successful in Utah. The Division's working with all of us, SFW, NWTF, those numbers is just phenomenal. This gives opportunity for youth, disabled children so everybody can get out there to get them. I guess I was a little aw struck about the 22 issue, but again it has to be a tool to harvest them and do it ethically. So I guess it's another tool in the tool box. A little bit split, but I guess at the end of the day I support the Division and I think it is a good recommendation. This is a good recommendation because it gives us more opportunity. I have spent my whole entire adult life in turkeys and it's pretty amazing to see them in Utah. I just got back from Nebraska and it's pretty phenomenal that Utah has what we do and to be able to buy over the counter. Like I said I never personally thought I'd see that day and it's amazing. Good work by the Division and the RAC for working together. Man power help is available by the SFW, NWTF, and hundreds of volunteers that would help transplant birds. I drove personally to Kansas and picked up birds and brought them back to the Division. There are a lot of good people and it's a great program. Kudos to them!

Waylon Pritchett/Self – I am following suite of what Mike said. It's amazing to see the opportunity and the chance that we have here in Utah and see the populations of birds grow to the numbers that they are now. One thing in my opinion and I find kind of unfair is I think by increasing the tag permits for the fall makes it a little bit more unfair for the spring hunters. I feel the groups kind of divided a little bit between those that hunt them in the fall and those that hunt them in the spring. I would personally like to see it maybe even level out a little bit more to where somebody could purchase two in the spring and two in the fall. I know looking at Jason's data and information; success rates are a little bit lower in the spring. I think though it would kind of even it out and make it more fair to allow somebody that is hunting in the spring be able to either purchase a second permit for these areas that are having issues with the birds.

Especially somebody that is in the northern, southern or southeastern region, has either drew a limited entry permit or purchased a general season permit to be able to purchase one of these second permits.

Troy Justensen/SFW – We appreciate what Mike Pritchett has done with this program. Typically when SFW takes a position on items like this it goes before the committee, which there are 17 chapters throughout the State, due to the time constraints we haven't had the ability to discuss this, but based upon what I have heard, we would support the Division's recommendations. I would only ask if we still don't lose track of having the opportunity to move these birds. We use this as a tool and worst case scenario to go into place is bring down populations if we can't get in there to trap them to move them to different parts of the State. We commend the Division. 2,100 birds in a year, that's phenomenal!

Clint Peterson/Self - I was pretty excited when I first read these. I have never come out to one of these meetings and have never participated in anything like this. I haven't been a turkey hunter. I hunted them once last year. When I saw this, for me what it was is I have daughters. They are not big buys like these guys so when I saw these recommendations, one of my daughters favorite things is her little pink camo rim fire 22. I asked her, is this something that you would like to do? She has never been interested in hunting with me before, but she loves to shoot that little gun so that was pretty exciting for her. I remember being a kid trying to shoot a 12 and 20 gauge shotgun, it was too big for me and it made me afraid of shooting a gun. This gives an opportunity to shoot a little more manageable. I think this is a really good idea. It seems like a pretty cool opportunity to get some of these younger hunters more involved.

RAC Discussion

Brock – I grew up in Utah but I lived in Kansas during the 1990's and then I moved to Minnesota for the first eight years of 2000's and we went through the same thing in both of those states where there was almost no turkey to coming out of their ears. Any tool that we can give to the Division can manage those populations where there are problems. I think it's a good thing.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Seconded by George Garcia

In favor: George, Ken, Christine, Ben, AJ, Al, Brock

Opposed: Josh

Motion Passed 7 to 1

5) Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule 657-64 Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist

Questions from the RAC

Brock – Is there any concern that you're discriminating against maybe age classes by requiring this app? I looked it up and only 42% of people over 65 have a smart phone. Xaela – So that has been a really big topic for discussion and we have gone back and forth about it but; realistically we're not preventing guys from going out and shooting coyotes. They can do that as much as

they want but it's the program that we are paying people to do it. We feel that they should be able to meet the requirements that we're asking of them in order to get paid. If you want to go out and shoot coyotes, you're more than welcome to do so.

Josh - Is the application built? Xaela - Yes, I forgot to mention that we are going to be making this available this year starting in July. At that time we will do a trial run and not require it until 2019. This will then give participants an opportunity to get used to the program and kind of work out all the bugs to make it a little bit smoother transition. Josh - Was it built from funds? Xaela - I am not sure about that. Do you know Darren? Darren - We have some folks that are pretty smart within the Division, so essentially it was free software. The guys get paid anyway; so no it didn't come out of the fund. It was out of a normal working budget.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

Troy Justensen/SFW - We are fully aware why we are to this point about coyotes. This has been a heated discussion amongst the guys that hunt these coyotes for a living. One question that they had is, did the Division consider a random lie detector test on some of these guys that are turning in multiple dogs? I am being serious. There have been some rather large infractions on as far as people cheating the system. The SFW supports the Division's recommendations.

Waylon Pritchett/Self - I think this is a fantastic idea on keeping up with modern technology. She mentioned earlier a lot of hunters don't carry a GPS with them and I know I don't. I think the basic cheap model that you can get is around \$150-\$200. For the most part, almost everybody has a smart phone. With the use of that app and to be able to mark the location of the kill, do the online registering with a COR, I think that is a great idea. I think this is going to get more people involved in the program. I know with the current system that you use now it has kind of hindered me from doing the program a little bit. I think of going to the paperless program and make it all on the phone will make it easier and possibly get more people involved. As they mentioned also about the hunting privacy; I think that is a great idea. I know a lot of coyote hunters and they don't want to give out their location of where they go. I believe all that information is available online and instead of doing the homework themselves and figuring out the area, they'll get online and look and see where people are killing coyotes and that is where they will start and they will go. Again, in all, I think everything is a great idea and some great changes to the program.

RAC Discussion

Ken - I think it's great that the Division is clamping down on some of this stuff. If you sit down and think this money comes from the Utah people; then having them pay for a coyote that comes from another state is not right. I am happy to see this take place.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ken Strong to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Seconded by AJ Mower

In Favor: Christine, George, Al, AJ, Brock, Ben, Ken, Josh

Opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

**6) Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan
David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist**

Questions from the RAC

None

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

Greg Bird/Utah Wild Sheep Foundation - We approve and support the Division's recommendations as presented. We know this has been in the process for several years and we really support in what they are doing and the efforts that have gone into this. We really appreciate our partnership with the Division and we would really like to see this go through.

Troy Justenesen /SFW – This is really neat to see this finally come to fruition. This started in a local SFW chapter down in the Beaver Chapter. It has been a long road and process. I know our chapter members are extremely excited to think of the idea of having Desert Bighorn Sheep on that mountain. We support the Division's recommendations and support it both by man power and financially, whatever it takes to get these sheep on the mountain this year. They should have been on there quite a long time ago.

RAC Discussion

Ken – I think it's great that the Division has taken an opportunity like this to increase the population of sheep and eventually increase the hunting of sheep, maybe to add another unit.

VOTING

Motion made by Ken Strong to accept the Division's recommendations as presented

Seconded by Ben Lowder

In Favor: Christine, George, Al, AJ, Brock, Ben, Ken, Josh

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

7) Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule 657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

Presentation for proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule 657-41 by Kenny Johnson

Questions from the RAC on Conservation and Sportsman Permits

Ben Lowder – Kenny can you go back to the first slide, I don't think we discussed this in our meeting last week and this may be already answered would this impact conservation permits for bear at all? Bear has any weapon seasons for spring, summer and fall? Kenny – Are we letting those conservation bear hunters hunt all three seasons now? Ben – Yes. Kenny – In the kind of premium limited entry areas? Ben – Yes. Then that would be a big deterrent to that tag, I believe. Kenny – I would say likely not and Justin could help me out. The intent was if we have a kind of the middle range dates for rifle hunts for deer and elk that we don't just automatically give them the benefit of having those extra rifle hunts. Justin - So bear will continue to be multi season. I think especially as the bear hunts get more diverse the multi season makes even more sense with that. What we were trying to avoid was in the rule it wasn't entirely clear on if they had to select season or how that went whether it was a early mid or late and so now we just say they have to designate that. Ben – So the purchaser gets to choose the season? Justin – Yes.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

Troy Justensen/SFW – Two things I would love to point out here. Who really deserves credit here? I know we as sportsmen groups get a lot of credit for it but who really deserves the credit is the sportsman in Utah. This is a sacrifice. It is 5 % of the permits that are no longer available to them in the hopes that we can generate monies to increase opportunity in the future species. There is no doubt that has happened. We wouldn't have the sheep program we have without it. We don't have the Bison, Mountain Goat; we don't have a lot of things. So hats off to the Utah Sportsman for giving a sacrifice. A lot of times the groups get the credit, but the credit really goes to the sportsman. Second of which is how important this program really is. It is absolutely critical. If you look back on the video and slides that Justin showed. We have our unique place with a unique program. We just recently met as a conservation group and I think we raised three point some odd million dollars that we contributed and if you go in and match that... The thing that really stood out to me in Justin's presentation is we treated close to one point five million acres. That is more than the rest of the states combined. That says something. When you look at the dollars we have raised. We support the Division's recommendations and anything we can do to continue this transparent and keep this program going. We support it as a group and we are grateful for the opportunity.

RAC Discussion

Ben – I kind of echo with what Troy said. I want to give a shout out and thanks to Justin for the wildlife projects update that he gave us earlier. It really highlights with what this program has done. Like Troy had been fortunate to be involved in a lot of the funding of these projects and see where these projects are going is really exciting. I remember a few years ago I think it might have been the first time I went to one of those allocation meetings, Greg was introduced and made a comment about Idaho is getting ready to do like a 4,000 acre project. This is a big project and that they were tackling this GIANT project; which is a big deal in Idaho and then I heard the comment, "We are going to do more than that TODAY here in Utah". Just to point out how beneficial this program is to our wildlife, habitat and our sportsman.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ken Strong to accept the Division's recommendations as presented on the Conservation and Sportsman Permits

Seconded by Brock McMillan

In Favor: Ken, Brock, AJ, Al, George, Josh, Christine

Opposed: None

Abstain: Ben

Motion passed unanimously

Presentation for proposed Rule Amendments to Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55 by Kenny Johnson

Questions from RAC on Wildlife Expo Permits

None

Questions from the Public

Jason Hawkins/Self – Question, Subsection 10 of the rule application revenues. Looks like the rule still allows the group to retain \$3.50 of each \$5.00 application per administrative expenses.

I thought I heard you say and I may have misheard that the remainder of the \$1.50 is used for projects? Kenny – Correct. Jason – Did you say that the 70% is used for programs policies?

Did I hear something along those lines? Kenny – Yes. It is committed to a project policy program that promotes conservation in Utah. Jason - Is that in the rule somewhere? I was trying to see where that was. Is that part of the rule, where is that? Kenny – That is a fair question. Where is that? Jason – I was looking at Subsection 10 R657-55 Subsection 2, the conservation organization may retain a pre 50 of each \$5.00 application fee for administrative expenses unless the organization budgets a greater percentage. Kenny – Just to be clear the current contract is where we clarify that the \$3.50 be spent for those additional items.

Jason - On the same lines was there any thought from the Division to put that requirement into the rule itself so that it would be in place for future contracts also? Kenny – I think we definitely have thought about that, but this would provide any future expo contractors flexibility with those funds to do things that are going to benefit wildlife into the future. I think we built in some flexibility with that concept. Jason – There was Subsection 10 so we're still talking about application fee revenue. You mentioned in your report there that there used to be a Subsection D and part of the annual report, I'm looking at Subsection 16, the annual report that is submitted by the conservation groups used to address gross revenue, amount of the application fees kept for administrative expenses, that portion dedicated for funding projects and there used to be a requirement that the report also include projects funded, date of the fund, the amount undistributed and the completion date for each project. Like I said you were speaking quickly so I tried to take notes here. I think you said the reason the requirements detailing the projects that have been funded from the \$1.50 that is ear marked for conservation projects that this was redundant. Is that correct? Kenny – Correct. So we're changing the process to when those funds are committed, the projects, we're just going to invoice the group for those funds up front. Jason – So in the past the public had the benefit of seeing that annual report from the groups and they could look and see what projects were funded and see how much was spent, when the projects were funded and paid, how will that information be made available for the public know if it's not in the annual report? Jason – That's a good question. So we will still have the

Jason - Is that in the rule somewhere? I was trying to see where that was. Is that part of the rule, where is that? Kenny – That is a fair question. Where is that? Jason – I was looking at Subsection 10 R657-55 Subsection 2, the conservation organization may retain a pre 50 of each \$5.00 application fee for administrative expenses unless the organization budgets a greater percentage. Kenny – Just to be clear the current contract is where we clarify that the \$3.50 be spent for those additional items.

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information. We will still have the funding, invoices, the approved cover sheets and all the projects that the funding was spent on. So part of our annual review of this in the audit will cover that and disclose that information for the public. Jason - So the Division of Wildlife will provide this instead of the groups putting it in their report? Kenny – Correct. Jason – Last question I have is in R657-55-4 obtaining authority to distribute wildlife expo permits. I have been involved with this for several years and I think I have talked to you a couple of times about it Kenny. It looks to me when I saw these changes here you mentioned that part of the goal of this was to be more consistent with the Utah procurement code, to recognize a formal RFP process. Is this what the Division is trying to accomplish here? Kenny – It is.

Jason – So my thought on this is and wanted to ask you about is that is the very process that the Division used back in 2015-16, to avoid the last contract. Is there a reason that the Division didn't go through this process and amend its rule back in 2015-16, before it used the formal RFP process last time around? Kenny – Also, a fair question. As we work through it about three years ago, it was kind of a timing issue. We started working on the RFP which we explained to the groups at the time in the spring and then started to work with state purchasing and it just took longer than we had hoped so it quite overlap and align with what we had in rule and so we just wanted to make sure and clarify and moving forward that participants know this is going to be an open noticed RFP through the Division of Purchasing. Jason - So essentially we are going back three years later and amending the rule that allowed DWR to do what it did back in 2015? Kenny – Like I said we tried to make it align the best we could at the time; and now we are just fixing it and moving forward. Jason – Thank you.

Comments from the Public

Troy Justensen/ SFW – Once again on this as a participant in this program we are truly grateful to be able to have those funds available and to use them toward bettering wildlife. We support the Division's recommendations and anything to bring more clarity to this and to also inform the public where these funds are spent. We're a little bit unique, as far as sports, fish and wildlife, we're not species specific. We cover everything; from upland game, waterfowl, big game. It was interesting this year to go through and allocate some of these funds and to date about half a million dollars we put back on the ground on projects or equipment to increase wildlife in this State. One of which is waterfowl, which doesn't have a large pool to draw from as far as revenue source. What was interesting I sat down with waterfowl advisor chairman in the State and the money we put into waterfowl damn near tripled what they normally get through the normal process. Meaning, I believe their budget was \$150,000. By what we contributed through these expo permits, \$5.00 application nearly tripled it. It is a great advantage. It allows us with the conservation permits and their species specific or else big game have to go to that. With these expo funds it gives us the ability to go back in and invest in upland game, waterfowl or whatever it is. As President of the SFW these funds to me are sacred. I will do everything in my power to be as transparent as we possibly can and make sure the funds are spent and benefit and involve all of Utah sportsman.

Jason Hawkins/Self – Kenny, I appreciate you answering my questions. I have been following the expo tag program for about 10 years now. It's a program that is important to me. I have been concerned with the same issues that Troy just spoke to you about the transparency and the accountability for public sportsman. There are two issues that I would like to raise right now on that. 1. These are public tags. I like that Troy said these are sacred funds. These are tags that

have been taken out of the draw. If you look at the purpose for these tags, it is spelled out in Subsection 1 #2. The purpose is for generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting a regional or national convention to an exhibition in Utah. So the first purpose is to fund wildlife conservation activities. With that being said I harped on this and am a bit of a broken record, I think more than 30% of the \$5.00 application fees should be ear marked specifically for conservation projects. I don't think its right that the groups keep 70% of the money for administrative expenses. I know it costs money to put on the expo, I get all that, but I think 30% is just too low; we can do better than that. If we are looking at whole sale changes to the rule we need to take a look at increasing that above 30%. 2. I touched on this with Kenny with my questions is the DWR already used a formal RFP process through the Division of Purchasing to award the last contract back in 2015-16. I am happy we are here making these changes to authorize that process, but it should have happened three years ago. Administrative rules for the DWR abide affecting the law. They just don't go impact the public, the DWR, the agency is supposed to be bound by their own rules. If they wanted to use the formal RFP process three years ago, they should have taken the time to go through the process and amend the rule and send out public notice and get public comment from sportsman to come in instead of just doing what they wanted to do and then coming back three years later in 2018, and making the changes authorized what they have already done. I don't mean to criticize Kenny on that. You're not responsible for that. You're the messenger, but the point I am trying to make is we put the cart before the horse. The public weren't provided an opportunity to come and comment on this and this process and now it is already done and we have a five year contract in place and there is also a fairly recent amendment that you can extend that for another five years and maybe ten years before this comes back up again. If you look at the rule that is being amended, they didn't follow the process that was authorized and I don't think that is right and I just want to share that with you.

Troy Justensen/SFW – Just on what Jason pointed out on the 30%, quite honestly this year it will be pushing 90-95%. Another thing to remember here to is we say these permits. This is an application period. This is no different than what we pay to Fallon, Nevada when you apply. How much money from Fallon, Nevada, comes back to Utah wildlife? Zero. Do we understand the benefit of this? Do we understand they are taking out of the normal draw to provide another draw for people to participate? It has attracted one of the best shows. We have built one of the best expos there is in the west and it is a viable tool for putting a substantial amount of money back on the ground for Utah wildlife.

Discussions from the RAC

Josh – I have a couple of number clarifications. There are a lot of percents thrown about. So you are saying 60% of what the organization puts on the expo is ear marked for that organization, but it is not earmarked for conservation or administrative? Will you break that down because I have a follow up question on it? Kenny – To clarify that for the expo, 30% of those funds are used for Division approved projects. The other 70% are used for things related to the conservation in Utah. In the current contract, like Troy just mentioned, almost 100% of those funds are dedicated to the conservation efforts in Utah. Josh – We call it the Western Hunting Conservation Expo, so putting on the expo used for conservation, right? So, I guess Troy would be the one to answer my question. How much does it cost to put on the expo itself? So when you say 90-95% is used for conservation, the administrative cost for the expo is essentially

conservation fee, right? Troy – I guess it depends upon which side you're on and looking at. The other thing to take into consideration is there are several revenue strings for the expo. This is just one of them. You got the conservation permits on there and then you have \$5.00 application fee. The way the \$5.00 app works is it is \$5.00 to apply. The \$1.50 of that is restricted. That has to be spent on a project that is approved by the Division. The other \$3.50 is up to the discretion of the organization. It has to go towards mission accomplishment to better wildlife here in the State of Utah. Mule Deer Foundation is a partner and they track it differently than we do. I have a spreadsheet and it goes through and tracks each project that we put that money through. To date right now just guessing on the top of my head, it's over \$500,000 that we committed from this year's two on the ground projects. We help all whether it is big game, upland game or waterfowl. We plan on sharing that with the public, just like Jason said. We have a spreadsheet to show when those funds are allocated and the project it's going towards. To put on the expo, it's a TON of money.

Kris – You mentioned there is other revenue strings associated with the expo. Sometimes there are concerts, entrance fee, concessions, a number of revenue strings that are associated with that, is there a reason why a 100% of the \$5.00 fee couldn't go back to conservation earmarked, considering those other revenue strings would likely cover and exceed your administrative expenses? Troy – To earmark a 100% is a strong act for the group. There are expenses to it. The drawing is done through a third party group. There is a hard cost to that. There are the temporaries that add into that, there is a hard cost. So to be able to say 100%, I don't think that would be fair as a group to ask. Like we said before, this is a little different than selling a conservation permit. This is a draw. Anybody has the opportunity to put into draw. Like I pointed out before, no different than what you are doing in Fallon, Nevada, zero money of that fund comes back to the State. A large portion here in the State goes to Utah wildlife.

Kris – Like I said I hate to put you on the spot. Troy- No that is a fair question. Kris- So you reference to Fallon, Nevada, the comparison there; they don't have any other revenue strings associated with that process where at the expo there are several other revenue strings. I think that is the differentiation why people might...Troy – In Fallon, Nevada, they are a business, they are not an expo. Kris- We don't have any other revenue strings associated with the draw just the \$10.00 fee. But your expo you have entrance fees, concession all those things. I think that is why the question comes up sometimes understanding the administrative costs but why specifically, and you even mentioned this year 90-95% will go back on the ground.

Troy – There is a cost to doing a business and in a perfect world if I was king for a day, I would create an endowment fund to where I could cover my overhead. Bottom line is this; there is a cost of doing business. Kris – Maybe I am not asking the question clearly. Did your revenue strings cover the cost and then some for putting on the expo? Troy – Sure.

Ben – Kris, if I can point this out also, which was a part of the presentation, one of the reasons for the expo tags to draw an expo here and so I my take on that is that \$3.50 is an incentive to an organization to bring their exp convention here opposed to get 100% back, that lessens theKris- To counter to that though just being able to put on the expo and having the tags there draws in a huge audience in by itself. Troy- It does. On the top of my head I believe there are 15,000 some odd people that applied for the permits this year, but will have to look, but we had over 50,000 go through the gate. Not everybody that comes participates in that \$5.00 fee. So if they say that is the only reason they come, they're wrong. It is a draw and there is no doubt.

Does it make it or break it? No it does not. Kenny – Mr. Chairman, maybe just to clarify its completely appropriate use of that 70% to cover things like the draw that they contract with Grey Sky and pay volunteers to do some of the over head costs that are completely appropriate use of those funds. Kris – Sure, thank you.

Brock – I don't think it's fair for Troy to stand up here and defend himself. They've got the contract, they play by the rules that the Division put into place at that time. If we want to change the rule, that is completely different.

Josh – This is a question for the Division, you say you want to get rid of abundance from those rules, the language, I guess the issue really is what we are talking about is? Is that redundancy built in the system a good thing for public transparency or does it really streamline the process in the way that we hoped? By doing away with the annual report; sure the information is available, but now is it just buried on the website that no one ever looks on to? I am just trying to understand that the redundancy in this case is good or if it is redundant? Kenny – Let me clarify what we're trying to do. The groups right now in an annual report have to provide project details with the funds that they used. The proposal we put into place is to kind of over haul that process where they commit funds and instead of having to wait months to tell us something in an annual report, as soon as they commit those funds and they are approved by an assigned project cover sheet, we go ahead and invoice the group for the total of that project and then they go ahead and transmit those funds directly to the Division. So the reason I say that they are redundant is since we have that information already time stamped in the database, all along the process from start to finish, it's redundant for them to provide us that information. The streamlining is actually the Division database being able to display the funds in the projects and the time stamped. Does that help you?

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the Division's recommendations as presented on Wildlife Expo Permits

Seconded by George Garcia

In Favor: Christine, George, Al, AJ, Brock, Ben, Ken

Opposed: Josh

Motion passed 7 to 1

Presentation for proposed Rule Amendments to Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62 by Kenny Johnson

Questions from the RAC

None

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

None

RAC Discussion

None

Motion was made Ben Lowder to accept the Division's recommendations as presented on Drawing Application Procedure

Seconded by Ken Strong

In Favor: Christine, George, Al, AJ, Brock, Ben, Ken, Josh

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

8) Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under Rule R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under Rule 657-60, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57
Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

Questions from the RAC

None

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

None

RAC Discussion

Josh – Rule 657-3 is that all species? Marty –It is virtually ever animal you can think of that is not an insect and excluding reptiles and amphibians. Josh – Is that a committee?

Marty – Oh yes, it functions and it's not super frequently, but a few times a year. It largely deals with individual cases of people wanting species that really aren't suited for public meetings. It was never a committee that intended to have to keep minutes, agenda, post it and record the meetings and all of that. It was one that we felt that it worked better in a format. Those that are involved in it can certainly come; it's just not generally opened to the public.

VOTING

Motion made by Brock McMillan to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Seconded by AJ Mower

In Favor: Christine, George, Al, AJ, Brock, Ben, Ken, Josh

Opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

In attendance: (36) 9 RAC Members, 21 DWR employees, 6 public)

Next Board meeting: Thursday, May 31, 2018, DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting: Thursday, July 26, 2018 @ 6:30 pm, Springville Library (multi-purpose room), 45 South Main Street, Springville

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5/1/18

Name JASON HAWKINS Phone Number 801-726-7297

Address 10228 N. 6580 W. Highland, UT 84003

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? WILDLIFE EXPO PERMITS RULE

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5/1/18

Name Chris Peterson Phone Number (801) 234-9543

Address 1266 Oak Hill Pkwy

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Turkeys Fall Hunt

COMMENTS Excited about these recommendations.
My daughters are actually interested in
hunting.

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date May 1-18

Name Troy Justensen Phone Number 801-557-3362

Address 2494 Remuda Dr

Who are you representing? self group SFW

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 7 - TURKEY FEES

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 3/1/16

Name Waylon Pritchett

Phone Number 801-822-7820

Address 655 E. 100 S. Spanish Fork, UT

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Wild turkey recommendations and rules

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date May 1 2018

Name Mike Britchett Phone Number 801-404-0571

Address 655E 100 S Spanish Fork UT

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Wild Turkey Rec & Rule

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 3-1-18

Name Troy Justensen Phone Number 801-557-3362

Address 2494 Remuda Dr

Who are you representing? self group SIU

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 8

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5/2/18

Name Waylon Pritchett

Phone Number 801-822-7820

Address 655 E 100 S

Who are you representing? self group

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? ~~600A~~ Coyote Bounty

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 25-1-18

Name Troy Justice Phone Number 801-557-3362

Address 2494 Remuda Dr

Who are you representing? self group SFW

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 9

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5/1/2018

Name Greg Bird Phone Number 801 310-4962

Address 740 E 400 N Springville, Ut. 84663

Who are you representing? self group UTAH WILDSHEEP FOUNDATION

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 9

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5-1-18

Name Troy Justice Phone Number 90857-3362

Address 2499 Leaside Dr

Who are you representing? self group SFW

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 10

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 5-1-18

Name Troy Jackson Phone Number 801-857-3202

Address 2494 Reunion Dr

Who are you representing? self group SPU

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 10

COMMENTS _____

**Note – You will have a maximum of three minutes per individual and five minutes per group to address the RAC.

Northern Regional Advisory Council
May 2, 2018
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:01 p.m.

RAC Present

John Blazzard- Agric.
Paul Chase- Forest Service
Christopher Hoagstrom- Noncon.
Randy Hutchison- At Large
Chad Jensen- Elected
Aaron Johnson- Sportsman
Matt Klar- At Large
Mike Laughter- Sportsman
Kevin McLeod- At Large
Justin Oliver- At Large
Darren Parry-Shoshone Nation
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Mellissa Wood-BLM

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Nicaela Haig
Justin Dolling
Brandon Baron
Justin Shannon
Jason Robinson
Xaela Walden
David Smedley
Kenny Johnson
Martin Bushman
Randy Wood
Scott Walker
Darren DeBloois
Dave Beveridge
Krystal Tucker
Devin Christensen
John Owen
Jordan Hastings
Rick Olson
Matt Burgess
Dominick Barratt
Kenny Johnson

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman

RAC Excused

RAC Unexcused

David Earl- Agric

Agenda:

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda and March 28, 2018 Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Wildlife Projects Update
Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans
Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments
Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64
Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan
Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62
Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

-Bryce Thurgood, Chair

Agenda Approved

Item 2. Approval of March 28, 2018 Minutes

-Bryce Thurgood, Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

- Bryce Thurgood, Chair

Deer- Motion to decrease the Manti south by 200 which was the same as what we did which passed 5-0. Motion to keep Pine Valley at the 2017 deer numbers and not increase it which passed 4-1. Motion to change Bookcliff deer numbers and not add the 35 but to increase it by 15 which I believe passed unanimously. The last motion was to recommend that the rest of the divisions presentation and that passed 4-1.

Elk- Motion to keep the Dutton at 37 and not 40 which was last year's numbers which passed 4-1. On the Manti, to keep it at last year's numbers at 467 and not 480 which passed 4-1.. Approve the balance as presented which passed 5-0.

OIAL and Antelope-Motion to change the Nebo/Wasatch sheep from 3 to 2. I think we made the motion from 3 to 1 but it was 3 to 2 which passed 5-0. The balance of the divisions recommendations passed 5-0.

Antlerless- Motion to accept as presented which passed unanimously. CWMU antlerless presentation passed unanimously. Change to poaching program passed unanimously.

Bats-There was one that did not come through our RAC but came to the Wildlife Board. It was a change in getting a COR for bat removal for different organizations like schools which passed unanimously.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Justin Dolling: Turn time to law enforcement section to present 3 awards.

Brandon Baron: Awards presentation for prosecutor of the year and Citizen service award.

Justin Dolling-

Law Enforcement-Youth hunter education challenge.

Aquatic invasive species- getting ready for check stations. Special needs fishing event at Pioneer Pond in Brigham City May 25th.

GSL program- Waterfowl management areas spraying weeds. Finishing up rolling 1,000 acres of phragmites. Bird and brine shrimp surveys. The GSL bird festival will be May 17-20.

Wildlife Section- depredation season is starting. Animals coming into some of the new crops. Working on moose and pronghorn unit management plans. Trying to collar a couple of bears for reproductive study.

Aquatics- Stocked tiger muskie at Pineview. Bear Lake gill netting survey is underway. East Canyon and Rockport fishing well for rainbows from shore.

Administrative- Results for bucks, bulls and OIAL will be posted May 31st. Antlerless guidebook available mid-May which is an online only guidebook.

Outreach- Conducted wiper clinic in the Salt Lake office. 165 people registered and just over 100 participated. Hunting dog training event at Ogden Bay on May 19th. Conducting a beginning fly fishing clinic in Logan on May 12th. Look at our Face book page for activities that interest you.

Habitat- WMA's now open to general public. Winter closures are done for the year. Nate Long with SFW finished up a project on Hardware.

Bryce Thurgood: Congratulate everyone on awards given.

Item 5. Wildlife Projects Update

- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

Justin Shannon: Wildlife board asked us to share an overview of how conservation and expo permit funds benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat. Presentation on highlighted successes of the program. Captured 74 bison on Henry Mountains for monitoring purposes. Parker Mountain capture of 312 pronghorn and translocated to different units throughout the states. New populations on Mountain goats along the Wasatch Front. Bighorn sheep aggressive capturing almost 800 which are translocated across the state. Remainder is disease testing. Captured 174 moose over the last several years, mostly on Cache and Wasatch unit. 817 elk captured, a lot on the Wasatch but some on the Cache unit and translocated 128 mostly to the Stansbury unit. Captured almost 4,000 deer and translocated over 1,300. Thank sportsman and volunteers. A lot of research has been done and results of study completely changed elk management in the state. Helped bridge some gaps of what the sportsman were seeing and the division was seeing as far as counts and distribution of animals. Deer survival data is the best we have had. (video shown of the elk capture on the Wasatch Unit). Waterfowl captures aggressive with catching 5,300 urban geese. Moved almost 5,000 turkeys over the last 5 years. A lot of quail transfers. SFW played a big role in pheasant and chukar releases. Sage grouse research and translocations done along with monitoring and research. cougar studies on Oquirrh and Stansbury. Bear studies looking and densities throughout the state and reproduction. Utah migration initiative started over a year ago to identify, preserve and enhance movement pathways and corridors for species through partnerships compelling outreach and advanced tracking and data technology. (video shown about migration initiative on bucks on Paunsagunt unit). GPS units on deer. Utah watershed and restoration initiative has completed 1,751 various habitat projects, treated 1.5 million acres and spent about 186 million dollars with 20 million more in kind. Proposed another 200 projects with more acres and money to be spent for habitat and habitat restoration. Proactive restoration and fire rehabilitation. Bulk of funding is federal because a lot of this we are treating is on federal lands. State dollars come from hunters, anglers and also from sportsman groups. (video of bull hog). Fire restoration and chaining. Division and partners trying to improve management through monitoring and research.

Randy Wood: Captures in northern region for transplants. Moved turkeys to northeastern region. Moved deer from Bountiful to the southern region. Bighorn sheep off Antelope Island and Newfoundland mountains to central region. Captures of deer, elk, sheep and moose for radio collaring in northern region. Migration initiative.

Scott Walker: Habitat in northern region. (slide and video presentation) Aspen restoration. Turkey habitat projects above Mendon. Water development.

Randy Wood: Thank cooperators and volunteers.

Bryce Thurgood: Put videos on social media so everyone can see it.

Item 6. Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans

- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

See RAC Packet

Item 7. Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Randy Hutchinson: Success rate is very high for the fall already. I don't understand logic of putting in rimless rifle fire. Jason Robinson: As turkey populations continue to grow, we want to be able to reduce those populations where we need to. This gives us another tool. As we put more hunters out there, the success rate can go down a little. This will allow a more broad audience to go out and keep that success rate high. Especially in the fall hunt?

Randy Hutchinson: Are there any other states that do anything like this? We are already at 70% success.

Jason Robinson: It varies from 50-70%. There are other states that have fall turkey hunts for controlling populations. Notably Wyoming and Colorado.

Randy Hutchinson: With rimless?

Jason Robinson: Yes, with rim fire, correct.

Mike Laughter: Generally, our surplus of turkeys are in urban areas from what I understand, is that correct?

Jason Robinson: In many cases, yes.

Mike Laughter: It seems to be the case. The rim fire in the city limits, I guess I am not getting the management tool from rim fire perspective in city limits where the majority of turkeys are. Is it to increase harvest?

Jason Robinson: If there is a city ordinance that does not allow for discharge of firearms, this would supersede that. That would still be in place. This gives a tool where we can use it. Hopefully it would increase success and give us a broader audience of hunters. It will not be a "solve all" tool by any means. We will still have to have places within city limits where trap and transplant is our primary tool of dealing with those populations.

Mike Laughter: Hunter arms required?

Jason Robinson: It is not. For upland game hunting in Utah, hunter orange is not required.

Public Comments

Matt Leonard (NWTF): After much debate with our board on this topic, primarily a lot of our debate had to do with safety with the rim fire rifle. In speaking with the division and other states including Colorado, we talked about accidents and in Colorado they have had far fewer accidents with the fall turkey hunts than with the spring. In Utah, I don't think we have had any spring turkey accidents. That was our concern but discussed it and came down to the point that the division did their due diligence in researching this. NWTF supports the division in this policy and change for turkey regulations.

Kevin Norman: Point brought up at the central RAC last night. I have a young girl almost of age to hunt turkey. If I put her behind the shotgun and set her up on a turkey, it would probably be the last time she went hunting. This provides opportunity for young hunters. I support this rim fire.

Kade Perser: Oppose the motion for rim fire rifles. I talked to a landowner yesterday and I told them about this motion. It is in an area that you would be able to shoot a rim fire rifle and be able to do it safely. He was highly opposed because you are still within the distance of his house. He does not want people to be sneaking on his property with a 17 or 22 and doing it quietly. In 2015, we were hunting fall turkeys on a small property where a hunter came up, pulled in out of the driveway, held a 22 with a scope out the window, fired and shot 2 turkeys. He didn't see us in the brush on the other side of the turkeys and we were able to get his license plates and fish and game were able to catch up to him later. He didn't have a license or tag. I talked to the landowner and he did not have permission. He was able to sneak in there quicker and get out there faster. Also, with the 3 turkey permits recommended in the fall, a lot of landowners I have talked to, they are wanting them to ask permission to bring friends to shoot turkeys. Most of them are saying we have enough hunters as it is and are tired of being bothered. I am just trying to keep landowners happy with hunters and giving us a good name.

Troy Justinsen (SFW): Turkeys have been a huge success in Utah. Transplanted a record 2,100 birds this year. Support the divisions recommendations. We would ask, and we understand the purpose of rim fire in certain areas, but we ask to not lose sight of transplant as a management tool.

RAC Comments

Matt Klar: I received a number of emails on this subject. They were universally opposed to the rim fire rule primarily for safety reasons.

Chad Jensen: Speaking on a public safety point, we have far more in law enforcement issues and I'm sure fish and game could verify this. We have far more problems with trespassing and shotgun issues during the pheasant hunt than during the turkey hunt. I don't think the rim fire bring any more of a public safety threat to citizens, vehicles, etc. I would not be opposed to the rim fire in the right areas. There are already state laws that prohibit how close you can shoot to a building and over roadways.

Randy Hutchinson: I have received emails on this as well with concerns opposing it. I like the changes to the permits. I have reservations about the 22's and 17's.

Kevin McLeod: We don't restrict or require hunter orange for small game hunting with 22's so I agree with Chad. I don't think that it does pose an additional threat or concern. It all boils down to how people handle their firearm, how they are trained and how they use it. I saw the same information and I understand their concern. I hope hunters are more responsible than that.

Justin Oliver: My only concern is that when you are trying to call in turkeys, their vision is unbelievable. You are doing all you can to hide yourself from the turkey. It does concern me a little bit as far as most things we are hunting with rim fire or a 22, we are not hiding or trying to lure something in. I think that I respect the turkey federation that they come up and did their due diligence and looked into that.

Aaron Johnson: I also received the emails. I have been torn but I would like to echo what Justin said. I respect what the turkey foundation and other sportsman groups came out and supported it. It seems to be 50/50 among sportsman for and against.

Bryce Thurgood: When I first saw it, I loved everything about it except the rim fire. The more I hear and listen, I actually have been swayed to that side. Especially what Kevin brought up. I have young daughters too. I appreciate the turkey foundation and law enforcement commenting. I would probably like to at least give it a try. If it is terrible success this next year, rules change every year and we can always redo it.

Aaron Johnson: This would run 2 years and then readdress it?

Jason Robinson: Yes, that is the plan to have this in place for 2 years. When we brought the upland game and turkey guidebook to the RAC and board in 2 years, this would be part of it.

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

Second - John Blazzard

Motion Passes - 11 in Favor, 2 Opposed

Randy Hutchinson: I am not comfortable with the rim fire.

Mike Laughter: That plays in a role for me too. I think you are offering this opportunity by allowing them to have 3 tags. If it was just youth, I get it but you are going to have everyone in the fall shooting rim fire. You are already offering 3 permits as an opportunity and to add the rim fire to that, it seems like not the greatest idea with safety concerns.

Item 8. Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64

- Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Aaron Johnson: Let's say you didn't have your smart phone at that time, would you not be able to turn that one in or do it the old fashioned way?

Xaela Walden: We require people to have their phones on them when killing a coyote. I did forget to mention that we are going to be making this app available July 2018 and then it won't be required until July 1, 2019. It gives participants a year to get adjusted and work out all the bugs.

Aaron Johnson: My phone does not work in the mountains. You don't have to have a signal?

Xaela Walden: No, it will still record location on the photo and it will just save any reports you enter into it until you have service. You then have to go in and enter it when you have service. It saves all the information that you put in.

Bryce Thurgood: How is John going to do it with his flip phone?

Xaela Walden: We are going to require people to have smart phones to participate.

Bryce Thurgood: That is a little bit of discrimination though. If you can't afford a particular device, then you can't participate in the program.

Xaela Walden: It is not discrimination because we are not preventing guys from going out and buying a smart phone, that is a choice they can make on their own. We are also not preventing anyone from hunting coyotes, we are just preventing them from getting paid to do so if they choose not to use the application.

Justin Oliver: Is there a cap on how low the bounty could go? You said it could as low as \$5?

Xaela Walden: Potentially, we did not specify in the rule a cap on it.

Justin Oliver: How many years have we met the quota since the inception of the bounty program?

Xaela Walden: How much have we paid out?

Justin Oliver: Did it say and I missed it?

Bryce Thurgood: Back to your slide.

Xaela Walden: Most years we have received \$500,000 each year. Anything that does not get spent gets rolled over into the next year. It accumulates to ending up being more than \$5000,000 each year. We have never overspent because we can't. Right now, we are at \$5000,000 this year and have 2 months to go. We have roughly \$35,000-37,000 left to spend.

Bryce Thurgood: Do you have money left from 2013, 2014 or 2015 then?

Xaela Walden: Yep. The \$37,000 is what has been rolled over. We are currently at the \$500,000 that was given this year.

Justin Oliver: The process in order to get that money, how does that work? Does someone go before the legislature each year?

Xaela Walden: It gets evaluated by legislation annually and they decide what is allotted or if we continue getting funding.

Justin Oliver: Is there a mechanism in place to base it on the success of the program or is it just excess money in the budget?

Xaela Walden: I'm not sure.

Darren DeBloois: We get asked every year, how the program is going and how effective it is. Working on masters project for that very question. It depends on the legislature. If they decide not to appropriate those funds, there is nothing to pay bounty but it happens every year.

Mellissa Wood: What is COR?

Xaela Walden: Certificate of Registration.

Randy Hutchinson: We have been doing it since 2013. Is it tracked as a benefit?

Xaela Walden: Currently, I am working on a thesis how effective or non-effective it is. I don't have results tonight but we are working on evaluating it. It takes time to accumulate enough data to really assess whether it is effective or not.

Kristin Purdy: If you don't have a smart phone, you cannot apply for a bounty if you take a coyote?

Xaela Walden: Correct.

Kristin Purdy: Okay.

Public Comments

Mike Hearst: When they first came out with the coyote program, we were really excited. It seems like there is just more involvement with it so I wanted to voice my opposition with the changes. People taking coyotes are the trappers and most of them I know, they are anti-technology. You also get 1099 and there is getting to be a lot of stuff involved with the predator control program. I don't agree with having to have the smart phone for that.

Troy Justinsen (SFW): A lot of debate on this and guys within the organization participated with this. They don't like the rules at first. They understand the reason why. They are willing to give it a try and think it can be a benefit. The idea is to help our mule deer and eliminate some of the predators. If it's not effective, we could shift dollars to another area but we do support this recommendation.

RAC Comments

Aaron Johnson: Did you say this will go into place in 2019?

Xaela Walden: Yes, the application portion would become a requirement. If they turn in enough coyotes between now and then, they can pay for their smart phone.

John Blazzard: I am indifferent whether this is important or not but the concern I have is that it seems like every time we get a simple program like this, we tweak it to death to where it just becomes unbearable and complicated. I hope that we don't do that.

Bryce Thurgood: I agree.

Kevin McLeod: At \$50 a coyote, there is a lot of money involved and a lot of money spent by the state. It is unfortunate that the tweaking has to happen but when there is money involved, the federal government is going to come after part of it. It is required by the government that the state 1099 everybody that participates in a program. I don't think it will eliminate fraud but it will help. I hear the comment that people are afraid that the money given for coyote bounty is coming from animals harvested outside the state. I would like to see the progress and the recommendations and see that they are trying to eliminate that kind of fraud. Anytime you involve money, it contaminates and opens it up to fraud. I like the idea.

Bryce Thurgood: It always seems like the best way to police everybody else is like we police ourselves. If somebody gets caught bringing one in from out of state, what is the penalty? It is a big penalty. We throw the book at the people who are cheating and set an example that way.

Martin Bushman: Depending on the amount of coyotes involved. It is a violation of rule which is infraction. If you bring enough in, it becomes fraud that could move into the felony class. We have made a couple felony cases on people bringing in coyotes from a derby in Arizona that they collected and brought up here. We get reports from hunters that it is happening. We don't know the extent of it and there are sanctions in place that make it illegal. This is not going to solve all fraud but it will make it more difficult and hopefully diminish it. We don't want to have the honest people not being able to get a compensation for taking a coyote in Utah because there are dishonest people using up all the money. We try

to regulate enough to control illegal activity but not so much that it makes it impossible for honest people to participate in the program. It is a balance.

Justin Oliver: Does it have to be equated to a dollar amount?

Martin Bushman: The dollar amount determines the severity of the criminal sanction. I think \$1,000 dollars puts you into the felony class.

Justin Oliver: Is there a way to put it specifically to this coyote bounty? So, it wouldn't matter if it was \$1,000 dollars or one coyote, that it would be hefty enough to deter people?

Martin Bushman: To make something specific to the bounty program, you would have to write a statute to create a felony. We don't have a mechanism in rule to do that because we don't have an authorizing statute. This is not a wildlife violation because coyotes are not protected wildlife. Under our rule, the highest level of criminal liability we could impose by rule would be an infraction.

Justin Oliver: That's what worries me.

Bryce Thurgood: 20 coyotes to get to the felony range.

Justin Oliver: If we were to go to a wildlife friendly legislator or state lawmaker, is that something that could be done?

Martin Bushman: Yes.

Bryce Thurgood: I hate penalizing guys who don't have smart phones. They are not going to go buy a smart phone just to go hunting.

Matt Klar: I have a falconry COR and you wouldn't believe how much that cost to get that COR. With the smart phone and this program, we are not talking about hunting, we are talking about a business arrangement or financial thing. If people are wanting the state to pay them for this activity, it is reasonable to have higher requirements than someone wanting to go out and hunt for themselves on a license. I don't think a \$150 dollar smart phone is unreasonable to reduce the amount of fraud in the system right now.

Christopher Hoagstrom: Any kind of outdoor recreation, there is a lot of gear people buy. To me, if you want to participate in this it is the same thing. It is a piece of gear that is required. The smart phones help with data collected from this. The information will be used for better understand where coyotes are coming from and to me, if they use that data it could be real valuable.

Mellissa Wood: Having had to try and read some chicken scratch and get that into a computer system several times, I think the app could be helpful and useful and reduce the amount of times it takes in data entry to get all of the information. It would be more accurate data.

Justin Oliver: You mentioned something about road kill. If I run over the coyote, does it still not count.

Xaela Walden: I have heard of people purposely trying to hit them with their car so I guess it qualifies. You are removing it on purpose.

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

Second - Mellissa Wood

Motion Passes - 11 in Favor, 2 Opposed

Kristin Purdy: I object to the requirement of the use of a smart phone to apply for a bounty.

Justin Oliver: I would say the same.

Item 9. Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

- David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist

See RAC Packet

David Smedley:

Bryce Thurgood:

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Randy Hutchinson: Are there any sheep operations nearby?

David Smedley: No, there is none within the unit. There is no active permits on the unit. On the north end in Millard county, they have one. It barely trickles in to that boundary. That operation is in the process of being converted into cattle.

Justin Oliver: How do we vote to make sure we have sheep come from Nevada and not Zion? Is there a process to determine that?

David Smedley: I have not been involved in that process. Jace, do you know?

Jace Taylor: It all depends on what is available. The most important thing about getting these is that they are clean and healthy. Before we go and transplant, we will do a pre-test and catch a handful of animals and test them and go from there. If everything goes well, we would like to use them from Nevada. There are some strings with that. Ideally, that is our goal.

Bryce Thurgood: Can we trade them for some turkeys?

John Blazzard: In your presentation, you said you maintained special distance between those and domestic sheep. In Summit County, the big horn sheep have migrated up into domestic sheep country. You said they would be euthanized if they leave the unit?

David Smedley: We have had some in Southern Utah recently that got into an area that were euthanized. We have that option. It is a case by case basis.

Jace Taylor: It is a high priority for us. There is no value for us in having big horn sheep mixing with domestic sheep. With something like this, we plan to put quite a few GPS collars on these animals. The GPS technology is giving us data live. We will be able to notice if animals are leaving the area that are safe zones. We have geo fencing with those collars. If the animal leaves a specified area, we will be notified via email and can react immediately. It is something we are committed to.

Bryce Thurgood: That means the sheep have smart phones and not flip phones.

John Blazzard: I know that it was devastating for those ranchers in Summit county when their permits were pulled away from them. It basically puts them out of business.

David Smedley: It is not our intent to put any domestic operators out of business. This is one where we feel we can work with those involved and avoid that. We will do what we can to keep sheep where they need to be.

John Blazzard: Even though it is not the intent, that is what happens. Those permits are retired or taken away. I know how big it was a month ago when we were talking about killing 3 big horn instead of 1. Does that make sense?

David Smedley: Yes, it does.

Justin Shannon: We have not heard that any of the producers have lost their allotments. That is what you have heard?

John Blazzard: These producers are Wyoming producers and in Summit County.

Justin Shannon: I'm aware of the situation on the north slope but that is news to us if they have not been able to graze up there. To our knowledge, they still have those permits. We have written letters to the forest service in support of domestic sheep grazing on the North Slope. That is a population we have had domestic and big horn for decades and it has been working. If they have been asked to leave the mountain, let us know.

John Blazzard: The last report we had through the farm bureau, there were 2 permits that had been retired.

Justin Shannon: That is news to us.

Paul Chase: To my knowledge, that is incorrect. We are currently analyzing the effects of that and should be released in the next couple months. No decision has been made so no units or allotments have been retired.

John Blazzard: So, someone is whistle blowing before the fact. I know it has been a big talk. That is a report we had that 2 had been.

Paul Chase: No decision has been made.

John Blazzard: That's a concern.

Mellissa Wood: You mentioned that the operators that are there are working to convert their permit over from sheep to cattle. Can you tell me when that is going to be completed?

David Smedley: They have not turned in their application. Right now, those permits, they don't come into the boundary. The sheep stay on the north side. Within the next couple years if not sooner.

Mellissa Wood: Okay. Thanks.

Public Comments

Greg Bird (Utah Wild Sheep Foundation): Full support of the divisions recommendations. It is going to give us another unit in the state and provide opportunity.

Troy Justinsen (SFW): John, you are a victim of fake news.

John Blazzard: I hear a lot about that.

Troy Justinsen (SFW): It is that smart phone. We support this recommendation. This is a proposal that came by our local committee in Beaver. This is 10-15 years in the making and the community is excited about this.

RAC Comments

Melissa Wood: In the Salt Lake field office, this is actually south of our office boundary. We have worked really closely with the division when we do have interactions with sheep. I would think that coordination would continue here. We have had instances where the big horn are euthanized because of the interactions they have with domestic sheep. We still have a lot of areas where sheep grazing and wild and domestic happen fairly close. The division will still do a good job making sure those permits are valid and those grazing rights are still able to be used. I would support the work being done.

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

Second - Mike Laughter

Motion Passes - Unanimous

Item 10. Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62.

- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Mike Laughter: To my understanding, in some cases money is allocated and whatever reason a project doesn't go. How does that August 1st deadline apply to money already allocated?

Kenny Johnson: Since we already know the amounts and totals, if a project got moved or adjusted, we would just credit you back.

Mike Laughter: Okay. That is how it works now. I didn't know if there was going to be a change in regards to the 2 year deal. It happens frequently where you allocate funding and for whatever reason, the project doesn't go. That comes back to be reallocated.

Kenny Johnson: Yes.

Kevin McLeod: I think you said that with these expo permits, 30% of the collected fee goes to projects, 70% for administrative costs?

Kenny Johnson: Correct.

John Blazzard: You said that 5% of the available permits were used. That is expo and conservation?

Kenny Johnson: That is conservation.

John Blazzard: Just conservation?

Kenny Johnson: Yes, there were about 314 permits last year.

John Blazzard: So it wasn't just one per species?

Kenny Johnson: It was for conservation. The expo was separate.

Public Comments

Jeremy Anderson (MDF): Appreciate this program and conservation permit money. Mule Deer Foundation supports this program as presented.

Greg Bird (Utah Wild Sheep Foundation): Support proposal by the division. Excited about these programs. Has given us opportunities. Most progressive sheep management in the country due to expo and conservation dollars.

Troy Justinsen (SFW): Support the divisions recommendations. On the expo permits, you say there is a 70/30 split. The 30% is restricted and it can only be spent on projects approved by the division. The other 70% can be put towards mission accomplishment here in Utah. We are going to receive about \$550,000 dollars through the \$5 app. Of that \$550,000 we have allocated nearly \$530,000 to wildlife projects. There is a small amount for administrative fees but our goal is to put

90-95% back on the ground. This expo money gives us the ability to fund other things and is critical. We have treated more acreage through these permit money than the nation combined.

Kevin Norman: Thank Justin for bringing video on what this program does. I support this 100%.

RAC Comments

Kevin McLeod: I appreciate your information and I knew most of that does go back. I think the 70/30 needed to be explained more. I have had people talk to me about expanding that permit process. I don't like the fact that you have to attend the expo to apply. Could there be an online process where a person could apply for those permits and not have to attend or be at the expo to do that.

John Blazzard: That is because I don't have a smart phone and I can't GPS how to get there.

Troy Justinsen: We had about 15,000-16,000 people apply for the \$5 app but 50,000 come to the expo. Not everyone who applies for the \$5 app goes to the expo. If we could expand what you are talking about, it is more revenue. There are restrictions that we can't. It creates tourism dollars for Salt Lake County. It is a huge economic boost. Especially now that outdoor retailers have left. Martin could answer the legalities as to why we could not do that.

Kevin McLeod: I do want to hear from Martin why but I do think it would be a revenue increase and give more people the opportunity to apply for permits that are state permits. Martin will probably explain why that can't happen.

Martin Bushman: When the program is created, the idea was to use permits to attract people to the convention. It was tied that the rule states in order to validate your application, you have to come to the convention. You don't have to pay to get it but you do have to come and validate your application unless you are active military and other exceptions. That is in rule. The wildlife board has authority to amend rule if it so chooses. That is the best I know on the rationale and the fact that it is currently required by rule.

Justin Oliver: I really like it as far as the one permit per person. It has been amazing that there has been multiple people do that. I like that they get to choose so that it goes to the next person quickly. I think it is great change as far as that goes.

Randy Hutchinson: Anything and everything that can be done to make this transparent. Make it big and bold letters at the end of every year or two years, what actually was done and accomplished. I think this is going in the right direction and it is important to be as transparent as possible.

Kenny Johnson: We agree and we have made changes to the year round reporting and auditing every year. This is another step in that direction.

Justin Oliver: I second that. I think with the sportsman groups that are out there, they can tell the story of what they have done and they try to tell what they are doing with the money. To show exactly what is being done, it helps the perception of the program rather than the two groups that currently have the expo. If Utah is able to how this is what has been accomplish with this, I think that would really help with the perception of this and cause it to grow even more.

Bryce Thurgood: I applaud both groups for what they have done. It is a cool expo and it creates a lot of excitement for Utah, wildlife and projects that we get out of it.

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

Second - Kevin McLeod

Motion Passes - Unanimous

Item 11. Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57.

- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Matt Klar: Most of these committees, it looks like the division is reviewing its own decision and advising itself. Is there any conflict that might arise from eliminating these committees in terms of appeal processes? Is it going to be pretty much the same people doing it?

Martin Bushman: It will be the same people. The division would organize it internally instead of creating it in rule. The fact that it was created in rule, it was arguably moving into the realm of being a public body subject to the act. So, I think the groups will function just as they have in the past only it will be administered and created internally within the division. We won't lose any function or operation in any way. Division errors are dealing with individual issues. They are not really the type of meeting we associate with policy type things and the open public act meeting type of gathering.

Public Comments

No comments from the public.

RAC Comments

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

Second - Justin Oliver

Motion Passes - Unanimous

Motion to adjourn

Meeting Ends- 8:55 p.m.

DRAFT

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver High School
May 8, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: Verland made a motion to accept as proposed, Sean Kelly Seconds

VOTE: 9-0 Passes Unanimous

2. WILD TURKEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION: Braydon Richmond made a motion to accept as proposed. Brian Johnson seconded

VOTE: 9-0 Passes Unanimous

3. COYOTE BOUNTY PROGRAM AMENDMENTS- RULE R657-64

MOTION: Brian Johnson made a motion to accept as proposed. Craig Laub Seconded

VOTE: 9-0 Passes Unanimous

MOTION: Mike Worthen made a motion for a recommended action log item, for the DWR look for funding in addition of the \$500,000, to keep the program reimbursement at \$50 per Coyote. Tammy Pearson Seconded

VOTE: 8-1 Passes

4. MINERAL MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: Braydon Richmond made a motion to accept as proposed, Brian Johnson Seconded.

VOTE: 4-5 Fails

MOTION: Tammy Pearson made a motion for the DWR to agree to meet with all groups before a decision is reached, Craig Laub Seconded.

VOTE: 7-2 Passes

**5. PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS TO CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS
RULE R657-41, WILDLIFE EXPO PERMITS RULE R657-55, AND DRAWING APPLICATION
PROCEDURES RULE R657-62**

MOTION: Gene Boardman made a motion to accept as proposed, Tammy Pearson Seconded.

VOTE: 9-0 Passes Unanimous

6. PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS REPEALING THE CERTIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE UNDER R657-3 AND R657-53, ERROR COMMITTEE UNDER R657-50, WALK-IN ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNDER R657-56 AND THE VARIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER R657-57

MOTION: Braydon Richmond made a motion to accept as presented, Brian Johnson seconded.

VOTE: 9-0 Passes Unanimous

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING

Beaver High School

May 8, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dave Black Mike Worthen Gene Boardman Craig Laub Braydon Richmond Tammy Pearson Brian Johnson Sean Kelly Verland King Sean Stewart	Johnny Neil Denise Gilgen Tyrell Orme Cody Evans Phil Tuttle David Smedley Teresa Griffin Vance Mumford Xeala Walden Darren DeBloois Justin Shannon Martin Bushman Avery Cook Kenny Johnson Gabe Patterson Gary Bezzant Josh Pollock Kyle Christensen Jace Taylor	Donny Hunter Steve Dalton	Wade Heaton Riley Roberts Rusty Aiken Nick Jorgensen

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. There were 43 approximately 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.

Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:

- Dave Black, RAC Chair

Regional Update:

Dave Black- We'd like to welcome you out to the Southern Region RAC meeting this evening. My name is Dave Black, I live in St. George, I represent the public at large, and I'm the chairman of the RAC committee. First, I would like to introduce two of our wildlife board members that we have in the audience today. We have Donny Hunter and Steve Dalton with us. We appreciate them being here. Our first item on the agenda is an action item to accept the meeting agenda minutes. I assume you guys have had a chance to look those over and would entertain a motion to that effect.

Verland King- I would like to make a motion to accept the minutes.

Dave Black- Do we have a second? Okay. And Sean? Do I have any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Okay, thank you. Next item will be a wildlife board update. I wasn't able to attend that meeting. Wade Heaton attended and he's not here tonight, and so Teresa has an update for us.

Teresa Griffin – Alright and I'm Teresa Griffin, I'm sitting in for Kevin Bunnell tonight. The wildlife board approved the only change, the Pine Valley deer permits. They changed the numbers to be the same as last year, supporting what the Southern Region RAC had voted upon. They did the same thing on the Monroe elk permits and they kept the permit numbers the same as last year. They did decrease sheep permits on the Nebo/Wasatch unit and then the antlerless did pass as presented.

Dave Black- Before we go to the regional update, I felt that we should let the RAC members introduce themselves. Also, we have a new RAC member, Sean Stewart, and when we get to Sean we'll let him take just a couple more minutes to introduce himself. Let's start down here on my far right with Verland.

Verland King- I might get spooked and leave. I'm Verland King, representing agriculture in Utah.

Gene Boardman- Gene Boardman, Hinckley, Utah. I'm representing the public.

Sean Stewart- Sean Stewart, I'm representing the BLM. He asked me to tell you a little bit about myself. I'm a specialist working out of Escalante, Utah for the Grand Staircase Monument, well what's left of it. And I'm working with the Kanab field office as well. I'm a lifelong resident of Southern Utah.

Tammy Pearson- Tammy Pearson, elected official. Beaver County.

Craig Laub- Craig Laub, Iron County and representing agriculture.

Sean Kelly- Sean Kelly, representing the Fish Lake and Dixie National Forest.

Braydon Richmond- Braydon Richmond, representing sportsman.

Brian Johnson- Brian Johnson from Enoch, representing the non-consumptive.

Mike Worthen- Mike Worthen, Cedar City, representing the public at large.

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. Our next item is an informational item. That will be a regional update from Teresa as well.

Teresa Griffin- Okay, so we just netted Panguitch Lake. Spring fishing is actually really good in Panguitch Lake. We're not detecting any negative impacts from the Brian Head fire last year. We are losing one of our conservation officers from Kanab. Zed Broadhead is transferring to Utah Highway Patrol. We are getting Cody Jones, he was previously a Fillmore officer, and he is coming back to Cedar at the end of this month. Last week we did lose our K-9 officer, Cody, so we would like to send our condolences to the handler, Josh Carver. The dedicated hunter program is continuing to grow in the southern region. We currently have 1433 dedicated hunters in the region alone and we expect an increase this year. It's important for our dedicated hunters to be proactive in obtaining projects early for their service hours and avoid the traffic jams right before the archery hunt. It's grazing season on our DMA's. We've got a few grazers that are already on the properties and most are scheduled to come on May 15th. We were able to help out two grazers displaced by the Brian Head fire and we're trying to find some help for at least one more. We are doing some projects up at Yankee Meadows right now. One of the restrooms up there burned and one needed replacement, so we are installing some new restrooms. We've also got a fence that burned up there also and that is out for contract and that should be completed by the end of the summer.

Dave Black- Great, thank you. Our next item will be a wildlife projects update and that will be Justin Shannon.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

WILDLIFE PROJECTS UPDATES

Justin Shannon- Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Justin Shannon and tonight I am going to represent an informational item on wildlife and habitat projects. The purpose of this presentation is twofold. The first is, a while ago, our wildlife board asked us to share an overview of how conservation and expo permit funds benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat. We've talked a lot about those projects and they wanted us to be able to go and convey to the RAC members and through the public process information on what we do with those funds and how those programs really benefit wildlife and habitat. The second part, is we've done some exciting work, both in habitat and wildlife arenas. We haven't done a good job of highlighting these successes. I remember when I was on the mule deer plan and rewriting the statewide elk plan, we talked about a lot of the good things that these programs are doing and how we do a really poor job of touting the success of these. That's the purpose tonight with this presentation. So, to begin with big game captures and transplants, on the far left there, over the last five years, we've captured 74 bison and radio collared them. A lot of this has occurred on the Henry's, which is giving us some good movement data and also, on the Book Cliffs where we got some great disease samples and movement information as well. For pronghorn, we've caught 312 pronghorn on the Parker Mountain over the last five years. 237 of those have been translocated to bolster and start some new populations. The remainder of the collars had been to leave on the unit so we can understand that population better,

which will help us with our recommendations and understanding of that population better. Also, for the mountain goats, we've translocated 124 and started a couple new populations and bolstered others. With bighorn sheep, we've captured 779 animals, translocated over half of those to augment or start new populations. The remainder, a good chunk of what we're doing, is building disease profiles for these populations. That way, we can have a good understanding of the disease make up in these herds. Moose captures, we've captured 174 moose over the last five years, mostly on the Wasatch and the north slope of the Uintahs, and that's been really good information for us. We get survival rates, movements, identify limiting factors. On the bottom left there, we have 817 elk that we have captured and translocated 128 to the Oaker Stansbury unit, a unit that has a higher objective now and very few numbers. As you can see, there's a little yellow box there called an ultrasound machine and with our captures, we don't just get the animals in hand and draw blood and put a collar on them. We can actually do body condition scores and tell what percent body fat each of these animals are. That helps us in a lot of our decisions when it comes to managing elk and deer. For deer, we captured almost 4000 deer and translocated over 1300 of them. A lot of those are urban deer scenarios-- Bountiful, Herriman, and some of those places where we've been moving deer. Let's see, big game research. I won't go through all of these, but the Wasatch Elk Study has been really beneficial for us. In fact, the results for that study where we have documented elk that are congregating on private land during the hunts and as soon as the hunts are over, they're going back out onto the public lands. That's really frustrated hunters and it has been a burden to private landowners as these elk have congregated, and so we have come up with new hunt strategies like private lands only permits to help private landowners be able to harvest elk when these animals are on their property. From the deer survival research and monitoring that we have been doing, we have much better information now to know if populations are growing, decreasing, or staying the same and this information has helped us on decisions like knowing when deer are feeding up north during hard winters. It has been really beneficial. From the Monroe Fawn Study that took place here in the southern region, we learned a lot about survival and limiting factors of fawns from 0-6 months. It's been really good work. Here's a quick video we put together that kind of shows what it looks like to capture some of these animals from the view of the capture company. (video plays) Pretty cool. It's neat to be a part of these and it's fun to see it from the person who shot the net gun and jumps out and handles these animals. They're called a mugger. It's cool to see these animals being caught through the mugger's eyes. One thing I would say for RAC members and members of the public, if you haven't been to one of our big game captures and transplants, whether we're just handling deer and doing body condition scores, come out and join us. Spend a day with us. It's really good to see how this stuff works. Upland game and waterfowl, we've translocated over 5300 geese in the state. A lot of those are off of golf courses and urban areas up north. We've translocated close to 5000 turkeys over the last five years. We've also done a lot of quail translocations. Scaled quail, California quail, gambel's quail. It has been neat to see that. Some sage grouse translocations, mostly on the sheep rocks and then we have released 10,000 chukars and 50,000 pheasants, mostly for hunting. A lot of those funds come from the conservation permits as well as just straight from the sportsman. SFW has played a really big role in those bird releases, which has been great. Upland game monitoring and research, we've done tons of research on sage grouse. Things like ptarmigan, that's a bird we have up in the Uintahs. Dusky grouse studies, just trying to get basic biological information on these animals. Chukars and turkeys, it's just been really good to monitor and research these animals. For mammals, we've done a lot of cougar studies in the state. Our most recent one was on the Oaker Stansbury's with Dustin Mitchell. We've done bear studies and bear reproduction monitoring, so that way we can know when there are pulses of bears that are going to be coming onto that landscape. That helps us in managing our time and our resources to be able to address wandering yearlings that are leaving and going out on their first go at life and often

times they end up in trouble, so it takes a lot of time and effort to manage them. This is pretty neat, I don't know if you've heard about the Utah Migration Initiative, but this is something that you'll hear more about. We're probably going to have another informational just on this topic alone, but I wanted to introduce you to it if you haven't heard of it yet. This is something that we started a year ago. The idea is to identify, preserve, and enhance movement pathways and corridors for a variety of species. There are strong collaborative partnerships through outreach and the use of advanced tracking and data management technology, and so really, if you look at Utah, we're going to double our population in the next thirty years, so we are going to grow. That isn't a bad thing per say, but this information is going to help us grow responsibly. We're going to understand how wildlife uses the landscape, where they go, what are their most important winter ranges, how do they transition from summer to winter range. I just have a short video that Phil Tuttle actually put together on the Utah Migration Initiative. This is a deer capture that took place this winter on the Paunsaugunt. (video plays) With the migration initiative, this is one of the first studies in Utah where we've radio collared bucks on the landscape. Most western states don't do that. As you saw, one of the bucks still had velvet all over it's antlers. One of these cactus bucks which we brought proposals to this RAC before on harvest and different strategies like that and stuff. We're just learning a lot about how wildlife use the landscape. In this particular instance, we've documented deer that are traveling 70 miles from their summer range to their winter range, covering several units, and some of them are spending time wintering in Arizona. It's just things that we wouldn't be able to wrap our minds around without these radio collars. Moving on from research and monitoring to habitat, Utah has a watershed and habitat restoration partnership that is second to none. We currently have more than 100 partners that participate in the Watershed Restoration Initiative or WRI. The priorities of the program are to increase watershed health and biological diversity, improve water quality in yield, and provide opportunities for sustainable uses and natural resources. This is big picture stuff. This is stuff that benefits wildlife, livestock, and ecosystems as a whole and we're happy with it. If you look at what we've accomplished since 2006, the division and our partners, on the far right, we've completed over 1750 projects, treated over 1.5 million acres, and spent 186 million dollars. Currently, we have about 281 projects in the works, just over a quarter million acres, and close to 61 million in funding as of right now. What we have lined up is another close to 200 projects, another quarter million acres, and 45 million in funding. So, when you look at what we have done, what we're doing, and what we will be doing in the near future, it's about 2 million acres and with all the in kind match, time and resources, it's close to 300 million dollars. This effort has been really big to do good things for deer and elk and livestock and ecosystems as a whole. We're pretty happy with it. If you look at what we've accomplished, a lot of what we do is proactive restoration. So, we go out and we treat areas. We knock down juniper trees, we do things like that to get more forbs and grasses and shrubs on the landscape. That is really engaging work. The other thing we do is fire rehabilitation. If you look at the Brian Head fire and the Seeley fire and Milford Flat, a lot of these fires that have come through. We have been able to go through and treat these areas, the areas outlined in red, so that way we get a more healthy plant response on the landscape. So how is this funded? We talked about 300 million dollars. The bulk of it is federal. We have partnerships with the forest service and the BLM. And that makes sense. A lot of the areas we treat is federal land. A good chunk of that is also state, so hunting and fishing license, habitat counsel dollars, those types of things. When you buy a hunting and fishing license you are contributing to habitat restoration. The third is the sportsman's groups and the conservation permits and the expo permits. Those types of things. The money generated from that goes-it's our third biggest contribution to the pool. Maybe more importantly with the sportsman groups and some of the state funding, it serves as a match for the federal dollars, which we can get multiple dollars in return for each one that is generated. And then we have others. Our counties have been a big help in this, other municipalities, mitigation

money, and private landowners have helped as well. So, restoration priorities, there's things from knocking down trees to restoring streams to fire rehab. This is kind of neat. I don't know if you've ever seen this. This is what we call a bullhog. It just makes short work of one of these juniper trees. If you've ever tried to chop down a juniper tree or a pinyon tree, you know how hard that bark is. This attachment on the front of the machine just makes quick work of it. It spreads the remains on the ground and if you look at the understory which is underneath the trees and soil, there's not a lot of grasses and forbs and shrubs, so there is little livestock or wildlife value there. This just makes my heart happy. It's just cool to see the trees. We have a restoration biologist and she always says "we're turning bedrooms into kitchens." This is where deer go to sleep and we want deer to go there and eat so it's pretty neat. The other thing that we do is active restoration after fire. In 2002, we had the Maple Springs fire and that was reseeded with flame resistant seed mix. Eleven years later, the Black Mountain fire came in and because of that reseeded effort a decade earlier, it was able to serve as a fire barrier and give firefighters a safe place to work. The impacts are less when we have fires come through the system and it leaves forage on the landscape for livestock and wildlife, which is great. Here's another one; Tintic Valley. Historically the fire interval was 35 to 50 years and by the 1990's, this thing was burning every 2 to 3 times per decade. Through some aggressive restoration efforts, we were able to get some perennial grasses coming up that 15 years later are more resistant to fire and it isn't just a weed patch waiting to burn again. If you look at chaining, this is pretty neat. After a fire, what we'll do is oftentimes take a big chain and run it between these two dozers and they essentially just knock down everything in their path and it disturbs the soil pretty aggressively, which is good. In fact, they're not just chains, we weld railroad ties perpendicular to each chain to stir up that ground and knock these trees over and crunch them. Then, when we aerial seed it, that seed mix has a much better chance of taking. This has been a really neat tool in order to do good things for wildlife and wildlife habitat. Sometimes, we chain in the absence of fire. Here on Tabby Mountain, we did a two way chain. On the left is what it looked like in 2007 and four years later this is what it looked like in 2011. We had increases in grasses, forbs, which are flowers, and then sagebrush and it just looks a whole lot better. The last thing that I'll leave you with is Kingston Canyon WMA. Before our treatment down here, we had a lot of erosion into this system. If you look at the right, wildlife can't even access that water, and so through some pretty heavy restoration efforts and firming up that bank, 9 years later, you've got willows back in there, you have access to the water and it has been a better fishery. So, in summary, the Division and our partners, we're trying to improve our wildlife management through monitoring and research and the watershed restoration initiative. This is an aggressive effort. We're restoring habitat at an incredible rate. That has benefits to wildlife, livestock, and ecosystems as a whole. Funding for these projects comes from a variety of sources, including a large portion from hunters. I just want to make a final note here that with the conservation permit program and the expo, the funds that are generated from that, and our partnerships with the conservation groups, we've been able to do a lot of really neat things for wildlife and habitat. When we get in a jam and we have to move quickly, like fire restoration and those types of things, it's nice to know that there are funding sources available and there are willing sportsmen and others to come to the table and help with restoration efforts. Mr. Chair, that's all I have, but if you don't mind, I've got Gary; he's going to highlight a couple of local issues, if that's okay, on what we've done with the program.

Dave Black- Okay that will be great. Thank you.

Gary Bezzant- Like he said, I'm Gary Bezzant. I'm the Habitat Program Manager down in the southern region. Justin gave a great overview of what we are doing statewide. We just wanted to provide some specific local information about how the southern region is involved with the Watershed Restoration

Initiative and some of the projects we have done with wildlife, Josh will talk about those. I do want to draw your attention to this, Justin talked about statewide, all the work that we have done, nearly a million and a half acres, call your attention to what the southern region has done. We've done 745 thousand acres. So we, just in this region alone, have done more than half of the work that has been done in the state. That's a testament to a lot of really good partnerships and really good people that we work with, people like Sean Kelly and Sean Stewart and all the people that we get involved with. The other really cool thing, if you look at the statewide funding, the 186 million, we brought in 87 million in the region. What that story tells, is that while we have done more than half of the work, we had less than half of the money, so we are doing it, and we're doing it cheaper because we're doing projects big and large and getting really good economy of scale. I just like to point that out and share that with people. Currently, ongoing projects in the region, we've got 117 of them going on with about 119 thousand acres that we treated this year. Just to give you a couple of specific examples of types of projects that we've worked on and that we have ongoing right now, yellow jacket, down in the Zion unit, we call it buck pasture. We've done about 2000 acres of bullhog and 1600 acres of chaining on that over the past year. A really good project. It's kind of the bread and butter of habitat restoration. We do pinyon/juniper removal and restore it to really high forage value and really good winter range. Again, you see that really not a whole lot of understory in the pictures on the left and the after treatment, you see the way they've responded on the right. Because Justin had a video of the bullhog, we thought we better have a region specific video about a bullhog and hopefully it's a little more exciting. (video plays) So, I've been showing my kids videos on my cell phone for years of bullhogs and they think it's pretty cool and they get excited and they'll watch it for 30 seconds and then they throw it to the side. But then, you put Phil Tuttle to work and you let him mess with it a little bit and all of a sudden, kids will watch that for hours! It's really cool! When we move out of pinyon/juniper restoration, we've, in the recent years, developed some great partnerships with the forest service and recognizing a lot of needs for summer range improvements. One big project that we've been involved with is the Monroe Mountain Project. We've been working towards close to 45,000 acres of aspen, restoration that will take place over the next ten years. This specific year, we are working on 800 acres of mechanical conifer thinning, about a 1700 acre prescribed fire, 500 acres of that will be seeded, and then 900 acres of timber sale prep, which will then be able to be sold and they'll do the work for us. Some pictures of the work over there on Monroe Mountain, great pictures by Craig Rasmussen, those of you that know him or if you don't know him, you should know him. He's a wildlife biologist for the Fish Lake National Forest and he does some incredible work over there. There are some pictures there of what we expect to see after the fire and what we are seeing after fire, the aspen regenerating and coming back and then the bottom two pictures are of taking in mechanical work and just removing conifer from the understory. What that does, it all more sunlight to hit the soil, releases a lot more aspen regeneration, and we are able to restore in the method as well while retaining the overstory and not losing the parent stock of aspen. Justin mentioned that we do a lot of fire rehab. Last year we were highly involved with the Brian Head fire rehab. Fire rehab is an interesting thing to work on. We worked a lot with the forest service on this one. Some of the first priorities has got to be human health and safety and life and property, so that 7200 acres of mulch, that's stuff to keep the soil on the mountain. Trying to keep the floods from hitting the canyons, doing all kinds of things. That's the stuff that hits the ground and grows quickly and stabilizes the soil. On top of that, where we have the great opportunity to partner, the forest service doesn't get a lot of funding for after that stabilization and so we are able to work with them and augment a lot of seed mixes and provide a lot of good stuff for wildlife. So our GIS layers, our shape files on there, and say that our wildlife habitat is up there and ask ourselves "what did we lose, how hot did it burn, do we expect it to come back" and after that is all said and done, in a 60,000 acre fire, we identified 11,000 acres that we

wanted to do some reseeded on. There are some pictures of the mulching, with great big nets. Helicopters pull it out there and drop it and it gets spread all across there. That intercepts a lot of water and prevents a lot of erosion. On the bottom right, you can see, that's Red Creek Reservoir after a major flood event, just a little while after the fire. That's the type of stuff that we're trying to prevent and keep from happening on a major scale. The last thing that I just wanted to highlight is a different type of project. It isn't necessarily a habitat project, but it's one that we got involved with a few years back and have been working with UDOT. We have a lot of highway mortality and we are always looking to find ways to help with highway mortality. We had the opportunity a couple of years ago. The buck you see there on the right was a buck that I hunted for a couple of years and my son actually got a shot at him and didn't get him, but then I got a text message in the middle of the winter and he'd been hit on the highway and it was amazing. We'd been fighting for this project for a long time, trying to get fencing in place. I took those antlers, I forgot to bring them tonight. I wanted to show them to you. Anyway, I took those antlers to meetings and it was amazing how quickly money started to fly at the project. It was just a really neat project where we were able to go from Cedar City to Parowan installing cattle guards. He'd gotten on the freeway by jumping across a single cattle guard, even though we had the deer fence there, he found a way to get across so we moved to double cattle guards at all of our interchanges and then also getting a fence on the west side because we do have some valley deer that try to meet up with the mountain deer and we end up with problems that way. We do all kinds of other work, guzzlers, and great wetland work with Lynn Zoobeck and all kinds of stuff. I'll turn the time over to Josh now and he can talk about the collaring and the data and stuff that we've learned down here.

Josh Pollock- For those that don't know, I'm the biologist in the Paunsaugunt, Panguitch Lake, Mount Dutton, Parowans east and west areas. I'm just going to show you a few slides today of some of the information that we've been gathering from the collar data. Justin talked a little bit about it and showed some videos and some pictures. This was kind of the project, I think, that kind of started it all off for the state with getting our GPS collar data. It was a project we did, starting in 2011, on Mt. Dutton and we collared a bunch of elk there. This is all the points from those elk from 2011 to 2015. You can see that when these elk, we try to put them in units, and obviously they didn't stay within those unit boundaries and these were some of those areas. It shows those migration corridors there that we're talking about and we'll see a couple other of those as well. This is some really useful information for us as far as how we try and manage. These collars are pretty amazing. When we first started out, we'd have to go fly them and get a location on them. Now, with these new GPS collars, we can literally look up some of these deer and see where they were standing just a few hours ago. Basically, we're tracking them in real time, so it's pretty amazing. This is a picture of just everything statewide that we currently have collared. Every different species has a different color. There's Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, goats, deer, elk, pronghorn, the red ones are bear. There's all you can see on there, I just pulled that yesterday. Everyone of those dots is an animal and that's where it was standing, so it's pretty useful information. This was in the southern region, the stuff that we've collared within the last few years that is in the southern region specifically. This was another, kind of like what I was saying, of those migration corridors, and what we're trying to learn from that Migration Initiative. This is some Paunsaugunt movement. These collars are pretty amazing. We have the ability to go online on the website and actually turn up how many points they're taking, and so these points right here, they're being taken every 30 minutes. Every 30 minutes it's taking a point, in 24 hours a day. So you can really see, when they start to move. You can see Hwy 89 there as it goes outside of Kanab towards Page, where that 13 miles of fence that was done out there along that high fence, where we're saving a lot of those deer from that mortality as they're coming across. Again, this was just from the last two weeks of those deer

movement. There's pretty much almost none of the deer left down there now, they've all moved back up. So it's pretty useful information. This year, we decided, we knew that a lot of these deer would go to Arizona, come from Arizona, etc., so we went into Arizona as well and we caught several deer. You can see their movement. Some of them, we knew it was going to happen. When we partnered with Arizona, they provided some of the collars and so some of those deer are never going to come to Utah, but we can see how they interact with the deer that come from Utah down there. It's really good information, and like I said, the 30 minute point is pretty amazing to see the trails that they're taking in their migrations. This is just one I wanted to highlight. Last year, we actually collared a fawn in 2016 down on the Buckskin, if you're familiar where that's at? It's about 25 miles east of Kanab towards Page. We collared a fawn out there last year and she went all the way up and stayed in the Alton area for about a month in May and then all of a sudden, I'm assuming she was still with her mother, we weren't sure exactly, but just before her mother went to fawn, she took off again and came all the way to Summit, just above Cedar City there. That's about 80 miles one way, so I was kind of wondering, is she going to stay? Did her mother kick her off, and she was wandering around? Come October, she turned around and literally took those exact points all the way back. We actually re-caught her again on the Buckskin this winter, put a better collar on her, where we can monitor her. She's already up in that same mountain area, hasn't moved yet to go to Summit, but we're assuming she will. So we can see from that information, these deer are really tied to what they're trained to when they're young. So it's really important information and this collar information is just helping us tremendously with wildlife management, so we need to continue it for sure. That's all I have.

Dave Black- Josh, Justin, Gary, we appreciate that. Very interesting and good information. We could probably talk about this all night and we may have some questions, but for the interest of time, I think maybe I can just get you to corner them after and if you have a specific question, you can talk about it then. We hope this is a tradition you've started. We look forward to seeing more of these updates in the future. They are very worthwhile. Thank you. We have one more informational item on the agenda which is #6 Martin Bushman, the Assistant Attorney General is here. And he's up next. Martin.

WILDLIFE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW STATE AND COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Martin Bushman- Thank you. As mentioned, my name is Marty Bushman. I'm an Assistant Attorney General. I work with Wildlife Resources and I came here today just to present an informational item on how county resource management plans interact with Wildlife Management in the state. In 2016, the Utah Legislature enacted counties to prepare resource management plans, comprehensive plans, and the plans were designed to address a number of things, but among them, were predator control, wildlife fisheries, and threatened and endangered species to address in their plans. Now, although the county resource plans may address those issues, the legislature did not intend that these resource management plans would supersede the state authority to manage wildlife. In the statute itself, there was a savings clause that said, "Nothing in this part may be construed to limit the authority of the state to manage and protect wildlife under Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code of Utah." So, the intent of the legislature was that the Division, RAC, and Board continue to manage wildlife as they have and do as directed in statute. Now, just to kind of go through some of those statutes that apply to each of those entities, in the code it states that the Division is designated as trustee and custodian of protected wildlife in the state, that all wildlife, whether on private or public land, falls within the jurisdiction of the division. And then,

subject to the policy making authority of the Wildlife Board, the Division's charged to protect, propagate, manage, and conserve and distribute protected wildlife throughout the state. Now those are the basic charges of the Division of Wildlife Resources in the Wildlife Code. Regional Advisory Councils, they're charge is fairly straight forward; they're directed to hear broad input, recommendations, biological data and information regarding the effects of wildlife, to gather information from staff, the public, and government agencies. And finally, three, to make recommendations to the Wildlife Board. The Wildlife Board, in turn, it's authority, is to establish the policies best designed to accomplish the purpose and fulfill the intent of all laws pertaining to wildlife and the preservation, protection, conservation, perpetuation, introduction, and management of wildlife. And as the Board makes these policy decisions, they're instructed in statute, to weigh a number of things, to recognize that wildlife is essential to a healthy environment, to recognize the economic impacts of wildlife on private property and local communities, to seek to balance the habitat requirements of wildlife with social and economic activities, amend, recognize the social and economic values of wildlife, seek to maintain wildlife on a sustainable basis, and finally, to consider the recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council as it weighs these values. So, also some of the major activities the Division gets involved in, also have direction in the Wildlife Code and how that's handled, so the Division is allowed to transplant turkeys and wolves, and sensitive species, but as a process, that it follows by statute. It has to identify the proposed transplant sites to make sure those translocations are vetted with potentially effective landowners and local government officials in the Resource Development Coordinating Committee; that the plan for the translocation is submitted to the Region Advisory Councils, particularly the one that would be impacted by the translocation, so that they can develop a recommendation to the Wildlife Board; and finally, the plan has to be approved by the Wildlife Board. Wildlife Management plans are very similar. The legislature there is directed in statute when we are preparing management plans for deer or elk, that we follow a process. The Division carries that over to virtually every species it manages. When it prepares a plan, it follows the same process. That is, to establish a target herd size objective, consider the range and carrying capacity of the unit, seek to balance the relevant multiple uses on the range, and then seek and consider input from federal and state land managers, private landowners, sportsman, and ranchers. And then, finally, the plan is presented to the RAC for recommendation to the Board. And then the Board approves, modifies, or doesn't approve the plan, but that's the statutory process that's been kind of set out in the Wildlife Code for how wildlife management occurs in the state. Now some of the county auries express position on wildlife management matters including population objectives, management plans and translocations, which is great, but we need to understand that the Division, RAC, and Wildlife Board, when they have these plans in place, expressing positions that they carefully consider them and weigh them in their recommendations and their decision making process, but it's important to understand that the resource management plans do not control the decisions of the Division of Wildlife Resources. Those are dictated by the Wildlife Code. The legislature, again, was very clear that nothing in the Resource Management Plan Statute was intended to supersede the authority of the Division, or to limit its authority under the Wildlife Resources Code. The state also created a resource management plan that was just adopted this past legislative session. It too, addresses predator control, wildlife fisheries, and threatened endangered species. The plan, however, is very clear and reaffirms and recognizes the Division's authority to manage wildlife, and the RACS and Wildlife Boards process for developing policy. So the process for determining the balance that the state plan says, the process for determining the balance among competing uses and establishing the best fishery and wildlife and management policies is declared in state law through the RAC and Wildlife Board process. So, just in conclusion, to wrap up, the takeaways from this is that the Division, the Regional Advisor Counsels and Board should

evaluate and seriously consider positions expressed in resource management, county resource management plans when they're making their decisions and recommendations, but the final decision in the end, however, is made pursuant to the Wildlife Code. That concludes my presentation.

Dave Black- Okay. Thank you. Very good information. Before we move on to our next items, which are action items, I'd just like to go through the procedures real quick. Mike, you have a comment?

Mike Worthen- Thank you, Marty, I think that cleared up a lot of things, and I was heavily involved in the Iron County Resource Management Plan, so that was one of the questions that all the county's had is how are the state agencies react to this management plan where there are spelled out objectives and goals and processes that a county wishes to see within a county. I certainly agree, and this goes for the federal government too, that the county's authority does not supersede those three authorities, the BLM, The Forest Service, or the DWR. But what I think is lacking, is the coordination effort in those plans, that when there is something going on, either a plan, a wildlife management plan, that efforts are made to come to the counties and open it up and discuss it, and see what grounds there are, and whether we can come to an agreement. It would make a lot of sense and a lot less heartache on a lot of issues that keep coming up. I appreciate the legislature clarifying that because that was a big question going into this. Thank you.

Martin Bushman- I agree. Coordination will be a key and I think that if the county's and the Division stay working together on these things and trying to meet each other's goals and needs, it's best.

Dave Black- Okay. Thank you. So, we have five action items, if you would like to comment on any of those items, please fill out a comment card and one of the Division employees will come around and gather those and bring them forward. So, as we go forward with each presentation, we'll have a time for questions, we'll have questions from the RAC first, and we'll also entertain questions from the public. We'd ask that these not be the time that you present your comment, but limit it to questions only. If you do have a question or a comment when you come up, please use the center mic and state your name. Also, we want to remember to keep all of our conversations or questions with the RAC and the audience or DWR, that we do so at the mic, because we want to make sure that those responding to a question, that all those comments are captured in the minutes. We for sure, want all the minutes to go forward to the Wildlife Board and so with that, we'll proceed with action item #7 which is the wild turkey recommendations and rule amendments.

WILD TURKEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS

Avery Cook- I'm Avery Cook, the Upland Game Project Leader for the Utah Division of Wildlife. Jason Robinson's actually the one on the agenda, but he was not able to make it for some unforeseen circumstances, so I'm filling in for him today for an update to the Upland Game and Wild Turkey Guide Book and Rule Recommendations. So, I'll start with a little bit of background. We're just finishing up the first year of a three year guide book approval period, so the majority of the Upland Game Regulations were approved last year through the RAC and Board. This today is specifically just for some amendments to the turkey rules. So the turkey populations in Utah are doing quite well. We've been on a steady upward trend for the last many years. We had a little dip in 2012, with the hard winter, but have recovered from that. However, with the turkey populations on a continued upward trend, we are running into some concerns in various parts of the state, especially more urban and agricultural areas

where we're getting nuisance and depredation issues. So we're trying to get out ahead of that as much as we can, and kind of allow some different management, especially in our fall hunt, and so this is just recommending some adjustments for the second two years out of the three year turkey guide book. The goal of these actions is to increase hunting opportunity in the fall and really to help alleviate some of the turkey nuisance and depredation problems we've been having in the winter. So for our turkey seasons, they're mostly evaluated on three criteria: We look at the three year average of hunt success and try to keep that over 20% , a three year average hunter incrowding, and this is perceived crowding from the Upland Game Survey that we do each year. We try to keep that below 4, which is relatively crowded, but 5 is most crowded and 1 is least crowded, and a three year average of hunter satisfaction and keep that above 2 on a 1-5 scale. Just looking back at our turkey permit data, both our permit and harvest has been generally trending up with a couple of those dips like I mentioned earlier in 2012. The big peak here in permits in 2010, is when we first had an OTC season in the spring. After that initial, I think a lot of people realized that turkey hunting might not have been for them, so we had it drop off a little after that, but since then, we've been on a steady increase each year. Total harvest is a little more variable, but also on an upward trend. The hunt success, again, we're trying to keep it above 20% and this is our three year average hunt success and that's including both the limited entry and general season, spring seasons. The OTC hunter success is generally quite a bit lower than the limited entry, but the average is in between there. Hunter crowding, again, this is perceived crowding--so we've been continually adding hunters afield, but the perceived crowding has not really changed and interesting, this is again, perceived crowding, so the limited entry and OTC, the feedback on those two is very close as far as the perceived crowding, despite the fact that there's quite a bit more people OTC general season, so it's really perception if you're expecting it to be relatively empty and see a few people, it feels crowded, where if you're expecting to run into a lot of people and you only run into a few, it doesn't feel so crowded. Again, hunter satisfaction on a three year average, we're trying to keep that over 2 in the harvest survey. We've been around 3.9 for the last three years and it's generally trending up as we've increased populations. In 2014-15, we had our first fall season for quite awhile. Each year we've adjusted permits, based on feedback from the regions and local information on the populations. Permits have been trending up again, as our populations are getting larger and we're running into a few more issues with spurts being in some of these winter areas where they're less desirable, but we can probably expect more permits again this fall. The fall hunt success is very more so than the other seasons. A lot of that is because we've got shifting hunt areas and shifting populations a bit. So, the first year is quite high, but it's trended down a little bit as we've added more areas throughout the state, but we've also added more hunters, as you can see, they're adjusted up and down depending on winter conditions and population. Again, looking at the hunter satisfaction and crowding. So, there's really low perceived crowding in that fall hunt, with pretty high satisfaction, 4 out of 5 on the satisfaction and about 1 1/2 on the crowding. So with that background there, we'll get to the recommendations for the general season fall well turkey hunt. So, most of the hunt structure is going to remain the same. The objective of the fall hunt is primarily reducing turkey/human conflicts, so the fall hunt is a very specific hunt. The hunt boundaries are drawn specifically and relatively small in areas where there are complaints of turkeys getting into feedlots or too many in people's houses and having droppings all over their cars and lawns, both nuisance and depredation issues. The goal of these hunts is to reduce populations, so they're either sex, so we're taking both hens and toms out of the reproductive population. They're sold OTC on a first come, first serve basis, but there is a cap set by the region so they can set the cap and the hunt area to what they think the population can sustain and how many birds need to come out of those populations to kind of reduce those problems. A lot of this came in after some of the other methods we tried, such as trapping, hazing, or habitat projects to try and get birds out of where they're not supposed to be. So,

anyway, we'll continue with this current system with small hunt areas within each of the five regions and a limited number of permits per region. One change is proposing to move the opening date up to October 1. It currently is November 1, and this is to give the regions more flexibility so, the hunt date isn't necessarily October 1 to February 28, but that would give the region the ability to set the hunt anywhere within that window that they deem appropriate for the local population. There's still going to be no point of preference system and there's an allocation for youth hunters. The other change proposed is to simplify the permitting system. So, currently, there's quite a few different categories of permits you can get in the fall and spring and we're aiming to simplify that from one fall general season and a couple of other categories of fall hunts to just simply three permits in the fall. That would not include conservation permits. Also, an amendment to our 657-54, taking wild turkeys. We are proposing to change the weapon restrictions from current restriction on pellet size to just any pellet smaller than than the size of a BB, out of any shotgun. We're kind of putting the honesty on the hunter to select the appropriate gauge and shotgun and ammunition. Part of this is coming from the advent of tungsten super shot, which is an ultra-dense shot that people have been using. You can have effective turkey loads down to about 9 shot with that tungsten super shot, so a lot of this is accommodating that change in weapon technology. We're also proposing to allow rimfire firearms for the fall season only. The idea behind this, is that this is mostly a management hunt designed to reduce populations in problem areas. Allowing rimfire would allow people to take turkeys at longer distances and allow people who don't traditionally hunt turkeys to get into the hunt and allow a lot of youth that may not traditionally be big enough to handle a 12 gauge to be able participate in the turkey hunt by using a rimfire rifle. We are also permitting to just one spring and one fall permit with conservation permits not counting towards that quota. Again, to be consistent across rules, we do the same changes in our 657-59, the turkey depredation rule, again, to simplify to three fall permits per hunter. That would include the fall general season. If you are a hunter in a depredation hunter pool and you got a tag out of a depredation hunt, that would count towards that three fall permits and if you were to get a wild turkey controlled permit voucher related to a turkey damage plan, that would also count towards a individual hunter quota three fall permits. Landowner control permits that would be part of a damage plan, would be in addition to the one spring and three fall permits. Thank you.

Dave Black- Is there any questions from the RAC? Okay. Any questions from the public? I don't have any comment cards on this item. Is there anybody who submitted a comment card? Okay. Kevin?

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Public:

Comment Card:

Kevin Normon- Hi, my name is Kevin Normon, I'm representing SFW on this topic. We support the division's recommendations for the turkeys. Just to keep in mind also, the option we have to translocate turkeys and not over harvest. There are plenty of areas in the state that could use turkeys, and plenty that are overpopulated. That's our only other recommendation. I would also like to add that as a father of a nine year old girl, I believe that the rimfire offers good opportunity for the youth. There is no way that I

would put her behind a shotgun at this point and sour her shooting a turkey. I believe that the rimfire will open a lot of doors for our youth hunters and allow them to have an enjoyable hunt doing so. Thanks.

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. Alright, any comments from the RAC? We did receive a few comments via e-mail, I assume that most of you had a chance to read those. Since there is no comments, it looks like we are ready to entertain a motion. Do you guys need another mic on your side to help you? (laughter)

RAC discussion and vote

Vote

Braydon Richmond- I'll make a motion to accept the turkey recommendations as proposed.

Dave Black- And we have a second from Brian. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous. The motion carries. We will go to our next item, which is item number eight which is a coyote bounty program.

COYOTE BOUNTY PROGRAM AMENDMENTS- RULE R657-64

Xeala Walden- Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm Xeala Walden and I will be presenting on the predator control program. We are proposing some rule amendments to rule R657-63. So, a little bit of background on the program, the program was initiated back in 2012 under the mule deer protection act. The reason that the program was initiated was to protect non-predatory wildlife, specifically mule deer. The way that the program works is legislature allocates funding every year for the program and then the division runs the program and they provide participants with a \$50 cash incentive for every coyote that is removed. To become a participant of the program, individuals of the public must go online and take our education course that then qualifies them to participate. TO submit coyotes, they are required to turn in the scalp and lower jaw with a compensation form, in which they record the date, the location, the sex, and the method of take of each coyote that they remove. So, a quick overview of the proposed changes, the first is that we recommend requiring a COR to participate in the program. The second, we recommend standardizing what we standardizing what we consider an acceptable sample when participants are turning in the lower scalp and jaw. Third, we recommend having the ability to alter the payments based on what the budget was in the previous fiscal year. The fourth recommendation we are making is requiring participants to use an electronic application to participate in the program. So, first, we recommend requiring the use of a certificate of registration to participate. This isn't really going to make much of a difference for most of our participants. What really is going to happen is, you can see down in the lower right hand corner, when participants complete the education course, it prints off this sheet and it provides a registration number. This is just going to simply change to a COR number instead. The difference that participants will see, is that they are going to have to retake this course annually. This is actually already in our policy that it is required to do so, however, we have not enforced it up until now. Generally, COR's have a fee associated with them, however, we are going to waive it for the simplicity of this program because we don't want to have to be having participants pay to get paid. The next recommendations that we are making refer to how samples should be submitted. Throughout the rule, the policy states that participants that are claiming coyotes must have taken the coyote themselves, however, the word "taken" includes a lot of different terms,

including the word “possession” and so this can be understood as turning in roadkill which we want to discourage because that’s not beneficial to mule deer. Additionally, it makes it difficult for our law enforcement officers to hold cases with so much ambiguity around the word “taken.” So, we are just proposing to change the word “taken” with the word “killed.” Then, the next few sets of changes refer specifically to the samples. Most participants are already submitting their samples in a good condition where it is easy to identify them, however, it has been a little bit of an issue with some. So, we just propose to put it in rule that samples cannot be rotten or spoiled or have maggots or other carry-on organisms on them, because our technicians and biologists need to be able to confidently I.D. the samples as coyotes. The last change that goes along with this, the current rule states that the jaws must include the canines, and we propose to extend that out to include premolars because we have collected a premolar tooth since the beginning of the program, and so this would just make the rule match what our management actions are. The next recommendation we are making is having the ability to alter the payments based on where we are with our budget from the previous fiscal year. What we are recommending is having the ability to decrease payments by \$5 per coyote following any fiscal year that we exhaust our entire allocated budget in that previous year. What would happen is, so, say that this fiscal year, we spent our entire appropriated budget. We would then reduce the payment to \$45 dollars next year. Say we continued to exhaust the entire budget, we would then drop it down to \$40. If we stay below our budget, we bump it back up to \$45 and then if it stays below again, we bump it back up to \$50. This would just be able to fluctuate by five dollar increments and would always max out at \$50. The reason for this is, if we run out of funding, in policy, we can’t keep paying people. If there is no money left to pay with, it puts the program on pause, which is going to be really chaotic and cause confusion for participants in the program who are expecting to be able to get paid and they call us to try to set up an appointment and the program is put on pause. This is really just a proactive way to manage our budget and try to mitigate an expected problem, because, our program is showing an increase. It’s trending upwards in the amount of money we have been spending every year, and so we are expecting to exhaust our entire budget. Thus far, we have not, however, there is potential to exhaust it this year or in the next few years. Then, the last thing that goes along with this is that we are recommending requiring participants to submit their coyotes within one year of the kill date. The reason that we are proposing this is that for one, it is difficult to assess how difficult the program is when guys are storing up coyotes in their freezer for three or four years at a time and then secondly, this will also force participants to submit their coyote in one of two different fiscal years, and so it will prevent guys from holding on to their coyotes until the payments are back up to \$50. The next changes that we are proposing are requiring the use of an electronic application. This wouldn’t become a requirement until July of 2019, and we are going to be deploying the application in July of 2018 to give everyone a year to start learning how the application works and getting used to it and working out all the bugs in the program. The way that the application is going to work, is that it will replace the paper compensation forms, and so participants won’t have to fill out paper compensation forms anymore. When they are out in the field, they will shoot or trap a coyote, they will go out, they’ll turn on their phone, it will have to be a smartphone with location data and with a camera, they’ll enter in a new report, it will ask them for the same information as the compensation form, except now they won’t have to figure out where they are at and where they are hunting at. Instead, it will ask them to take a picture and they will take a picture of the coyote, which will then be georeferenced and uploaded to our database automatically. If guys are out of service range, the report will be saved in a drafts folder and they can go back later and submit once they have service again. This application is not going to replace the necessity to turn in their scalp and lower jaw at check-in stations. All it is going to do is skip the paperwork portion of it. They will still have to come in and show the scalp and lower jaw at designated check-in times. The application is going

to be both beneficial to the division and also to the participants. It is going to increase the accuracy of the reporting and it is also going to make things more efficient for both the division and for participants. Participants are no longer going to have to figure out where they are hunting or trapping at. A lot of the participants don't go out with a GPS in their hand and a lot of them don't carry their phones with GPS services, in some cases and so they have to go back home and look up on Google Maps or pull out a hardcopy of a map and try to figure out where they're hunting. This doesn't provide very precise and accurate data and it takes a lot of time for participants to go out and do this. This just kind of skips an extra step that they will no longer have to do. On top of that, it will provide better data for the division to be able to assess how effective the program is. It is going to reduce time spent entering data. Out technicians and biologists spend a lot of time having to go through the paper copies and enter them into our database. Along with that, sometimes, there are typos that occur and also it is difficult to read handwriting and sometimes participants don't always have a solid understanding of how GPS coordinates work, and so we get stuff that doesn't make a whole lot of sense to try to enter into our database. On top of that, the application is intended to help reduce fraud in the program. There are open cases in all five regions currently, where participants are suspected of, or have been convicted of turning in coyotes from out of state, which is a huge problem when we are coming closer and closer to exhausting all of our funding for the program. To piggyback on to the other proposed recommendation, we are also now proposing to extend out the privacy protection under Utah code 63G2305, which currently protects all trappers at their request, from public disclosure of where they are removing coyotes from, but we propose to extend that out to all hunters as well. That way, participants, no matter how they are removing coyotes, will feel comfortable providing us with more accurate GPS locations and so that their hunting and trapping locations aren't exploited by the public. To go along with that, we currently provide an annual report that is posted on our webpage that provides a map that shows where all the coyotes in the state are removed from. A lot of participants have felt uncomfortable with the fact that we post actual point data, and so we are going to be moving to providing density maps where it just shows hotspots of where lots of coyotes are being removed and where very few coyotes are being removed from. That is everything, thank you.

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. Any questions from the RAC? Tammy?

Questions from the RAC:

Tammy Pearson- Okay, what about digging up the pup dens? So you said that they have to have a molar?

Xeala Walden- Yes, so I know that pups don't have premolars, so we know the age of them, so we just don't collect them. But, we do accept pups for the program.

Tammy Pearson- Okay, because that's a big deal around here. Get them out of the hen fields.

Dave Black- Okay, good. Verland?

Verland King- How much money was allocated this year?

Xeala Walden- Five hundred thousand.

Verland King- And if that's not all used up, what happens to it?

Xeala Walden- So any time we don't spend all of our money, it just rolls over into the next year. So, we have compounded and last fiscal year, we actually spent \$575,000 and this year we are up to over \$500,000 currently. Because of the rollover we haven't exhausted our budget yet.

Veland King- Okay, so you send the jaw and the scalp. I'm not a trapper, but I would think that that would damage the pelt. Is that a problem?

Xeala Walden- So, participants can bring in their whole pelt and we will just clip the ears and there's been reports that it doesn't effect the pelt price with having the ears clipped.

Verland King- Okay, so next question is, I get a little nervous when you start asking everybody to put in their social security number and all this sensitive data with all the hacking that is going on. I guess the question would be are you sure that you are protected that way? Because I can see an environmentalist maybe hacking the system and there you've got a group of people who they would really want to make trouble for.

Xeala Walden- So, the data will be protected on a specialized server. We have a DTS system that keeps track of our security and protects the security of our participants and all of the personal data that comes through the division. On top of that, they are not going to have to provide their social in the application. It's just going to be their name and their customer I.D. number, which we will also be printing on the sheet that they print out when they complete the education course.

Verland King- Okay.

Dave Black- Craig?

Craig Laub- My question deals with why do you need to go through the course every year? That seems like a little much.

Xeala Walden- So, occasionally, we make updates to it, and so guys that have taken it five years ago aren't seeing the updates. Additionally, it's really good to make sure that our participants are familiar, because it also holds them accountable for the information that we are providing them, because if a participant took the course five years ago, they can say, "oh I forgot that." This way, it just really holds them accountable and keeps really pertinent information fresh in their minds. It's about a 20 minute course, which is expected for other courses like the antler gathering permits and stuff like that that we do, so it's just consistent with other programs.

Dave Black- Okay, go ahead, Mike.

Mike Worthen- On the five hundred thousand dollars that the legislature gives you each year, is that the total amount, or does that include administrative fees and whatever else goes on? I know that there is a portion out of the act that requires or suggests that the division identify areas where deer may be under objective and they do aerial hunting in those areas. Is that all the money you get, or is that for the

bounty program?

Xeala Walden- So the five hundred thousand includes payments specifically towards coyote removals. It doesn't pay for the operating cost of the division's end of running the program. We are currently not doing any targeted contracts, however, when they did them two years ago, it did count towards that five hundred thousand.

Mike Worthen- So the funds that were used to contract those individuals to trap certain areas that were identified by DWR, that went back into being available to the bounty system?

Xeala Walden- Yeah, so it's the full five hundred thousand currently being paid out. When they had the contracts in place, that was being pulled from the five hundred thousand.

Mike Worthen- Okay, so that's been added back into the five hundred thousand? And that does roll over each year?

Xeala Walden- Yes.

Dave Black- Okay Gene?

Gene Boardman- We hear that we have a program, and that there is money in it. But, nobody ever says whether it's doing any good. So how much good is it doing?

Xeala Walden- So, currently, I'm working on a master's thesis to determine if it is effective or not. Part of the reason that we haven't looked at it until now is because it takes a long time to collect enough data, especially because previously, there was no requirement to submit within a specific time period, so again, guys could hold on to their coyotes for 3 or 4 years and so we would be missing huge portions of data that we would then not be able to analyze it effectively or accurately. So, in the next couple of years, I will be finishing my thesis which will be looking at how much overlap there is between where coyotes are being removed and where mule deer are fawning at.

Gene Boardman- So do I understand that we don't have any data, but in a couple of years we might?

Xeala Walden- Correct.

Dave Black- Okay, Mike?

Mike Worthen- One question on the tooth. We were told that when the program started that the reason that they were removing the tooth was to age it and take DNA samples. Is that right?

Xeala Walden- So the tooth is to take the age and the ear clips are to take DNA samples.

Mike Worthen- Okay, is that being done? Because I don't know how many hundreds of thousands of coyotes you are talking about. That's a major thing.

Xeala Walden- So we are currently aging a subsample of the teeth every other year and then we are

currently not doing the DNA testing, but we are storing it in case some research student or somebody else wants to do research on it.

Mike Worthen- Okay, it's just being set in there and the age is basically all you are getting from the tooth?

Xeala Walden- Yes.

Dave Black- Verland?

Verland King- So how accurate are you determining that it was this year's kill? You know, if they are frozen.

Xeala Walden- They should be recording the date that they are removing the coyotes. It's just kind of an honesty policy. It's going to be really difficult to track if they are telling us that it's a year old verses 2 or 3 years old.

Verland King- So that's more of why you are using the digital stuff then?

Xeala Walden- Yeah, that's part of it.

Dave Black- Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Do we have questions from the public? I know that there are a bunch of comment cards picked up. Can you bring those comment cards forward so we can see if we have any comments? Is there any comments from the coyote section? Okay, Bryce, if you would like to come forward, we'll find your card.

Questions from the Public:

Comments from the Public:

Bryce Pilling – Bryce Pilling, I represent the sportsman for fish and wildlife. I'm the coyote coordinator. We support totally the recommendations. The reason for that is because we have been getting a lot of cheating from out of state and all these things need to be implemented. We strongly advise that you consider and approve this. Thank you.

Dave Black- Okay thank you. Paul, did you say you had a comment card?

Paul Niemeyer- Paul Niemeyer I'm the chairman of the Wayne/Sevier SFW. I've got kind of a question and a comment. If you talk to these livestock producers and most of the sportsman, they feel like this coyote bounty program is helping. We went through a lot of effort to ever get that bill passed and get some money allocated to do it. I have a fear that when we start lowering that down, especially with gas prices going up, we could jeopardize this program. I would rather see, before we put something like that into place, I think that there is money from the legislature probably available, more than we are getting. I also think that any of your hunters would be willing to take a license hike if we air mark it for coyote control. I would like to see some of that effort made too and see if we can raise that fee because I would

hate to tell some guy that's worked as hard as they work to get these coyotes and say "well you only get \$40 or \$35." I would like to see that, and maybe they have proceeded to a point, but those are some comments I have. I think it's a good program that people are involved in. I feel like it's working. I guess the studies will show some things, but anything we can do and it's beneficial to the livestock and wildlife. Thank you.

Dave Black- Okay thank you Paul. Good comments. We are still trying to go through this stack. Did we miss anybody else for this item? Any comments from the RAC on this item? Brian?

Comments from the RAC:

Brian Johnson- I was just wondering if this is going to stop coyotes that have been hit on the side of the road from being scalped immediately or if they're still going to get scalped. I'm good either way.

Dave Black- Okay Tammy.

Tammy Pearson- You have to let me do my smart aleck comment. I'm very thankful, I like the program. I'm really glad that you are going to do the yearly limit and it's a fiscal year so I can really unload my freezer because I've got a beef coming in 30 days. Literally, I'm going to tell my boys "Take the ears to the DWR. Clean that freezer out." I think that any good coyote is a dead coyote. That's my opinion. That is coming from a hunter and a wildlife person. Anything we can do to keep that program going, I'm 100% behind it. I'm not sure that you are going to dumb people and our smartphones, I'm not sure that that is going to work, but we'll try it.

Xeala Walden- We can provide some training for that.

Dave Black- Okay, Mike?

Mike Worthen- I would like to kind of agree with what Mr. Niemeyer said about reducing the bounty down when the five hundred thousand dollars becomes exhausted. To me, that's a fearful way to go, because it reduces the ability or the incentive for people to get out there and hunt coyotes like there is now. I think either bumping the license fee up to help pay for that, I don't know of any hunters that would really be objected to that that are out there hunting coyotes every day or two or three times a week or whenever. I would support a motion that would include that.

Dave Black- Okay it looks like-okay Gene, do you have a comment or are you ready to make a motion?

Gene Boardman- About September, in my travels, I usually see a young coyote hit on the side of the road. One day I saw two in different places. As I drove by, I commented "Well there's a \$50 bill laying on the road." and sure enough, whenever you see one of these, on your return trip, it's gone. Do you have any idea how much you are paying out for incidental coyotes?

Xeala Walden- So I don't have the exact numbers, I would have to look them up, but we do keep track of the method of take and one of those options is roadkill. It's less than 2%. At least last year's was less than 2%, I haven't checked this fiscal year's, but I would imagine it's roughly the same.

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. Before I entertain a motion, I just want to throw out an idea. I would maybe suggest that we break this into two motions. One would be regarding the proposal and the other would be addressing, if so desired, a way to look into additional funding for this program. I'm wondering if maybe that is more appropriate to be in action log, and maybe we would have another motion to recommend that be put as an action log item and then a motion for the presentation. Are you guys okay with that? Okay, we're ready to entertain a motion.

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson- I make a motion that we accept the division's proposal on the predator control program.

Dave Black- Do we have a second? Okay, we have a second from Greg. Any further discussion? All those in favor? Okay that passes unanimous. Do we have a second motion?

Mike Worthen- Since Brian handed me the mic I move that we also make an action item for the DWR to look at funding in addition to the five hundred thousand from the legislature as examples and an increase in permit fees or some way to keep that program going to where they do not need to decrease the \$50.

Dave Black- We can't make the action log item, but we can recommend that the board consider that as an action log item. I think that is the way the motion should read. Do we have a second on that? Okay, we have a second. All those in favor? Any opposed? Gene? Three in favor, one opposed. Thank you. The motion carries. Next action item is number 9, Mineral Mountain bighorn sheep management plan. This is David Smedley. Just keep in mind, we do appreciate everybody being here tonight. We appreciate the comment cards that have been turned in. To be consistent as we go forward after this, if you are here representing an organized group, we will allow you five minutes to make your comments. If you are here representing just as the public or also a member of that organized group that has come forward, we would like to limit that to three minutes. Please keep that in mind as we go forward. We will turn the time over to David.

MINERAL MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT PLAN

David Smedley- Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm David Smedley, I'm going to present our Mineral Mountain Desert Bighorn Sheep Plan tonight. To give you a little background on how we've gotten to where we're at with our plan, so we first approached the Beaver County Commissioners and discussed introducing sheep. Overall, we had support. There were some concerns that we talked about and tried to address, but overall, we felt like we had support from the commissioners to proceed with this. We've coordinated with the BLM through this process and we've had support from the BLM. We took a draft of our plan and we met with the permittees. We got input and concerns and we tried to gather that information and address it and update our plan to address those issues and concerns that were brought up. We took that plan once again to the commissioners. Most of the Mineral Mountains fall within Beaver County and a very little bit on the end falls within Millard county. We went to those county commissioners and discussed and both showed interest and support. Since that time, I think, the Beaver County Commission has changed a little bit on their level of support and hopefully we will hear from them a little bit later tonight after this on their thoughts as of currently. Following that, we met again with the local stakeholders to discuss the plan again that we had updated and changed and other wildlife

related issues. Most everyone here is going to know where the Mineral Mountains are, but for those that don't they're just kind of west of Beaver, east of Milford. The Mineral Mountain range, we've modeled over a hundred thousand acres of suitable habitat, that's all along the mountain range. The majority of that land is of suitable bighorn habitat would be on public land. Here's kind of the model of that habitat. As you get east and west, there's lots of flat grassland and sagebrush. That habitat is central within that unit boundary. As I continue to go through this plan, this is just kind of broken down as our management plan flows. So, our unit management goals and one on one management for a healthy population of bighorn sheep, is to balance the impact they have on cattle grazing and the local economies and then maintain a population that is sustainable within those unit boundaries and within the habitat. Some of the issues and concerns we address, we first discuss potential habitat. There is a lot of habitat there, but there is a lot of room for improvement too, so there is more suitable habitat that can be opened up with some improvement projects. We discuss livestock competition, we've talked about dietary overlap. Bighorn sheep, in papers, have shown to differ from cattle on their annual forage uses seasonally. Typically, they avoid areas with cattle. They select for areas that are more rugged. They are kind of tied to scape terrain, and then they have minimal water requirements. Desert bighorn sheep really don't drink a lot of water compared to other animals. The other issue, disease, that always the big one with bighorn sheep and so spatial separation is obviously a key factor there. And then, predation. Cougars will likely be the main predator for sheep on the mountain range. So, our population management objective is to have a population of up to 175 desert bighorn sheep. To achieve this, our strategies would first start with an initial transplant of a minimum of 40 bighorn sheep. Those will likely come from Zion or the Muddy Mountains, depending on their availability. Then, we will monitor them. We'll place GPS collars on all the bighorn sheep that we translocate. It will monitor movements, survival, and then we will also monitor from the air every two to three years. We will do population surveys there and then ground classification and finally, the predator management to help achieve that population objective. Before we translocate any bighorn sheep, wildlife service will likely go in and remove a lot of those predators, the cougars, to try to help those sheep get established. Then, we will continue to monitor as time goes on. Our disease management objectives, like to help maintain a healthy bighorn sheep population on the Mineral Mountains and then maintain spatial separation between domestic sheep and goats. One of our strategies for these will be that before we move the sheep, we will test the initial source herd, and then we will use opportunistic testing. Once the sheep are moved, we can continue to test the sheep that are there to monitor the health of the herd. Then for spatial separations, we will identify areas of risk where we have concerns with the range, where there could be issues and potential to come in conflict with domestic sheep or goats. We will remove sheep, if necessary. We will also look at potentially fencing areas to try and help prevent that commingling and contact. Our habitat management objectives; one, maintain and prove sufficient habitat and to achieve that population, two, we will support and continue to encourage livestock grazing, and then maintain and enhance the forage that is already there and the forage production through improvement projects, and then improve habitat and water availability where possible. Our strategies for this will be to continue to monitor habitat on an annual basis. The habitat improvement projects of the ? and then the juniper areas surrounding Granite Peak and then all these water improvement projects with the wells and the troughs and a few guzzlers, these are all, as we talked about, we met with the permittees in the BLM, these are our ones that have come up in those conversations that we feel could be beneficial to change and improve those habitat areas or to help with improving water. Our recreation management objectives. So, one is to provide hunting opportunities for the public in accordance to the statewide management plan and two, increase the awareness of the public and expand viewing opportunities for the sheep. Our strategies for these, with hunting, we'll recommend all of those permits in accordance with our statewide plan and we'd like to use U hunts if necessary to

help maintain that population objective. Then, we would like to increase opportunities to view these bighorn sheep and increase the awareness. So, we have a public involvement objective, and this is just, we would like to involve the public, the local stakeholders and cooperating agencies to be involved in this management process, which we've tried to do. We've met with the county commissioners and we've met with the permittees to get that input. Our strategy as this plan goes forward, if there is any plan revision or components of this plan that need to be revised, the local stakeholders and agencies, permittees, will be invited to take place in that process again as we go through and have to revise plans in the future. Our timeline for this could potentially happen as early as this fall, 2018, just depending on the source herd availability. That's all I have for the plan. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. Questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

Tammy Pearson- Hi Dave.

Dave Smedley- Hi Tammy.

Tammy Pearson- If I go back to the...public involvement. "To provide opportunities for local stakeholders and cooperating agencies to be involved in the management process." What does that mean and who are you talking about specifically?

Dave Smedley- So, on those meetings we invited, like the BLM would be an agency. Any of the local permittees that might be affected by that. That is what we've kind of done, and then sportsman groups as well.

Tammy Pearson- So the sportsman groups are considered stakeholders?

Dave Smedley- So the sportsman would be part of that public that should be involved in that process. Because there is an interest that they've got with bighorn sheep there.

Tammy Pearson- So I guess what my question is, if you're talking local stakeholders, there should also be the public landowners, the private property owners.

Dave Smedley- Right.

Tammy Pearson- Your permittees, the BLM, the ?, are you going to do the local management, like the county commissioners or whoever, the public lands people?

Dave Smedley- Right. Yeah, that's what was part of what we tried when we met with the county commissioners, to get those people involved. If, as we went through, if there are any people that we missed, I apologize. We tried to get who we felt should be involved invited to make sure that they were invited to those.

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. Are there other questions? Mike?

Mike Worthen- In the plan you say that the proposal was to transplant 40 individual animals in that area for how long?

Dave Smedley- It would be an initial transplant. Like at one time, kind of release all of them at one time.

Mike Worthen- Would there be a plan to just monitor those for a year or two years to see what they're doing, whether there are going to be problem areas or not?

Dave Smedley- That would be part of it. We would have GPS collars on those to help monitor that, but we will do ground classification and as people go out, we always welcome phone calls if people see sheep, because there are a lot of people on the ground that can cover that too, but yes. We will monitor them from the ground, GPS collars and then aerial surveys within a couple years to see how those sheep are doing.

Mike Worthen- And then after the couple of years of monitoring, you would either add more sheep to the population?

Dave Smedley- That is a potential, yeah.

Mike Worthen- Or leave it as is? Or pull them out if there are major problems?

Dave Smedley- Right. I don't see us pulling them out for that, but I think that there is potential as they go forward. The population is going to grow and another transplant could happen, but we manage for spatial separation. This is an area where we see a great potential to have sheep and maintain spatial separation and give the public an opportunity to have another sheep herd in the state.

Mike Worthen- Okay, and then one other question is, you mentioned that there may be some areas with the domestic sheep interaction. Where are those areas?

Dave Smedley- The closest domestic sheep allotment is probably on the Greenville Bench. They aren't within the unit boundaries, so as you look at that map, the unit boundaries kind of go across the back ruck road and down the Milford highway, Beaver, and up I-15. It kind of boxes it in there. Then, we've got the twin peaks allotment in Millard county to the north. It has domestic sheep on it. Those numbers have been getting smaller and it just barely touches into the boundary on that north end. They're trying to convert to cattle, so that sheep allotment will be gone and converted to cattle within the next two years.

Mike Worthen- But isn't that kind of dangerous knowing the interaction with the domestic sheep and bighorns that even in the ground pasture can still get into the bighorn areas?

Dave Smedley- There is always risk. We try to look at areas where we can minimize that risk. I don't know if you saw this map, we'd like to release those right there near Granite Peak. We put sheep on the Oak Creek in 2014 and most of those sheep can still be found within 3 miles. A lot of those herds, you place, they'll stay if you put them in a good habitat, they stay in those areas. We know that there is a risk, we try to minimize it and do the best we can. As we put them down here, that's also another way to

help minimize the potential for that risk.

Mike Worthen- And then the policy would stand where if a ram moved to the west and crossed over into the crickets, they would be removed?

Dave Smedley- Right. It is definitely within our best interest to not let a sheep that has come into contact with the domestics to not bring that potential disease back to the herd. If they need to be removed, we can remove them, but we'll definitely continue to manage for spatial separation, but yeah, if they are in a potential area, we can go out and remove those.

Mike Worthen- Okay.

Dave Black- Any other questions? Tammy?

Tammy Pearson- So If you have stray animals, what is your time limit or what is your buffer zone that if they are getting down into these smaller domestic herds. I've seen some of your language, you're calling them hobby sheep. Is that just a Northern Utah phrase? Because down here it's not a hobby. That's my question because it was stated earlier in some of our meetings that, that's a kill sheep.

Dave Smedley- So the question you asked...what was our timeline on that?

Tammy Pearson- Yeah, what is your buffer zone or what would your timeline be if they're down hanging around in Greenville or Milford Flat?

David Smedley- So it is in our best interest to react as soon as we can, as we learn that there's sheep in those areas. The cool thing with GPS collars is we can create, we can have a geo fence and we can digitize kind of a buffer and then we can get an alert as those sheep move out and be able to react a little bit quicker.

Tammy Pearson- So will every animal that you bring in at the time will be a GPS collared animal?

Jace Taylor- So my name is Jace Taylor, I'm a Division of Wildlife bighorn sheep biologist. I work with tailored biologists that when we're planning these captures, where we're getting the animals from, how many of them we're going to collar, and that kind of thing. So, budget-wise, no, we're not going to be able to collar every single animal, but our goal is, with this herd specifically, when we're reintroducing and starting new populations, we want to collar a higher percentage of them, so we want to be shooting like 40-50 percent of the herd is our goal.

Tammy Pearson- K. What's an estimated birth rate on your herds?

Jace Taylor- They single; they don't have twins. Very rare for them to have twins. At the most, one.

Tammy Pearson- What kind of ratio?

Jace Taylor- Yeah, so ratios can vary significantly across the state. Some places where we're struggling, we're talking like 20 lambs per 100 ewes. We gaze down that low, but lots of times the

highest ones will be 60-70 lambs per 100 ewes.

Tammy Pearson- That's worse than the horse population! (laughing in background)

Jace Taylor- Yeah, twenty is so rare. That's what we expect somewhere in there.

Dave Black- Any questions down this way? Gene?

Gene Boardman- Since you referred to this reintroduction, I think that we should ask the question of when were bighorn sheep last seen in the Mineral Mountains?

David Smedley- So my understanding from the historical records we've got of sheep on surrounding mountain ranges, and so it makes sense if there's sheep on both sides, that there would be sheep here on the Minerals.

Justin Shannon- Wildlife section sheep. In 1971, there was a paper written by Dalton and Spillet and they looked at the distribution of bighorn sheep in Utah, and they found remains of bighorn sheep or pictographs or petroglyphs in every major river drainage and mountain range in Utah, and so they conclude that they were here historically throughout Utah.

Dave Black- K. Any other questions? We'll turn it over to the public for questions. I did have a question from John Brown and he said, "What happens if they leave their boundary?"

Questions from the Public:

David Smedley- So, you know, we'll look at that on a unit by unit basis, but we're going to continue to manage for that space so we'll look at if they need to be removed, we'll go in and remove them. Or, if they're not in area of concern, you know we'll just look at it on a case-by-case basis.

Dave Black- K thank you. So we'll turn this over to the public now. If there's any questions, please come to the mic. Make sure you state your name and please keep this portion of the meeting to questions only.

Mike Nowers- My name is Mike Nowers and I just want to know about all that property out there and if it has AUM's allocated for cows, deer, where are you getting them for these sheep?

Dave Black- Can you respond to that?

David Smedley- So, we don't have AUM's calculated for wildlife within that, but on another note, those sheep are typically going to feed in areas where they're not going to have that competition with cattle and the dire tier overlap is also minimal there.

Mike Nowers- Why don't you just take them back to the Fifty Mile Mountain and put them back out there?

David Smedley- I don't know where the Fifty Mile Mountain is. Where's the Fifty Mile Mountain at?

Mike Nowers- You've already hauled a whole bunch of them down there. They need to be gone. They don't need to be out here.

David Smedley- Haha, We'll look for opportunities throughout the state. Thank you.

Mark Winch- Mark Winch with the Utah Cattlemen's Association. Yeah, I got a couple of questions. You mention seasonal differences of feed. Does that mean we share the same types of feed, just in different seasons?

David Smedley- Yeah, so they will eat grasses and forbs and shrubs. Some papers have shown they'll eat more shrubs in places and part of that is their type of escape habitat. They can select forage availability within that geographic area. So there is some dietary overlap, but it hasn't been found in the literature to be significant.

Mark Winch- So to clarify, some of these feed sources will come from cattle AUM's?

David Smedley- I don't know that they're coming from cattle AUM's, but there will be some feed.

Mark Winch- Okay. Secondly, on your proposal here, there's 25 percent of that range that's privately held land. What are you going to do with your hobby sheep farms?

David Smedley- So there's 25 percent of land, but that 25 percent is within the whole unit and so it's within the sheep habitat where the sheep are going to stay, it's a lot smaller percent. It's like 4 percent. But those people that have sheep in their backyards, you know we realize they'll continue to have that, and that's just going to be one of those areas of risk that we'll have to watch closely and make sure those sheep aren't going to be able to come in there..

Mark Winch- Okay, one last question. When it comes to these permits, a lot of these sheep permits have been turned to cattle permits. What are you going to do when sheep are on the rise, and some of these cow guys want to turn their cattle permits into sheep permits? Thank you.

David Smedley- Well, so obviously we wouldn't be excited about that because this is an area that currently doesn't have domestic sheep allotments within that unit boundary and ideally, we'd like to see it that way, but....

Mark Winch- So in response to that, what is going to be the Division's policy moving forward? Because this, again I realize that in the recent past, these trends have gone the other way, but they do have the potential to go back and if you're not able to sell that permit to sheep man that would maybe be able to benefit and make use of that, you have taken value from these men here. Just wondering what the policy is going to be and you have to realize that we don't know of an agreement that really been followed with these bighorns yet in the United States, so just want to know where the Division's going to be?

Justin Shannon- I think that's a really fair question. One thing is, we're not a land management agency and so that would be left up to the BLM, but in full transparency, it's not something we would support

because we wouldn't want bighorn sheep populations put at risk. One thing to clarify is, is when Utah was first settled, there were bighorn sheep throughout the entire state and they've all been exterpeted. By the 1960's, we didn't have any Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations left and we had a small remnant herd down by Canyonlands, so everything we've done for bighorn sheep management, has been a restoration effort. I can respect the agricultural interest on that. What if we wanted to switch, but as a state wildlife agency, what we're trying to do is restore some of the native bighorn sheep populations where we can and on the Minerals, this is a spot where we don't currently have active domestic sheep grazing and so we viewed this as a spot that we could potentially take this out through the public process. So, I think the concern you raised is a good one.

Dave Black- K. Other questions?

Pete Yardley- When we met as ranchers and they had it up on the board, did you agree that this was not a reintroduction, that this was an introduction? Was that agreed in that meeting?

David Smedley- We discussed changing the language in that. Um, yes, potentially, but then as we went back and discussed that and looked.

Pete Yardley- When did they ever go back and discuss it with us ranchers?

David Smedley- Right. I'd have to look at that second one, but I think we had changed it, but I don't know if we had changed it by the second one or the third draft. I'd have to go look at the drafts, but I know we talked about that cause it was in the first draft you wanted to change it.

Pete Yardley- That was a big hot item right off the bat. And you guys said, "No, we can't prove there's been sheep there. this is an introduction."

David Smedley- Yeah, we discussed changing that language, but then once we go back and look at the literature and other things, it's hard to say that when you have support that there's been sheep throughout the state.

Pete Yardley- Can you show me where they've been on that allotment the last hundred years?

David Smedley- I personally can't show you, but we can let you read the papers that discuss that.

Pete Yardley- No, I'd like to see the proof because our family has run cattle there for a hundred years. I don't remember any of them ever saying there's bighorn sheep there.

David Smedley- I have one more question for Tammy. It has been brought up that you're all in support of this. When did this happen?

Tammy Pearson- Okay. Kevin Bunnell and I had a pretty good conversation about this. The initial presentation to the commission, these guys understood that we were in support, but there was never a vote, and I told them that there's no way that we are in support of this until there are some conditions met. And, my conditions were what? You meet with the BLM. We had our initial meeting there. We had the public raising. We did the thing and there's never been support and I had that discussion with

Kevin that day and it's been a misrepresentation of the Beaver Commission.

Dave Black- K, Thank you.

Tammy Pearson- Do you agree with that?

David Smedley- Yeah and we were under the impression that there was support, but you never did take a vote. That's correct.

Tammy Pearson- Yes.

Steven Yardley- Steven Yardley with Yardley Cow Company. Just to kind of go over what Pete was mentioning. There are a lot of people and a lot of permittees who take issue with the reintroduction and also with the support. A lot of this stuff just feels like there's just smoke and mirrors to get this pushed through, when there's been no NEPA documentation done on it. Anytime a permittee tries to change those permits over to sheep, they would have to take a NEPA on that BLM ground

Dave Black- Do you have a question, Steven?

Steven Yardley- Yeah, I'd be happy to, but I want to get some background, so that when I do ask the question, it will have some legitimacy to it.

Dave Black- And that's fine. Thank you.

Steven Yardley- Why has there been no NEPA study done on this by the BLM, not by the DWR, but by the BLM when this is a newly introduced species to this area?

Martin Bushman- I can't speak for the BLM, but NEPA is a federal law that applies to federal agencies when they're making a decision, what's called a major federal action. They don't apply to the state. Under the current law, states have the authority to manage wildlife on BLM and forest service lands. They have that primary responsibility. When the state is undertaking actions that deal with the management of wildlife, there is no NEPA that applies because the federal government isn't approving it. They may be working with us and providing input, but they don't have oversight. Cattle on the other hand, that's one of the uses that's managed exclusively by the BLM, so any decision made regarding AUM's or a grazing permit, is going to have to comply with NEPA because it's the BLM that is making the final decision on those actions.

Steven Yardley- Okay so a follow up on that question would be when there's 38% of the total AUM's that those permittees have that are suspended, how does the agency feel justified in putting 175 head of sheep in that same area in direct competition with the livestock there?

Martin Bushman- I couldn't answer how the BLM feels justified in it.

Steven Yardley- I'm not asking how the BLM feels justified, I'm asking how the DWR feels justified when there is 38% of the AUM's in that same area that are suspended, that aren't being used by livestock grazers because the feed is not there, the water and forage isn't available, how does the DWR

feel justified in introducing more animals in that same area?

Martin Bushman- I will let a biologist speak to that.

Justin Shannon- So big horn sheep prefer slopes that are 30 degrees or steeper. I come from a cattle ranching family, and our cows don't like those steeper slopes. What we are really getting at, is there's a partitioning of the landscape. We aren't talking about bighorn sheep grazing on flat surfaces with cattle. Bighorn sheep like a scape terrain, they like to be in nasty steep country where, at least on my families' ranch, the cattle wouldn't go.

Steven Yardley- Well that range, one of the big issues is water. They may not drink much, but they do drink some, and that water isn't in those steep terrains. They're going to have to come down and when they do come down, there will be competition.

Justin Shannon- That may be the case.

Mike Worthen- One of the first things that we were looking at when I first came onto the RAC was increasing the elk numbers over on the Fish Lake. If I remember right, the forest service came up with a letter saying that they opposed that, even though one of their representatives at a previous meeting had supported that, but then the forest supervisor came in and said "We oppose that because we don't have enough AUM's for the cattle and you're trying to put more elk on here that are in direct competition with the cattle." Digging back in, it shows that in the regulations, when you are planning for wildlife transplants, that one of the requirements is to go to the federal government and ask for their opinion. It doesn't mean that you have to follow it, but it does ask for that opinion. In this case, is the BLM on board with this, do they say that there is enough feed up there, how are they with this?

Sean Kelly- I need to correct my colleague on that. That was an error on our part, the forest service. That was not from our supervisor. That was an employee working on his own. I don't want to air our dirty laundry here, but just so you know, that was not the case.

Dave Black- I was just going to point out, we do have a letter from the BLM, and when it is appropriate we will bring that letter forward so you'll be able to hear their position. We will get to that in the comment portion. Okay we'll move on to the comment portion, again, as we go through these, if you represent a group, we will set the time for 5 minutes per group. If you are an individual group that has already presented, 3 minutes and 3 minutes for individuals. Our first one is Mark Winch and he will be followed by Kevin Whicker.

Comments from the Public:

Mark Winch- Thank you to the RAC members. I'm Mark Winch with the Utah Cattlemen's Association. We are opposed to the introduction of this species into an area that they have not been in. I know that it was suggested that they have been throughout the state, however, there has not been a management plan or a grazing plan that has documented those. Therefore, this is an introduction. Bighorns have caused the removal of domestic sheep herds on the Payette Forest as well as in the Uintahs. While there are currently no bands of domesticated sheep in this area, there may be in the future. There have been instances in the past where cattle AUM's have been traded for sheep AUM's

and vice versa. There have also recently been calls that cattle can transmit the same pneumonia that is claimed that domesticated sheep pass on to bighorns. Recently, in an LA Times article, Terry Anderson, a board member of the Society of the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, said they, meaning cattle, can transmit disease to native bighorn sheep, so they, again, the cattle, need to be removed. While Terry is not from Utah, this shows the mentality of many bighorn sheep supporters. This has been an effective way for sportsman's groups, as well as environmentalists, to gain control of range lands that have been cared for and developed on the backs of our ranching communities. Many of these groups have sought to supplant legitimate businesses for their recreation and enjoyment. This is wrong on many levels. Some further questions; will the livestock community be asked, as we have been with the feral horses, to reduce the use so the bighorn sheep may have the range? We know of no agreement that has been kept between livestock permittees and government officials, whether that be with the state or on the federal level, when it comes to keeping us on the range and the bighorns in check. What happens when push comes to shove? That really gets to the rub of the issue. We have been shoved. A lot of these habitats, while there is habitat there and while it may be fitting and suiting on some levels, it just should not be supported. This should not be being introduced here. Livestock will be removed, the AUM's will be given over to someone else. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you Mark. Do you have a problem of giving us a copy of that or letting those guys right over there have it? That way we will make sure that all of that is in the minutes correctly. Kevin will be followed by Brett Behling.

Kevin Whicker- Kevin Whicker, I'm the Beaver County Natural Resource Specialist. I'm here to hopefully represent the county commission. Generally speaking, our county commission is not against the bighorn introduction, but we have some concerns. We cannot leverage the DWR against another agency in wanting to address some of these problems, but they need to be brought up and it has been mentioned today, some permittees have lost their AUM's and that's a concern for us. We would hope that these parties would be able to get together and work for solutions to this problem and be able to get through this. We would also like to be able to continue on this, the committee, the stakeholder committee that was originally brought together, I think that that should be continued on for several years. During the public open houses and these meetings, there were a number of things that were promised by the DWR to these individuals, to these permittees. In the big game management plans for wild sheep, we would like to make sure that those promises and assurances are kept, that they are caudified in that document. Some other concerns we have are the water developments. We know that any of these water developments that take place have the potential to benefit sheep. In those instances, we would like to see the DWR participate or help out or donate funding for water development activities. It seems that whenever there is a water development that takes place or is done by the livestock permittees, it always benefits livestock, but when some of the sportsmans groups or the DWR does a water improvement, they tend to fence out the livestock, so I think that we need to try to do things that benefit both in a cooperative manner. We would like assurance that the sheep that stray from those core sheep areas will be immediately removed by whatever means necessary, meaning specific areas within the Mineral Mountains itself, not the big game boundary as defined by the roads and so forth. The sheep populations need to be held firmly at their objective level and not when they're 20% over that level. They need to be approached prior to that. Lastly, I believe that there is a lot of value to these sheep. I think that there is a potential to bring in a lot of funding and so forth that can benefit everybody, but I think that we need to be very particular of where that money is going and make sure that it is not used as a cash cow for some specific organization, but that it is used for the wildlife. That's what I have to say.

Dave Black- Thank you. Brett will be followed by Kevin Norman.

Brett Behling- I'm Brett Behling with Utah Farm Bureau. Utah Farm Bureau policy, when it comes to the introduction of wildlife, is opposed to it, unless there's buy in from all of the local stakeholders, including the commissioners and the permittees. We're mostly concerned about impacts to livestock grazing, as Steven Yardley and others have mentioned. When there are suspended AUM's and we introduce additional species, we know that there's competition with the livestock and we're greatly concerned about that. As far as the local buy in and the process of inviting all stakeholders, we haven't been involved up to this point, and we would request that as the state committee presents a new plan, and as they form a new group, we'd like to be involved in that process, so that we can represent our members and our ranchers, and as we go forward, we want to have some input in this process. Another concern that we have, is that we're concerned about impacts to water. We know that the bighorn sheep drink little water, but water improvement projects are a big priority for all of our ranchers, whether it be sheep or cattle and we're concerned there, as well as the impacts they may have with the disease that's been mentioned before. We have several members here tonight, the ranchers, and I don't want to take their comments, but as we go forward, we're concerned that when we have issues like the Henry Mountain Bison that we've been dealing with, a lot of times these species don't stay where it stays in the plan and as those bison get out of control, we have significant impacts with ranchers. Just this last week with the Henry Mountain group, we're trying to facilitate some AUM exchanges to compensate the ranchers because they've had to voluntarily remove cattle because of impacts of wildlife and those are some of the concerns that we have with this situation that we have here. We appreciate all that's been involved and we apologize for not having more information on the subject, but we've had short notice that this has been an issue coming forward because we haven't been involved in the process and as far as the Beaver County Commission, we've had concerns from them and the ranchers in the area that they're not involved, so until they are, Utah Farm Bureau will oppose this.

Dave Black- Thank you. So Kevin Norman will be followed by Craig Willden.

Phil Tuttle- Dave can we turn those mics off for a minute? We're getting some reverb coming back.

Kevin Norman- I'm Kevin Norman representing myself. As a sportsman, I support the sheep on the Minerals. If you look around at desert sheep tags, they're astronomical prices and anything to increase opportunity, I'm in support of. It sounds like there can be compromise and the sheep can flourish in these mountains without too much competition, so I highly support this, and love the extra opportunity.

Dave Black- So Craig will be followed by Allen Wood.

Craig Willden- I am representing myself and the members of the SFW as well. I would like to sheep on the Mineral Range. I am not old, but I am getting older and sometimes there's some viewing opportunities that we could have. As we get older, we can't hike in those steep hills anymore, but with the options we have now, we could take a nice a little afternoon picnic and view the sheep. I really don't feel like there will be problems with them coming down into the rangeland, interfering with the cattle. I think as we move through this process, everybody, livestock, as well as wildlife, will benefit from the monies that will go into that mountain and help us all. Thank you.

Dave Black- Allen will be followed by Randy Davis.

Allen Wood- I'm Allen Wood and I'm part of the SFW, but I also have personal private property and rangeland and I'd like to see the sheep on the mountain, but also I'd like to make sure that the ranchers are taken care of, that there's not a threat to their livelihood. Also, I think in some of the wording that the DWR talked about, it kind of bothered me when the gentleman over asked if there was a problem, would you take the sheep off, and he said, "No, we wouldn't do that." I think that's a concern because the cattlemen have been there, that's their livelihood. I think with some better words, not being so vague, and maybe some of the meetings and the hearsay and talk that we've heard, for some reason, when we come out of these meetings, there's two different stories. So, I think if we formed a committee, or got a committee together from all the different agencies and different people involved, maybe we could get the story straight, instead of getting a lot of different comments from it. Thanks.

Dave Black- Thank you. So, Randy will be followed by Paul Marshall.

Randy Davis- My name is Randy Davis. Just a couple of comments. You know we've all lived in Beaver, most of us, for most of our lives, and we understand the interest we have in cattle. You know, my wife's family has been involved in the cattle business all their lives. I understand that they're trying to make a living and make things work here. I think the biggest thing here is to be open and honest with each other. If there's things that the cattlemen really need and want, and there's ways that we can make it work, I think we should sit down together and make it work. You know, I hate to see this "us" against "them" kind of thing that happens here. As a sportsman, I love to see bighorn sheep on the Mineral Mountains. I think it would be great. I think we can make it work, but I think there has to be honest, open dialect between everybody to make it happen, so that's my thing. If the cattlemen feel like they haven't been included enough, let's include them some more and try to work things out. I'm for it. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you, Randy. Paul Marshall will be followed by Paul Niemeyer.

Paul Marshall- My name is Paul Marshall. I am a member of SFW, also a member of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, although I do not represent either. Standing here today, I represent myself. A couple of thoughts on this. As an avid hunter, OIAL permits are actually less than OIAL for most of us and so anytime we get an opportunity to increase the opportunity for OIAL hunts, I am in favor of that. I would love to see sheep in my backyard. I think it would be awesome to be able to go there and see them. I think it would bring a benefit to our community, economically and everything else. I'm also neighbors with all of these cattlemen here. I appreciate what they do. I appreciate what you guys do. You guys are put in awkward situations and it's challenging, and I appreciate you volunteers who are on this committee. I would like to see our cattlemen represented fairly and all the stakeholders represented fairly. One item of rebuttal that I would like to mention, there has been talk about water being brought in by wildlife organizations that don't necessarily benefit cattle. SFW took on a project several years ago on the Greenville Bench. We dumped a lot of money into that project. It runs in my mind that it was about \$40,000, although I do not have evidence of that right now. That project was put into place for cattle and for wildlife. With some agreements made with some cattlemen, and as far as I know, those agreements weren't necessarily kept and that's sitting out there, hardware in place, so to speak, with no benefit to anybody. And so, that could benefit wildlife and cattle if it was actually followed through with the agreements that were made initially. Other things that I would like to mention are, let's remember we are multiple use lands; we share it and we need to be fair with each other on that. Some of

the things that I think would benefit everybody involved is decrease in predators. With the sheep on the mountain, there would be a significant amount of pressure put on predators and also water and habitat improvement. There's been fires out in that area. There is more habitat now than there's ever been in my opinion. But I would like to see that improved for sheep and for cattle. Put some money in there, improve some water lines. Thank you.

Dave Black- So Paul will be followed by Sean Limb.

Paul Niemeyer- Paul Niemeyer again from Sevier/Wayne SFW. I'd like to talk a little bit about one thing here and that's public use of our public lands. Everybody in here, with almost no exception, are probably consumptive users, timber, mining, grazing, hunting, fishing, ATV use, viewing, whatever. We need to share this land. I think that one of the things that is really in the permittees minds right now, and probably don't realize as much as the sportsmans is this wild horse thing. That is a great example of something we can't control, through all the legislative processes. But sheep are something we can control. They are traditionally, not competitive with livestock. They live where cows really don't want to go too much. So I don't see a real issue there. I think the sportsman would be the first people to step up and do some habitat improvement and water projects; whatever it takes to make this sheep thing work, but it involving in that, if we can make it good for livestock and for wildlife both it would be the win-win. I think we can do that if we work together. Our group supports this transplant or reintroduction, or however we want to refer to it, but I think, like has been mentioned, that we do need to work together and we need to be partners in all this because we're going to be the ultimate losers, all of us that are consumptive users if we don't get together on some of these issues and work it out and I think we can. You start doing some habitat and water projects, it's just got to help. We're willing, as the sportsmen, to pay our share to make this work and hopefully it will work for the livestock industry just as well. Thank you.

Dave Black- So Shawn will be followed by Greg Bird.

Phil Tuttle- Dave it's your mic that's giving us some problems, thanks.

Shawn Limb- I'm Shawn Limb. I'm a member of the SFW and was vice president for quite a few years. I represent myself, but if anybody's been around sheep, anywhere on this mountain where there's OIAL sheep, you know their babied and they're taken damned good care of. If you put sheep on that mountain, it's going to be one of the best ranges there are. If I'm right, I think it's been offered for 5 years that they put \$15,000 to \$20,000 improvement on that range, if I'm right, so I'm all for it. Thank you.

Dave Black- Greg will be followed by Travis Jensen.

Greg Bird- Good evening RAC members. Greg Bird, Utah Wild Sheep Foundation. We're in full support of the Division's recommendation to reintroduce, translocate, or however we want to term this, sheep introduction back into the Mineral Mountains. Desert sheep, as a whole, or just bighorns themselves, are a precious resource. They're not in many places on this earth and there are not many new units that get opened back up once they've left. We look at this as a great opportunity to share the ranks. We believe there is plenty for both the cattlemen and the sportsmen in this case. We have committed a significant amount of money for habitat improvement, as well as water. So we are

committed 100% to see this through and to put our money where our mouths are. We'd really love to see this go through. We think it would be a great thing for the community as a whole and thank you very much for your time. We appreciate it.

Dave Black- K. Travis will be followed by Kelly Rollins.

Travis Jensen- My name is Travis Jensen. I'm president of the Utah Wild Sheep Foundation. Our organization has invested millions of dollars into wild sheep conservation and habitat improvement projects in Utah over the past 30 plus years. On behalf of my membership and board of directors, I would like to voice our support of the translocation of desert bighorn sheep to the Mineral Mountains by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Our organization has been and continues to work with local grazing interests on the Mineral Mountains to address their concerns associated with this project. Unfortunately, all of those efforts have not been successful. However, Utah Wild Sheep Foundation remains committed to investing in both water and habitat improvement projects on the Minerals, as well as supporting local grazing interests in their efforts to improve overall rangeland health. Once again, I'd like to voice our organization's support for this project and personally thank the Utah Division of Wildlife for their efforts to enhance desert bighorn sheep populations in the state of Utah to benefit both non-sportsman and sportsman interests alike. There's a couple of things I would like to point out. Wild sheep have been a primary unduleet with the range spreading from the Arctic Circle to Central Mexico, so to assume that wild sheep, as they spread from the Arctic Circle to Mexico, bypass the Mineral Mountains, is naive at best. My organization has offered and committed in excess of \$370,000 to give grazers incentive to refrain from running domestic sheep and to facilitate water and habitat improvements on the range to offset any impacts that reintroduction of wild sheep would have on the Minerals. Utah Wild Sheep Foundation is not in support of removing any grazing rights on federal lands. Rather, we are interested in working with and financially addressing the habitat and water issues associated with the reintroduction of wild sheep. Comparing bison, elk, or other unduleets than desert sheep is like comparing apples to oranges. It has been mentioned that desert bighorn sheep and bighorn sheep, in general, utilize slopes in excess of 70 degrees, and I'm not a cattleman, but I don't think that is the habitat the cattle are utilizing on a regular basis. Now there was mention about the DWR. Direct competition is minimal at best. If you look at it from an AUM perspective, 175 wild sheep equates to 420 AUM's. There's currently in excess of 11,000 AUM's on the Mineral Mountains, so that's 3.6 percent. We're talking about limited impact, at the very most, if they competed 100%, if desert bighorn sheep utilized the exact same forage areas, which they don't, as the cattle, (remember we're talking about 3.6% of the current AUM's on the Minerals) the impacts are going to be significantly less than that. They utilize the escape terrain, which is the cliffs and the rocks and they don't associate with cattle. Thank you.

Dave Black- So Kelly will be followed by Travis Seifers.

Kelly Rollins- Hi. I'm the Beaver County SFW President and we are totally in support of the Division's recommendations to put sheep on the mountain--100%--and we will put money on the mountain.

Dave Black- Thank you. So Travis will be followed by Terry Wiseman.

Travis Seifers- Hi. I am Travis Seifers and I am a member of the SFW and I'm representing myself and I'd like to support the Division on this.

Dave Black- Thank you and Terry will be followed by Wayne and Carol Wiseman.

Terry Wiseman- I'm Terry Wiseman and I support the SFW in putting the sheep on the Mineral Mountains. I know back in the early sixties, there was sheep in Pine Valley and I just want to say that I'm in support of it.

Dave Black- So Wayne and Carol will be followed by Steven Yardley.

Wayne and Carol Wiseman- I'll speak for my wife for a change. I am concerned with the cattle to a point, but I do feel that there is enough room for both and so I'm in support for having the sheep on the Minerals.

Dave Black- Thank you. Steven will be followed by Paula Richmond.

Steven Yardley- I'm Steven Yardley with Yardley Cattle Company and I'd just like to say that I'm not necessarily opposed to the introduction of the desert bighorn sheep on the Minerals, but I think that some things need to be clarified and taken care of beforehand. There's been a lot of talk about water improvement and about range improvement projects and habitat projects to facilitate the introduction. And I would like from the get-go that the "reintroduction" be crossed out and "introduction" be put in because it is an introduction. My dad just walked into the room. He had another meeting he had to be to, but he's 85 years old. He probably has as much history living primarily on that mountain as anyone from that far back and he's never seen any desert bighorn on it and there never were any. We do not have any permits on that area, but within that range we have about 2000 acres of crested wheatgrass and personally we've taken the time and money to develop that ground along with the water for that ground for livestock, and the wildlife utilize it, but there's been a lot of wildlife and the antelope numbers have increased dramatically since we've been out there. While you say that wildlife don't always interfere with livestock grazing, when the population management are perennially over what they're supposed to be, then there is an infringement on grazing rights. We feel that before the Division introduce any desert bighorn sheep into that area, that the projects need to be done beforehand and that those 38% suspended AUM's need to be taken off and made active again. I think if we can do that, after we've sat down and made some agreements on both sides, then with that.... That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you, Steven. Paula will be followed by Kenny Chapman.

Paula Richmond- Good evening. My name is Paula Richmond and I'm grateful to be here and I'm thankful for all of you and the time that you dedicate to wildlife and to everything out here. I am representing myself and I am in support. I have two kids. I am a hunter. My family is a hunting family. My kids have already harvested a few animals and I really really hope that they can hunt desert sheep in their backyard. It would be unbelievable. For me, it would be awesome. For them, it would be just beyond imaginable, so for me, that's a huge motivator. Obviously, we've had it mentioned a few times, sheep are precious. People take care of precious things and I don't see problems. If there are water issues now, I think that's probably going to go away. Things are going to happen to improve things there and I think working together is another big thing. Concessions need to be made so that we don't get greedy and take things that aren't rightfully ours and we need to work together and make sure that things are distributed for all users for those that are going to be using the land for all different things. If you

bring it, money will come. Build it, it will come. That's all I have. Thank you very much.

Dave Black- So Kim will be followed by Brandon Yardley.

Kim Chapman- I'm Kim Chapman, Board Member of the Utah Wool Growers Association. The Utah Wool Growers Association is opposed to having bighorn sheep transplanted into areas where they were not historically found, such is the case on the Mineral Mountains. If the Utah DWR decides to knowingly place bighorn sheep where there is a high likelihood that they will come into contact with domestic sheep, inasmuch as there is a historic sheep trail, which runs past the proposed introduction site, and is still heavily used to trail herds to and from 6 or 7 BLM grazing allotments for some 24,000 head of domestic sheep that graze within 30 miles of the Mineral Mountains, then the Utah DWR should rightly shoulder the risk to those animals and hold the domestic sheep producers blameless for any potential health risk to the bighorn population. If Utah DWR proceeds to transplant the bighorn sheep on the Mineral Mountains, then the Utah Wool Growers Association formally requests a Memorandum Of Understanding between DWR and the Wool Growers Association as a representative organization of the affected sheep producers using the area surrounding the Mineral Mountains be included in the official management plan and that said MOU details that the Utah DWR is knowingly placing bighorn sheep, which are not historically native, into a high risk area where there is a high likelihood that they will contact domestic sheep and that the Utah DWR assumes all risk and will be held responsible for the health of the bighorn herd. Ere go, if there is a microplasma open pneumonia or ? issue and further that the Utah DWR will not come back on the sheep producers or the domestic sheep herds if there is such a problem. If the the DWR will not agree to include an MOU, removing any fault from the historic domestic sheep producers in the area, then the Utah Wool Growers Association is adamantly opposed to having bighorn sheep transplanted into the area of the Mineral Mountains. Just on a personal note, the bighorns have been a hammer against the sheep industry as it was alluded to in the Payette decision and the Uintahs, those are both Forest Service managed areas. The BLM is a federal agency and accordingly, they often follow suit and so we don't want to see that used as a hammer against the industry that contributes millions, not just hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Utah economy. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. I was going to ask if you could leave a copy of that? Thank you. So Brandon will be followed by Adam Bronson.

Brandon Yardley- I'm Brandon Yardley representing Yardley Leasing and Yardley Living Trust. So 25% of this area is private ground. You showed that there was 4% where the sheep would be. Your antelope haven't stayed where they're supposed to, your elk don't stay where they're supposed to, the deer don't stay where they're supposed to. Sheep owners hire sheepherders and a pack of dogs to keep the sheep where they're supposed to. We don't see that there will be any difference between your elk, antelope, deer, etc. I don't care if we're comparing apples and oranges. They're not going to stay where they're supposed to. There's 25% that is private ground. This is not a reintroduction! There were woolly mammoths and buffalo too. Were we going to reintroduce those too? There hasn't been any sheep on those mountains for over a hundred years. We know that. I may want to run sheep in the future. I may buy a hundred head tomorrow, turn them out on our 6000 acres that are in this unit, and I may get them out there before yours come. It was stated that our talks were unsuccessful with the Rocky Mountain Sheep Foundation because we didn't take their offer, they called them unsuccessful. We were still negotiating. We wouldn't accept their offer because we were asking for things in writing. It started

out with a 15 year lease, went to a 25 year, then went to a forever lease. I would say they were unsuccessful in offering what we were asking. In every case that I'm aware of, the domestic sheep are removed if there is a problem. The wild sheep are given priority even if they are the last ones on the range. This proposed unit does include a portion of a current domestic sheep range. Randy Larsen's allotment comes across the highway just outside of Milford, it goes down to the railroad tracks and that is inside this range. So I just want to correct that. Randy can run sheep right there, so it's inside this allotment. We received a letter this spring from the BLM, stating that we need to have a plan in place where to take our cows if the dry season continues, because there won't be enough forage for our cows. And now, suddenly, there's enough forage for a new species. We don't think that's right. It was stated that you would fence in the cattle or the sheep to minimize where they move, but then that is fencing our cattle off of their current range. I don't think we need to put up fences to fence our cattle off where they should be allowed to be, where they have been for the last 50 years. It really comes down to, "Is recreation and entertainment more important than someone's livelihood?" We're trying to make a living. In 2016, we fed 80 deer in our fields (down in the Milford Flat) 95 antelope and 2 elk. In 2017, we've fed 30 antelope and 85 deer. If I'm feeding sheep in 2018 or 2019, whatever happens, I'm not going to feed the antelope and the deer. I'll give a 72 hour notice and I will kill any wildlife that are on my private property. We can't afford to feed all of these wildlife and try to stay in business. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. Adam will be followed by Scott Stubbs.

Adam Bronson- Adam Bronson, representing myself. I appreciate the time and opportunity to address the RAC tonight. I would have to respectfully disagree, even though it's somewhat semantics whether we call this "reintroduction" or "introduction." Eighty five years, 100 years, cause that's the historical context that's in this county, doesn't mean there wasn't bighorn sheep on the Tushars or anywhere around us. It was very well documented in all the trappers and historical documents, late 1700's early 1800's. They were the most notable bighorn game species around southern Utah. And so, to have something in the last 100 years prove it, I realize maybe that doesn't exist, but that's a moot point in my opinion. I think a lot of what's going on here, is probably a fear of the unknown. I support this transplant wholeheartedly. I'm very passionate about bighorn sheep in the state of Utah, but I realize my perspective and having studied them in college and the last 20 plus years, I understand them perhaps differently than others in the room that have not been exposed to them or around them. I realize that there's where some of the perspectives and the fears are coming from, but I just want to add my 2 cents to the fact that there is a seperational issue here. I know that there are a lot of concerns that these sheep aren't going to be herded, aren't going to be gathered, aren't going to be watched. Desert bighorn sheep are not prolific animals, they're not. They want to be left alone, they want to use the most rugged escape terrain that they can have and even though 25% on the whole unit from I-15 to the highway to Milford might include 25% land. You know, that's only 4% of the model range that is even in close proximity to private land. I realize that with a new species there's fears, but as somebody that's been on all bighorn sheep units throughout the state of Utah, from the Henry Mountains, Verland's country, to Desolation Canyon, it doesn't matter, the conflicts with cattle, I don't see them. They don't exist. The water issues, the things like that are just founded in fear of the unknown. I don't fault people for that. I guess a deer sized animal, if we were recommending 175 more deer on the Mineral Mountains, I wonder if there would be anybody here really opposing that? That's really what we're talking about here, but we're also talking about something that can live on the top of that mountain range up there. So 175 sheep as a maximum population objective, you know over 100,000 plus suitable acres, we're talking about 35 or 40 equivalent cattle AUM's.

Dave Black- Adam I'm going to have to cut you off.

Adam Bronson- So anyway, I appreciate the time and I fully support that recommendation.

Scott Stubbs- Scott Stubbs representing myself. I've spent my whole life out here in these hills, and I've never seen any evidence of bighorn, but I can prove there were dinosaurs. I know where there's actual proof of dinosaurs. Nope, haha, we're not going to go back to there, but that's neither here nor there. When you say that you involved all the people affected by this in the decision, we've had battles as far away as Brian Head to Zion Park over the bighorn sheep and I run south of Minersville. Nobody's ever said anything to me. That said, I can appreciate that you guys are agreeing that it won't be a problem, you won't let them roam, and people are saying, "We don't need to worry," about the unknown. It's not an unknown. They kicked the sheep off in Idaho. They're doing it in the Uintahs, so I'm opposed to this thing, because you can't guarantee. All you guys are good guys, but you'll be gone, and I'll probably still be going, you know? You just can't make promises of what the environmental groups will do with the court system, so I'm opposed because of that. Not because I think all your projects, and all the sportsmen money and support, I think that's great. And I'm for the sportsmen having them. It's just I don't want them to have them at my expense. Thank you.

Dave Black- So Floyd will be followed by Pete Yardley.

Floyd Yardley- I'm Floyd Yardley. I'm the president of the ____? ____? ____ Association, which this includes the Mineral Mountains on both sides. One thing I would like to say, we have tried to negotiate with the Rocky Mountain Sheep Foundation. Our prime concern is rangeland health. They have made promises. He mentioned that they offered \$300,000. The most they offered was \$90,000 and it went down from there. Then they came up with the stipulation that they would show us how to spend it and we didn't think this was right. They also wanted us to give them from now until the end of time and never have to renew it. They just wanted us to renew it for maybe a dollar at a time. The other thing is, we would like them to be held accountable for the rangeland health. If NEPA comes up, we don't want to be the ones that have to pay for that. Some of the other things that have come about, we all hear about the Wildlife Division putting in all this money and doing everything, uh, but there's never been anything put up as yet that we're aware of. They gave us a whole list that was 2 or 3 pages long, and very little of it concerned this range. We are concerned about this. It will probably impact us. One other thing, when they came out, they said, "We want 175 head, we won't hunt them for 5 years, when we do hunt them, it will have to be a 5 yr old ram." Now if they don't produce in that 5 years, they're darn poor sheep, that's all I can say. I think something needs to be done. It's just like the elk or anything else. There's no control. When we met with the DWR, they told us, they said, "We don't care. We're going to do it, whether you guys approve it or whether you don't." If they're going to have that attitude and take the public domain away from us, we think it's only fair that maybe we receive one of the tags or maybe two tags a year for the upkeep and the maintenance of the ground and also the maintenance of the water lines, so that these things can be taken care of. Thank you.

Dave Black- So this is Pete Yardley, right? He'll be followed by Wade Eliason.

Pete Yardley- One thing I wanted to kind of address on the NEPA. I do understand that the DWR don't have to do anything, but the BLM is in charge of rangeland health. If they can only manage one species for rangeland health, then it's cattle who loses every time, cause rangeland health has to be a priority for

all of us. If we don't have it, eventually, you guys are off it too. I think the one thing that we're all mislooking here. How many of you boys would let me bring a wild horse to put in your backyard because I want it? You're putting sheep on us, on our private land, without asking us to have a vote. If you want to see the documents, we sat with ____? until yesterday. We wouldn't give them a hundred year lease. They asked for more than 25. We agreed to a 25. We wouldn't give them more, so they said, "What's your deal?" Because we had a meeting a few nights ago. "What are you going to do with this after your meeting?" I said, "I think until we're done negotiating, (because we had negotiations still on the table from yesterday), that we were going to ask the RAC to please wait before you make a decision." and they said, "If you're going to do that, we want to rescind our offer." So their offer has been rescinded. We have tried to work with them. We had twelve questions on here; we got down to three. One of the questions is we wanted them to go to the seed producers. Because they say these sheep will travel 25 miles. "No," they insisted. We're the only ones that have tried to protect the rest of the ranching community, that's outside this allotment and it's a crying shame because, right now, all of our Mineral Mountain ground, 6000 acres, has been accessed by any hunter that wants it, any recreation. There's not been No Trespassing or Keep Off or No Hunting signs on one drop of that ground on that mountain. You tell me where else they let you do that? We've tried to be good neighbors, but we don't think this is being a good neighbor, when they dictate to us on our private land. So, I thank you and I hope you guys will address that because if you don't, I'd sure like you to pay the consequences, which should be if a fourth of the ground belongs to us, we get a fourth of the money of the tax for compensation because you're basically taking the ground from us, through no choice of our own. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. Wade Eliason followed by Bryce Pilling.

Wade Eliason- Wade Eliason Utah Farm Bureau State Board and Utah Wool Growers Board. We can call this multiple use. We can call this fair. We can call this hunting with our kids. We can call this passing it to the next generation, but as I sit here and listen to the things that are discussed tonight, I envision my friends up in northern Utah, sitting in the same situation, being asked, "Can we put bighorn sheep on this country and them saying, "Yeah, let's agree to this, we're going to be good neighbors." Today, or in February, I sat in a meeting with those permittees, wondering if this summer if they're going to have any place to go with their sheep, because they had been promised verbally and in writing that they would not be affected, but they were trying to be good neighbors. So the question is, is how are we going to be good neighbors? How are we going to make this work for everyone? Until we figure this out, I am opposed to this bighorn ??? Thank you.

Dave Black- Bryce will be followed by Gib Yardley.

Bryce Pilling – I'm Bryce Pilling. I'm just representing myself. I come from Millard County where we had the sheep transplant from a few years ago up there. I just wanted to let the RAC know, that just like David said, they haven't gone anywhere. Where were they? In a three square mile place. They run cattle up there; there's been no problem whatsoever. We support it and the sportsmen from Millard County support it also. Thank you.

Dave Black- Gib will be followed by Jake Benson.

Gib Yardley- I'm Gib Yardley. I apologize for being late. I was at another meeting over in the

courthouse. They're trying to transplant a lot of these pigs from down to the pig farm up here. And we're fighting that, because we don't want them in this valley. Well I'm opposed to this other species coming in, these desert bighorn sheep, because I don't think we've got the extra feed to support them and we've got about 4 or 5 miles of fence that joins this range and are we going to be able to keep them out of our fields? Well I hope so! We've spent thousands of dollars developing the allotted crested wheat grass pastures, and I hope we can keep them out of there. I feel for these people that run sheep, because I've read about other places where they've just absolutely about ran them off their range because they're worried about the diseases that these bighorns get from the others, so I don't think we've got any extra feed and I'm opposed to just keep transplanting all these different species. He was just telling me yesterday that they have 500 antelope out there on the north end of the range...500!! They're just increasing all the time and they give about 10 permits out. You just can't take all these other species from all over the country and be dropping them on top of everybody. I've learned for 50 years about the Parker Mountain and all the damned antelope that's up there and they ought to just go kill them all and just let them lay there, cause nobody wants them, but then they grab them and they dump them on all these other ranges. I just had 50 head in my field down there, over there at my ranch, south of Hatch and Asay Creek. We never had any antelope there until last fall. I saw twelve head and there just increasing everywhere. We can't turn this whole state into a wildlife preserve. We've still got to make a living. So I hope you don't grant these sheep coming here. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you Gib. So Jake will be followed by Jennifer.

Jake Benson- Uh I'm Jake Benson. I'm here with the Utah Wool Growers Association and Cedar Livestock Association as well. I'm a chair for the Utah Wool Growers Young Entrepreneur and a chair for the American Sheep Industry and the Entrepreneur program as well. I have a few questions. In regards to knowing how sheep operate, with the bighorn sheep and knowing the Mineral Mountains, they give pretty good snowpack, so where are they supposed to winter at throughout their yearly range. If the desert bighorn sheep do well in deep snow, (which I don't think they do too well in deep snow) is that going to jeopardize the 24,000 head of domestic sheep that graze within the proximity of the Mineral Mountains? The winter range is primarily very crucial to the sheep industry and 24,000 head of sheep, economically does not go unnoticed in Utah and I don't want these desert bighorn sheep to jeopardize that. Sheep in Utah. We rank fifth in the nation in sheep and wool production. I don't know where cattlemen sit in national rankings, but I know sheep and wool production in Utah is a viable industry and it has to continue to do that and our numbers are actually on the rise because we have quality people that are wanting to improve. Anyways, I also question the scientific integrity of the pass of pneumonia with these desert bighorn sheep. Another question. Where's the most successful and thriving herd of bighorn sheep in the state of Utah?

Dave Black- This is a comment section, so we'll treat this as comments.

Jake Benson- Alright, I myself, am an aspiring young entrepreneur and by introducing bighorn sheep, I think they're taking away the opportunity for growth of domestic sheep producers in the state of Utah, such as myself. I run my sheep south of Minersville, on the Parowan Gap in the winter time. I know that's a little ways away from the Mineral Mountains, but I still have an interest in this. And what is the definition of spatial distance? I question that also. Are the bighorn sheep the next desert turtle? the next wild horse? the next prairie dog? or the next Virgin River Chub? And if so, what are we going to do about this? If there is a die-off of the bighorn sheep, who's going to get blamed? The livestock men or

the management of the DWR? That's all I've got to say.

Dave Black- Thank you. Appreciate you. Jennifer followed by William.

Jennifer McInay- Hi my name is Jennifer McInay. I'm the Chapter Chair of the Beaver Utah Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and I'm actually here by request of our Regional Manager for the state of Utah, Bill Christensen and he wants everyone to know that Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is in full support of bighorn sheep on the Mineral Mountain. We believe it will give opportunities for more hunters and provide diversity with our wildlife. Thank you.

Dave Black- William uh followed by Victoria Carrol and they'll be followed by Troy Justensen.

Victoria Carrol- Hi my name is Victoria Carrol. I'm a sheep producer in southern Utah. I'm also a Board of Director for Utah Wool Growers, here representing myself today. I've talked with Maggie Highlander, who's a researcher up at Washington State University. She says these bighorn rams will travel 75 miles looking for ewes, so the buffer zone to me is not important. They're going to travel where they want to go. The male sheep will go where there are ewes. Also with mycoplasma pneumonia, in 2011, the state vets came down and tested domestic sheep herds throughout the state. It's prevalent in Utah domestic sheep. How are you going to take a population of sheep and put them on the Mineral Mountains that are naive to that and not have them come in contact? One of the guys at the last fall meeting in Beaver, said that if a ram traveled that far and got out of the premises, they'd shoot him. That's what they did in Payette. It created national outcry. 10,000 sheep or more up there, are kicked off their range. Zion's EIS most recent statement says they have 800 sheep down in the national park, 800 sheep down there that are pushing outside its borders. How about we manage that population, not just in transplanting around the state. Let's open that up for some of the hunts. There's some big sheep down there. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Dave Black- K. Troy will be followed by Parker Fails.

Troy Justensen- Troy Justensen, SFW. I support that proposal. Let's start hunting those sheep in Zion National Park. (clapping) It's been interesting to sit here tonight and see both sides argue their standpoint. I think both sides have some valid points, but I do think there is some misconception. I want to know when the cattle and domestic sheep were native to the state of Utah? They were transplanted as well...no different, absolutely no different. The other thing is, is we talk a lot about these wildlife moving, that they don't know boundaries. Those of you that are familiar with the Beaver Mountain, up here on the top here. There are a couple of allotments that are closed to grazing. Guess what? You guys have cows up there all summer long. So not only do wildlife travel, so do domestic livestock. They travel. SFW supports this for a number of reasons. First, as a county commissioner, you have a lot of constituents in this room, not only that represent livestock, but outdoor. To my knowledge, in the hunting and fishing industries, it's the second or third largest in the state, is substantial. We talk about it just being a past time. It's not a past time. Especially in these small towns, there's a lot of people that make a living through guiding, through hunting, through gas and groceries that is bought at these places. It's also talked about that there's six thousand acres on the Minerals, that if sheep get on there, it will kill them, whatever. It's funny that we didn't show any respect of boundaries when that burned, and Sportsman's flitted the bill to fly seed on there. We didn't say, "No, don't drop it on there, that allotment belongs to that guy." "No, that's private property, don't drop it on

that!” We treated it as a whole. We dumped a substantial amount of money out there. Maybe I’m wrong. Maybe it’s to the point that you know what, you livestock guys were right, that there’s no feed out there. Maybe it’s time to go there and we recommend that we remove a lot more mouths off that mountain. We’ve a lot of posturing going here tonight because we’re all divided up on sides. The truth of the matter is we know, which Pete’s admitted to me in other units, there’s enough damn feed out there for our cows and our wildlife, but yet we want to sit and punch each other here in the face. We’re willing to work together and we’re willing to find the solutions to where both sides agree. We’re not here to put anybody out of business. I keep hearing all this stuff, that well, so and so got put out of business in northern Utah, yada yada yada....you got to quit looking at your smartphones. That’s all freaking fake news. Give me one specific with the names of what it is and who it was?

(Someone yells out from the audience)- Shawn Limb.

Troy Justensen: Wow me! Correct? Was he kicked off a Utah allotment?

(Voice from audience)- He’s been threatened.

Troy Justensen: He’s been threatened. Okay. Coming from a federal agent, as far as the state goes, and we say the wild sheep are not shot, that’s wrong. I know 6-12 head that ventured toward the Colorado line, the domestic sheep weren’t removed, the wild sheep were removed, they were killed and I support that. And there’s no difference to what would be here on the Minerals. If those sheep move, if they go off where they’re not supposed to, let’s kill them. 100%. If they get down into trouble with the domestic livestock, let’s remove them. We can both win here. This is the important part. I think it’s a great advantage to the community here, to both sides. So we support the Division’s recommendations. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. So, we’re down to our last comment card and this is Parker Fails.

Parker Fails- Hi my name is Parker Fails. Thank you for being here tonight and giving us the opportunity to speak out. I’m a resident of Beaver. I, too, have spent time in many sheep units throughout the state of Utah. I’ve never seen an issue anywhere, in every unit there’s cattle. I’ve never seen an issue between these sheep and the cattle. Lots of times, these sheep are misunderstood, especially when they’re being brought in somewhere they haven’t been for a long time, and that’s change and it’s hard for a lot of people to understand and to deal with, but that land out there, it’s just as much my land as it is anybody else’s. If they run cows out there, that’s great and I want them treated fairly. We all want that. We don’t want to see any of the cattlemen treated unfairly. We all want to see everybody taken care of. But, at the same time, that’s just as much my land as it is theirs, so I have just as much right to enjoy the desert sheep on those mountains as they do to run cows. I fully support this movement of desert bighorn sheep and I look forward to seeing them out there. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you and we do have one more card. It’s Calvin Yardley.

Calvin Yardley- Hello. I’m Calvin Yardley. Just to refute what the guy before me said. The Fish and Wildlife did not put seed on an occupied grazing. Occupied grazing put the seed on. So, it didn’t come from you. We are opposed to having these sheep out there. It’s a new species. They put animals on it, without any comment and we are definitely opposed to having those sheep on there. We don’t know

how they're going to control them. They say they're going to fence them. That will constitute a NEPA and they don't want to do a NEPA. Now if they fence federal land, it has to have a NEPA. We're not going to let them put a fence on our private land. That's all I have to say.

Dave Black- Thank you. K. we're closing the comment section. Now we've been sitting here in place for almost three and a half hours, so we're going to take a five minute break and we'll be back at 10:25 p.m.

Comments from the RAC:

Dave Black- Okay we would like to move into the comment section for the RAC. I alluded to a position from the BLM. We do have a letter from our BLM representative. We'll ask him to read that and then we'll follow up with comments from the rest of the RAC.

Sean Stewart- This is a letter that is addressed to Kevin Bunnell, the Regional Supervisor for DWR. It's from Paul Briggs, who is a Cedar City Field Manager. So I'll try to do my best reading this.

Dear Mr. Bunnell:

The Bureau of Land Management, Cedar City Field Office appreciates the opportunity to comment on the bighorn sheep management plan for the Mineral Mountains and address the Southern Regional Advisory Committee on May 8, 2018. The Mineral Mountains are mainly within the Cedar City Field Office with the northern portion of the range within the Fillmore Field Office. The Cedar City Field Office has been actively involved in a working group process since July 2017 to develop the management plan and attended several meetings with UDWR, elected officials, grazing committees, and sportsman to discuss the issues. We support the approach of a diverse stakeholder working group process and the opportunity to continue to be an active member of this group to insure BLM is aware of management actions regarding bighorn sheep. We also view this as one of the main opportunities to work with the State of Utah and other stakeholders in implementing the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3347, Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation Order 3356, Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities in coordination with states, tribes, and territories, and Order 3362, Improving Habitat Quality and Western Big Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors, the above-referenced secretarial orders all direct the Bureau to work with state wildlife agencies and other stakeholders to enhance recreation opportunities on public lands while continuing to uphold and fulfill our multiple use mandate to the American public. {now the letter goes on to list those secretarial orders and it concludes} The Cedar City Field Office is committed to continue involvement in the Mineral Mountains bighorn sheep working group. BLM's participation will fulfill our obligations as part of the secretarial orders as well as allow us to be responsive to other users of the public lands in keeping with the BLM's multiple use mission. We look forward to working with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding bighorn sheep management within the Cedar City Field Office.

Sincerely, Paul Briggs, Cedar City Field Office Manager

Dave Black- Okay, thank you. If you wouldn't mind giving a copy of that letter for the minutes, that would be great.

Sean Stewart- Paul did tell me that he would send a signed copy of that letter to Kevin Bunnell.

Dave Black- Okay. Thank you. Let's open it up for comments from the RAC.

Verland King- I can see from this letter that - I can see from this letter that the BLM is obligated by the Department of Interior, specifically to work with the DWR on pretty much everything, it looks like and that's good. One question. You know, we've talked about the Neatfoot Deal and Mr. Bushman brought up, you know, that NEFA's federal. We talked about RMP's for the county's and the state and he told us he basically they don't include the DWR pretty much, through the RAC and the big game board. The one question I've got for you, Mr. Bushman and well, they talk about oversight. Does anyone have oversight over the DWR? That's the problem we've had time and time again. My track allotment on the base of the Henry Mountains has bighorn sheep on it. Every now and then, those young bucks, they'll be miles away from the herds that are on the Little Rockies and the Henry's, looking for new territory or a new herd, they get whipped out, I assume. I have sheep AUM's there and I've threatened to activate them. In fact, I pay an activation fee on them and I haven't got the nerve to put sheep down there because I know what'll happen. They'll be shot, there'll be other repercussions that we've seen happen--like in Oregon, with those herds when they tried to kill the sheep that were outside the boundaries. So, I've also seen...there's a herd of sheep in Capitol Reef National Park. I'm not sure how big it is...I've very seldom seen them until this winter when there was quite a drought situation, and those sheep moved right down on the Fremont River. You could see them everyday as you drove through that park. My phone is clear full of pictures. They're pretty and neat to look at! I can't even resist not taking a picture of them, but there's been a problem in the past with these sheep and the damage they've caused to the sheep industry in the United States, especially the western United States. I've seen it time and time again. These guys talk about meeting with you guys and it just seems like I'm back in '07 and the buffalo deal we went through. The buffalo only graze on a certain slope and these sheep graze on 70 percent slope. That's fine until they don't. We've got problems with those buffalo down there. They're damaging the range. There's a lot of room on the Henry Mountains, but the buffalo only occupy a certain part of it and there's too many there. There's habitat resource damage and it won't come back. You've got to listen to these producers--they're fighting for their lives! They don't have the big money and can't tell you how many dollars, but it's their dollars, anything they put on this land, it's their dollars. It's not something that you got for sale on a tag or that you got for auctioning off a rifle at a convention or that you got donated to you. This is their livelihood and they're fighting for their lives and when you hear these organizations, Farm Bureau, Wool Growers, Cattlemen's Association, there's no way they'll let you convert cattle to sheep permits. I've talked to them. Whether it's BLM or.. or..I mean you should be able to by law, but I've never known anywhere that it's happened and like the guy from the Wool Growers said, you know it's a possibility that raising sheep could be more profitable and more of something that people will want to do. There's a lot of problems with predators and a lot of other things that they have to deal with and that's part of the livestock industry. When you introduce, just because it's a 70 percent slope and there's feed there and it's habitat for something, that doesn't mean you have to put something on it. Save it for your deer or whatever you have. You don't have to put bighorn sheep on there. There's too many political problems with bighorn sheep and yeah, you can get an astronomical price for a sheep permit, but it's an astronomical cost to these livestock producers. I guess I'm done for now.

Dave Black- Thank you. (clapping) Anybody else? Tammy?

Tammy Pearson- I'll just wait for later.

Sean Kelly- As a forest service representative, I have a dog in this fight, and I kind of hesitate to say anything, but I listen to this and it's de'ja`vu because we went through it several years ago when they were putting up the limitations on putting bighorn on the Oak Creek and one of our permittees has similar concerns, and they're valid concerns and they needed to be addressed. Basically you got through it and we're-and you know, the sheep were released there were about, oh, what was the day? Four years in? And I got to admit, you know, those are those concerns that have really materialized yet and we got a lot of time left, but so far the competition with the cattle, well it's all cattle we don't have any sheep there. There hasn't been any competition with the cattle. We can tell. Matter of fact, the hard thing about those bighorns is finding them. They're in places that I don't want to go, and no cow with any sense at all would want to go either. It's looking kind of promising, they might actually be fairly compatible compared to other big game animals with cattle grazing. The other thing was that the accountability; I hear that coming up a lot. That was also a concern. This was a state action on the Oak Creek, it was not a federal action. We didn't change one thing, we didn't change a fence, we didn't change anything. It was all-all the risk was taken by the division. Those sheep come down with pneumonia and all die? You know, that's the breaks. We weren't going to anything to really change our grazing policy or anything like that to do with it. It didn't decrease, we weren't going to decrease AUM's, we weren't going to do anything like that. That's one of the things I keep hearing; maybe the division might want to think about formalizing that a little bit in a plan so that's a little more clear, because it was understood by me, but I don't know if it actually appeared in the Oak Creek plan. The other thing is, the money did increase. I got to admit that it's a little more likely that we'll get funding if we have projects that are in areas where there is bighorn sheep. In fact, it's kind of a conflict interest for me, representing the forest service. I kind of hope that this fails, in a way, because I don't want to compete with another sheep unit just south of us where I have to split the money with them. (laughing) And so I'm trying to figure out how to vote on this. But it's definitely a contentious issue. I think that when the Oak Creek went through, I think a little farther along in the process we had a few more people on board and didn't have quite this resist. But anyway, for what it's worth.

Brian Johnson- As I sit up here and I listen to the concerns and I understand that they're valid concerns. I understand that there are people that make a living on public land. But it's public land. And private-and absolutely you can make a living on the private and that's great and God bless America for it, this is wonderful. But on that same basic principle of freedom, whose to say that your right to make-a rancher's right to make a dollar on public land is any better than a guide's right to make a dollar on public land. And I struggle with that, just because this is America, and we all say "God bless it" and I look at that and I think "this is public land and this is multiple use land." And we sit here and these are valid concerns, that you are scared of it, but I don't think that they are things to- I mean the sheep and cows don't graze together. And even if they did, we're talking about a 3% ratio, and so it just makes me wonder, is-is there any other animal out there-and just tell me if there is- that's more incompatible with cattle. And that's my point is there's no other animal that is more incompatible with cattle, and cattlemen are still pissed. But we can put a big old smiley face on and say "let's work together." I don't know how much more you can work together than desert sheep and cows. They are the most incompatible animals, when it comes to food, out there. And so I would like to see a better use of public land that benefits more people, and I think that there's a lot of-a lot of potential here for people to- for more people to enjoy public land. One more thing, I'm really glad that I'm not an elected official in Beaver County. I'm just going to say that right now because that would be terrible. Sorry Tammy, that's a tough spot you're in.

Braydon Richmond- I'm going to put in my two cents here. And I'll probably put in two more in a minute. I was kind of hoping that Tammy would go first, but she's dragging it out. I think it's very obvious. I know where I'm going to vote on this. I represent the sportsman and I'm going to vote sheep, period. That's where my vote's going. Hopefully maybe my comments... I guess I'm getting them out there to get them on public record. I think that a couple really good comments have already been said. I think that the audience has some really good comments and I also think that we understand the livestock producers concerns. I guess I would echo what I said in the last meeting, however. I am not aware of a situation or a time where sportsman's group has gone and tried to remove AUM's. I'm aware of many, many times where sportsman's groups have tried to help. They've done projects and spent money trying to help. And yet, we have an animal, like Brian said, that is as least competitive with cattle as there is an animal out there. It's just up in arms. Don't do it, don't do it, don't do it. So I echo what I said last meeting. I have a hard time that the sportsman aren't showing up and trying to get cattle off the mountains. That doesn't happen the other way. So we talk about working together, but it sure feels one sided. Now let me change a little here; there will be money coming. We're talking about "I want specific projects. I want to know exactly what's going to happen." That's just delay tactics. That's just a way to get your way and try to shut it down. Let's be honest. We know sheep are on that mountain. We have proven track record that there is going to be money coming. In addition to that, we had a presentation tonight that showed a 168 million dollars, am I right? Have been spent in Utah on habitat improvement? 168 million bucks. I think we have a track record. Let's get specific into Beaver County. We have a track record. Millions of dollars on the ground in Beaver County from sportsman. Millions. Let's talk Mineral Mountains, specifically. Years ago, and I'm not keyed in on the exact arrangement that was done out there, but years ago when they were bringing elk down into here, I think it was more contentious than this meeting. Long story short, elk showed up, elk spread over to Minerals, that turned into a limited entry and I don't know the details or timelines, but here about five years ago it came up and said "there were never supposed to be elk on Mineral Mountains. We want to get rid of that unit and we want to kill elk off of there." Guess what SFW's stance was and sportsman's stance? "Do it. Kill them." We supported it. We voted in favor. There is a track record and I get a little tired of feeling like we're saying "let's work together" but I don't feel that. I think that sportsman have shown that they are willing to work together.

Dave Black- Mike?

Mike Worthen- As I have sat here and listened to all the comments, I can say that this is truly a contentious situation we've got here. I think that the parties are probably pretty close to coming to some type of arrangement if they can get back together. There may be some more character conflicts in that group or whatever you want to call it. Maybe fresh eyes need to be looking at it. With what I heard, I think there can be some type of an agreement reached, to where it would be amicable to both parties or to everybody involved. I'm reluctant to vote for it until those things are hashed out and there is some type of path to go on other than vote for it and go ahead with the plan and have everybody pissed off. I would hope that DWR would include the wool growers association. It appeared from one comment that they were purposefully left out. That's the biggest threat in my eyes today is the wool growers. Maybe the boundaries need to be looked at to make sure that you can exclude those areas where there they possibly could impact the sheep trails and be more tentative to those specific areas where there is domestic sheep. I was in Idaho when that Payette stuff broke out and the losers were the sheep industry. They got kicked totally off the Hell's Canyon side of that forest and a lot of up around Cascade and

Payette. It is a real threat. We may not look like it here, we can just draw a line and say that we're going to go out and kill them if they cross that line, but in reality, I think you need to carve out a little bit better of a unit to be involved in. Anyway, with that said, I would hope that the parties can get back together and work this out because I think that you are very close.

Dave Black- Tammy?

Tammy Pearson- Alright it has always been my position that it was a possibility, but with very stringent conditions. From the first time that we had the meeting and like I said before, it was misrepresentation saying that the commissioners were supportive. I think that it's something that we can work together on. I think it's a possibility. Do I think that the wildlife board is going to do it with or without our blessing? I think it's a huge probability. Can I ask a question even though it's not question time? How many other RAC's have you already presented to? Have you already presented to everyone else? Are we the last one?

Jace Taylor- This is the third RAC, we presented to the central region and to the northern region and it passed at both of those.

Tammy Pearson- With that being said from the commission side, personally, and everyone can get their feelings hurt or whatever you want to say on this, and I've said it before. Those of you that have something personal to lose, like your livelihood, the economy for your family, the economy for a rural community and a county, we do take it personally. For those of you who cannot see that risk and cannot understand where we're coming from, you don't have a personal risk involved. I try to live by one rule. It's called the five R's and every decision that you make, you try to be reasonable, rational, responsible, realistic, and respectful. I have said from day one that as far as multiple use, I think we ought to all be on the same team and all be working together and that nobody should be negatively impacted. I'm not just a damn politician. I'm not just spouting politics is what I'm trying to say. I think that in the end, the enemy is the environmental impacts and the groups that are sue happy and live off of the process and those are the ones that are to blame for the loss of the permits with the sheep in Idaho and now they're doing the same thing with the cattle in California. It does tie it back to the bighorn and that was a huge thing. Dave? In the last draft that Brian gave us, it said that they were going to introduce and then when it came out in the packet, it was reintroduce. So that's where the language changed just since the last draft. So, the bighorn sheep and maybe possibly were here historically. It's like people are still crying over slavery. Were we ever impacted by that? No. Did we know personally that the bighorn were here? No. But, I think that there is room for both. I think that we need to hammer this up. I think that there is a way for all of us to do this so that nobody's negatively effected. I do think that what needs to happen is that the division needs to take a step forward and take full responsibility. One suggestion in our county meetings that we just heard is basically a disposable herd, kind of like you said about the Oak Creeks, that if they get sick, they die, whatever, it's not a negative impact on anybody else. They have the nursery herds and other places that can continually feed this place in case something like the pneumonia issue hits. So nobody should be negatively impacted. I do think that the biggest concern is the wool growers and our sheep herds. Personally, I'm out of the sheep business, I've always had a couple of hundred head of sheep. They would have all been in the boundaries. So I can see that side of it too and I think that that's a huge deal. In my mind, the only way that this thing goes forward is that there is, and this might be a brand new concept, I know that there's the friends of the Paunsaugunt and those different kinds of groups. This might be its own individual group, a multiple use county working group. Kelly

Rollins actually talked about this a while back, bringing sportsman and the ranchers and get everybody involved together to do these projects and whatever. I think that's a possibility. I think that's really honestly the only way to go forward with this plan is if the division and the wildlife board are willing to put this together and make some hard decisions. Some definite decisions like Mike said. Some definite boundaries, a little more teeth in it that's going to protect everybody. So with that, going to the wildlife board, I think they table it until this is initiated. I think that it's a possibility to do that. That would be my recommendation.

Dave Black- Okay thank you. Anymore comments down this way?

Braydon Richmond- I knew I wasn't done. I gave my two cents a minute ago and now I'm going to fight for it a little bit because there is a couple things that I think we are missing here. There's windows of opportunity. We had a window last year, it was delayed. We got another window now, and if you don't take advantage of windows, doors shut. I don't know when this door is going to shut, but it will shut. It will move on. There are times and opportunities, take advantage. We've been working on this for a year and a half, to say we're closer than we were a year and a half ago I think is naive. I don't think that we're going to agree on this. I think that there are some concessions that could be made. I think there's things that are going to happen. Again, I repeat that I think experience tells us that things will be done. There's a lot of track record in the state of things happening and money being spent. One other comment I want to say, again, I appreciate the livestock perspective. My wife comes from a farming/ranching family. It's huge. Most of her uncles are still involved in it. It's family, I understand that. I understand the business. But, somehow, somehow we're getting the message across in here that people making their livelihood in the hunting industry don't matter, that only ranchers matter. I can count six people, maybe seven, in this room that make their livings in the hunting industry. That's also a living. That's also a vested interest. And let's remember that where these sheep are going to be is 94% public land.

Dave Black- Okay, Verland?

Verland King- I'm confused. This was presented that we might talk about it at another RAC, earlier, but we have not discussed this. Who's we?

Braydon Richmond- The initial, I don't know if we call them working groups, but initially, there was hopes of getting it before the RAC's last year and that was delayed to try to work through it some more. It was hopes to try to get this in the RAC last year and it was pushed back to try to work on this so it's been "being worked on" for a year and a half. That's not accurate, it's been being worked on for five or six years, but it's been involved in groups of mixed users for a year and a half.

Dave Black- Okay, let's see if we can move towards a motion.

RAC discussion and vote:

Braydon Richmond- I'm going to make a motion that we support the division's recommendation as presented.

Dave Black- Okay, do we have a second? Okay, we have a motion and a second, do we have discussion? Okay, Gene?

Gene Boardman- I'm wondering about the timeline that is within this thing that says that they'll release as soon as fall of 2018. I would like to see this come together a little bit more before a release is done. It sounds to me like there are a lot of loose ends. A lot of people who still aren't on board who are supposed to be stakeholders in this. So maybe that timeline needs to be evaluated at least. Maybe kicked back a year, but at least evaluated.

Dave Black- Okay, so I have a motion on the table and I have a second. If you're in agreement with the motion, we can vote and if not, if it fails, then we'll entertain a new motion or we can entertain an amendment to the motion.

Verland King- So is there just one discussion, or are we open for more discussion?

Dave Black- We're discussing a motion right now if you have some further discussion.

Verland King- I would just like, under discussion, to say that I think that there's a lot of parties that aren't satisfied with what's going on and I think that Tammy's suggestion that we table it until more satisfaction between the parties can be reached through discussion and meeting and talking I think would be more important than just passing it right now and just saying "to heck with everybody." My discussion now is that maybe we should not just pass it, we should table it until more things can be worked out because there are a lot of people who aren't satisfied.

Braydon Richmond- There have been discussions on that for months and months and months. What's going to change tomorrow?

Verland King- Well that's a good question. There's been a discussion for months and months and months but we've seen that there is a rift here. Things are not satisfied.

Brian Johnson- You are absolutely right, there's a rift, and like I said before, we're talking about less than 200 deer sized animals that don't eat in the same place as cows. If we can't come together on that...

Verland King- Well we agree on that.

Brian Johnson- Oh do we? Okay so we agree on less than 200 deer sized animals that eat different food than cows.

Verland King- Yeah.

Brian Johnson- If we can't...that's enough said right there than.

Dave Black- I think there is two sentiments here. I'm just talking, I'm not telling you how to vote. So we do have a motion in a second. I would suggest that we vote now on the motion. If you're not in agreement with that then you have the opportunity to vote "no" and if that passes we can move on to the next item and if that fails, then we'll have to entertain a new motion. So I would propose that we vote on the motion as presented. All those in favor? Is that four? Okay. All those opposed? Five. Okay, so the motion fails. We are ready to entertain a new motion.

Tammy Pearson- Ok I will go back to recommending tabling it or whatever, but my motion is that in order for the support to be here from this board, there needs to be this multiple use working group and to try to be respectful. Not all parties have ever been in the same room at the same time to try and work this out. There's not been a whole multiple use group together. I know from several conversations, not only with SFW members, we're not happy that the sheep guys were meeting behind closed doors with the permittees and landowners and I have been in the middle of several conversations with a lot of different people and trying to fill this out, I think that there is a possibility. But, I think that everybody needs to come to the table and put their attitudes and personalities and whatever else behind, because we've been doing that for a long time. And, I know that the SFW and whoever else have been pushing this and been looking forward to this for many, many years. It was a big surprise to the rest of us a year and a half ago. That was my concern to begin with, because I can see the conflicts and it might not be just a 200 head of sheep that's the conflict. The conflict comes from those people that are actively trying to get rid of the hunting or get rid of public grazing, whether it's sheep or livestock or whatever else. That's where the issues are. It's a political and social conflict.

Brian Johnson- Are you going to make a motion or can I make a quick motion that I think might capture what you're talking about?

Dave Black- Let her make the motion, it's her motion.

Tammy Pearson- My motion is that if the wildlife board would agree to a multiple use working group that is full on management with DWR, those stakeholders would be representatives from the landowners, the livestock permittees, the organizations, not excluding the wool growers, cattlemen's, farm bureau, SFW, whatever the sportsman's groups are, and local government. I think that if that was in place before the wildlife board made their decision, we could work this out. That's my motion.

Dave Black- So you are basically saying that you recommend that we don't approve the polls and don't present it until this working group that you describe can come together and see if they can come to a consensus or a reasonable agreement. Are you okay with that?

Tammy Pearson- Yes.

Dave Black- Can I have a second? Okay, any further discussion?

Brian Johnson- Can I get more clarification on more time?

Tammy Pearson- There is not enough teeth and boundaries on things like this.

Brian Johnson- Well there is not enough teeth and boundaries the other way, either. But, you got a second and a motion so let's just vote. I'm good with that. I'm sorry I hijacked it.

Dave Black- So we do have a motion and a second. Are we clear on the motion at the table?

Tammy Pearson- Clear as mud.

Dave Black- All those in favor? Seven. All those opposed? Two. Motion carries. Let's move on. That's

been a long time coming.

Motion Carries 7-2

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS TO CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS RULE R657-41, WILDLIFE EXPO PERMITS RULE R657-55, AND DRAWING APPLICATION PROCEDURES RULE R657-62

Kenny Johnson- Thank you, Mr. Chairman and RAC members and members of the public. I'm Kenny Johnson, the admin services chief from Salt Lake. First off we are opposing changes to help streamline some of the internal processes reporting of the conservation permit program. For those who are unfamiliar with the program, the wildlife board approves a small amount of permits, generally 5%, to be auctioned to generate revenue to fund wildlife conservation. The funding is divided between the organization offering the permit for sale and the division with 30% of the proceeds going directly to the division, 10% of the proceeds to be utilized by the organization to cover admin expenses and 60% retained by the organization to be spent on division approved projects, as we've kind of seen with Justin and Gary and a few of the former presentations tonight already. The wildlife board asked for ways for us to report the positive impacts of these dollars in a more straightforward manner. I think that the changes that we're going to talk about tonight move us a step closer to accomplishing that goal. We are proposing to strike an old and vague section of rule that allowed groups to propose an alternate way to distribute conservation permits. Our intent is to clarify that they be distributed initially through auction to the high bidder. We also want to clarify that there can only be one statewide conservation permit per species. Third, if we have more than one rifle season for the same species, the conservation permit holder must select a single season. They wouldn't automatically get multiple any weapon or rifle seasons. Moving forward, we propose that all interest earned on the 60% of the retained revenue be required for use on projects that conservation funds committed to approve projects must be remitted to the division within 60 days of being invoiced instead of 90. And third, that retained revenue must be expended on approved projects were transferred to the division by September 1st, two years following collection, and that's an important distinction. We've been tracking it as committed and spent. This would change and allow us to track it as actual spent funds or transferred funds to the division. All the projects would be approved up front with a signed cover sheet. We'll invoice for the total work to complete the project, collect the funds within the 60 days, and then the work will be scheduled and completed. With this process change, the information would be placed in the divisions database and allow us to show those funds fully expended each year. The associated projects in our annual conservation report that we provide to the board and to the public. This update, to process, would actually replace the need for groups to provide us a bunch of redundant information in the annual report. Moving on to some internal process updates with issuing and redeeming vouchers. We're developing some technology to help us better track and issue vouchers electronically. This will prevent paper vouchers from being misplaced, delayed, or needing to be reprinted. Groups must provide the name of the successful bidder, the winning bid amount, and the date of the event where the permit was auctioned within 10 days of the funding event. If the successful bidder elects not to use a permit opportunity, they can designate it to another person as long as the conservation group is notified. The winning bid amount hasn't decreased and an affidavit is signed that they verify that they are not profiting from the assignment. If assigned to another person, the group has 10 day to submit a complete voucher receipt to the division with the updated information. Next, we propose to clarify our current practice that the division will not issue a conservation permit until the voucher information is received entirely, the

recipient possess a valid hunting or combination license and that the permit fee is collected and someone from our front counter staff verifies that the hunter is legally eligible to possess the permit. The provisions outlined in this slide and the previous slides, but also apply to the special conservation antelope permits as well. Two final items on conservation permits regarding season dates; we want to specify on the definition section that a conservation permit for turkey is not valid during the three day youth only general season hunt unless the holder actually qualifies as a youth. Then, we're proposing changing the conservation bison permit season to run August 1st to January 31st. That is just to be consistent with other once in a lifetime bison opportunity. Next, we have our expo permit rule amendments. For those not familiar with the expo permit program, it's a contract awarded in five year increments with a renewal option after five years. There are two primary purposes for this rule; to generate revenue to fund wildlife conservation in Utah and to track the regional or regional wildlife expo to Utah. As part of the program the wildlife board authorizes up to 200 permits a year. They're allocated-the hunters- through a drawing held at the expo. An application handling fee of 5 dollars per application is collected by the expo organizer. 30% of these funds are required to be spent on Division approved projects. The remaining 70% may be used for administrative costs to help with the expo. The current expo organizer has committed the net proceeds to programs, projects, and personal that support conservation initiatives in Utah. The majority of the rule amendments in our 6-57-55 came about from the last time we awarded the contract. As you'll see on the next couple of slides, some of the billing and expenditure concepts that we just talked about for conservation. We'll sound familiar here as we streamline the standardized billing and reporting options here as well. So like all state agencies, when we contract with outside entities for services, we are required to follow state purchasing code. When the last contract was aborted, we worked to align state law with the timeline in our rule and they didn't overlap perfectly, but we absolutely followed state procurement code. To remove any confusion, we're making it very clear that we follow the publicly noticed RFP process as outlined in the state purchasing code. These rule revisions will harmonize the expo contract application renewal process to be consistent with the state procurement code. This will ensure that all interested and qualified groups will know the process upfront and are considered through a standard, formal procurement process. Next, we'd like to clarify that the division has authority to terminate the contract in interest of wildlife conservation, management issues or compliance with the law. The third bullet there specifies that. Each year we get a handful of complaints that some lucky individuals drew more than one expo permit and we listen to the public and we just want to specify that we're moving forward. Expo applicants will be able to receive only one expo permit each year, so if multiple permits are drawn, they would need to select a favorite permit within a couple of days of being notified by the division. And then similar to our proposed process, streamlining, as we've discussed previously, we're proposing to require accrued interest on the application handling fee. This would be revenue dedicated to projects; to be used for projects. Again, similar application handling fee revenue committed to approved projects must be remitted to the division within 60 days instead of 90 after being invoiced. One other minor change; application handling fee revenue for projects must be expended on or transferred to the division by August 1st. So, we move that deadline up a month to get that report earlier. Again, we won't track this as committed and spent, just actually spent or transferred to the division, and that will allow us to zero these funds out annually as well. Invoicing for these approved projects upfront and monitoring expenditures in our database replaced the need for the expo contractor to provide redundant expo details to us and the division will continue to report this detail in our annual audit that we present to the wildlife board and to the public. Finally, a couple of proposed changes to the draw application procedure rule. These are fairly minor and will be really quick. We're proposing to copy the current rule which outlines waiting periods in the expo rule, our 6-57-55 over to this draw out application procedures rule. So, this is the current practice that is

already in place and spelled out in the expo rule, and we just consolidate these permit types into this one rule location. All other waiting periods apply and there are no other changes proposed there. Lastly, two minor changes, just for consistency across straws. We'd like to standardize the requirement for a hunter to possess a valid hunting or combination license in order to apply for sandhill crane, sharptail grouse, greater sage grouse, and swan permits. Insured group applications consisting of qualifying youth are considered for the increased percent of permits allocated to youth for turkey, sandhill crane, sharptail grouse, and greater sage grouse. Essentially, if you apply as a group of qualifying youth, you get counted as youth and have a better chance to draw a permit. That is all I have.

Dave Black- Okay any questions from the RAC? Craig?

Questions from the RAC:

Craig Laub- Okay, I'm just curious. How do you determine who gets to have those permits to auction them off? I mean, I've been to the fish wildlife and they seem to get a handful of them for all their dinners throughout the state. Who makes that decision and how do you get in line to get that, because obviously, it's a little bit of a money maker for you.

Kenny Johnson- Yeah, absolutely. They have to be a 501 C-3 recognized organization through the federal tax code and they have to have a wildlife conservation mission. That's the basic qualifications to get in.

Dave Black- Gene?

Gene Boardman- We get these rules and amendments to rules presented to the RAC, but we never get the conservation permits presented to the RAC. I'm just wondering why.

Kenny Johnson- You mean the totals and numbers and all of that?

Gene Boardman- Yeah, how many conservation permits from who to where for how long and out of which unit.

Kenny Johnson- That's a fair question. Again, it's a wildlife board authority to distribute and approve those. Not sure why we couldn't share that information with the RAC's though.

Gene Boardman- Well if it's the wildlife authority to approve them, and the RAC's are supposed to advise the wildlife board, it seems like they should come here.

Justin Shannon- The RAC's hear the rules, with the conservation permit rule, and in that rule, it spells out how those permits are going to be allocated, and so we just follow that rule as they are taken to the board. It's very clear that there is a formula in the rule change between 11 and 30 permits. There's one that's given and we just simply follow that and take it to the board, that's why. The RAC's have input on what that criteria will look like and then we just follow and take that to the board. If that helps.

Dave Black- Okay, any further questions?

Brian Johnson- Okay, so let me get this straight. John Smith draws an elk tag and a deer tag and Billy Bob is upset with his 1 in 4000 chance of drawing the same tag, so he calls up and bitches and now John Smith can't have both tags? That's just fantastic. Like, okay, I'm sorry, it's not fantastic it's just really? We're going to take....? Let's not do this, guys. If they're lucky enough to draw out two permits, let's let them shoot them. I'm just going to say that.

Dave Black- Do we have any questions in the audience? We do have two comment cards. We have Darren West followed by Troy Justensen.

Questions from the Public:

Comments from the Public:

Darren West- Ladies and gentlemen of the RAC, I am Darren West, I am the Utah Conservation Project Coordinator with the Mule Deer Foundation. I coordinate the projects across the state. I would just like to say, we are very happy to be able to use these conservation permits at our local banquets for auction as well as the expo. We've been able to generate millions of dollars for conservation projects throughout the state. This money that is raised in Utah with the tags from Utah stays in Utah on the ground for these species. In southern Utah alone, in this region, annually over the last three years from those permit sales, we have put 320 thousand dollars back into habitat enhancement in this region. As a Mule Deer Foundation, we strongly recommend that you approve the recommendations put forth by the Division. Thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you.

Troy Justensen- Troy Justensen I represent the sportsman division of wildlife. Before I comment on this, I just want to thank the RAC for hearing the last issue. Obviously, it didn't go the way that I had hoped, but I respect the process. Thank you for taking the time to hear that and address it. Concerning the conservation permit rule and the expo rule, we support the division's recommendations. I think that it is important that you understand as a RAC that you are voting to accept the changes to that give more clarity and to make sure that there are no loopholes and that we are as transparent as possible. As Justin talked about earlier and showed in the presentation, this is a revenue stream unique to Utah and not only to Utah, but it's unique to the world. It has generated more money to put back on the ground to benefit wildlife and livestock than any other process that I am aware of. It's a huge boost to Utah and our wildlife and livestock. We support these recommendations and we're grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. We appreciate your time tonight, thank you.

Dave Black- Thank you. That's all the comment cards. Do we have any comments from the RAC? Except for Brian. Gene?

Comments from the RAC:

Gene Boardman- We got a problem with this pay to play system. It's supposedly, as you have said, 5%. I've seen it run up on some units where permits have been cut to where they're taking 16.5% and if you throw in a couple of landowner permits, 20% of the tags are going to pay to play. The expo tags remain

the same even though the unit gets cut by half. The hunters from the general public, their draw gets cut by half. All this stuff comes out, according to what I've read, comes out of the draw. If the draw is 45 and conservation permits are 5, then there is really only 40 tags left. The percentage build up on the pay to play and the rule that you can set these for five years while you're cutting tags on a unit every year, it just amounts to the average hunter really getting shorted on this end while pay to play goes wild. I'm not against the conservation tags, per say, but it's just not right that there is this system that takes so many out of the draw for the common hunter.

Brian Johnson- Gene, I agree that it's kind of a pay to play state sometimes if you want extra opportunity, but the facts are that that money that they draw subsidizes our tags in a way that the division doesn't need to pay for-that they get money from somewhere else besides tag sales to keep the tag sales down. So, I mean, yeah, there is a pay to play factor, but I think that overall, it's for the greater good. I think that it's a great program.

Gene Boardman- It's not a great program when it's 20%.

Brian Johnson- For the millions of dollars I think that- it's not 20%, but that's fine, let's just vote on it.

-a lot of back and forth between Gene Boardman and Brian Johnson

Verland King- Well my comment is, I agree with Gene. I've always had heartburn over this conservation permits-taking it from the general public and letting somebody with lots of money buy it. I agree with Gene here.

Dave Black- Were ready to take a motion, I think.

Gene Boardman- Having had my say, I'll make a motion that we accept it as presented.

Dave Black- All those in favor? Unanimous. Okay, item number 11. Martin Bushman, you're up.

RAC discussion and vote:

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS REPEALING THE CERTIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE UNDER R657-3 AND R657-53, ERROR COMMITTEE UNDER R657-50, WALK-IN ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE UNDER R657-56 AND THE VARIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER R657-57

Martin Bushman- It's late, we're all tired, and what I'm going to address is not all that interesting, so I am going to try to move through it quickly. Just a handful of rule changes that we are proposing here to deal with some committees that have been created in rule. This past year, we had a newspaper that took interest in the department of natural resources and the different types of committees and boards they used and whether they were complying with the open and public meeting act. The good news is that wildlife resources came through it just fine. Some of our sister agencies, not so well. It caused us to take a closer look at the various types of committees and working groups and other gatherings that the division of wildlife resources sets up as it's managing wildlife to make a determination whether they might be potentially subject to the open and public meeting act. In that process, we identified 4 different

committees and 5 different rules that are created by rule and by that fact alone, arguably, are subject to the open and public meeting act. These were all groups that were never intended to create that type of burden on them. They are largely smaller groups that are working on individual issues, not policy. So, what we're proposing here is in our 6-57, the collection, importation, transportation, and possession of animals rule, that the certification review committee be eliminated from the rule. The error remedy rule, it's called the error committee, same thing. The amphibian/reptile collection, importation, transportation, and possession rule certification review committee that it be eliminated. The recreational lease of private lands for free public walk-in access, there's a committee there, and the division variance rule. So, just to break those down, the certification review committee operates under two different rules; that reptile rule and possession, the other dealing with all other animals. It's staffed by all other representatives of DWR, department of agriculture, and department of health. The committee makes recommendations to the wildlife board on petitions to reclassify certain species, variance requests for prohibited species, and appeals to COR denials. What we're proposing is that this committee be eliminated. The responsibilities would be assumed by the division and exercised in consultation with the department of agriculture and food and the department of health. It would still have all the same groups, just the committee wouldn't be formally recognized in rule. The error committee operates under chapter 50 of the wildlife rules. It's staffed solely by DWR representatives. The committee make recommendations to the division director on complaints seeking relief from division errors in the processing and handling issue of wildlife documents. This is a group that deal solely with just individuals that have concerns about the way that their applications and their licence documents were handled. The responsibilities would be assumed by the division. Walking access committee operates under chapter 56. It is staffed by sportsman interests, agriculture interests, and elected officials. The committee make recommendations to the division director on complaints concerning the fair and equitable treatment of people participating in the walk in access program. Of note, the committee, in several years, has never organized or met, so it's a bit superfluous at this point. We are also proposing that it's responsibilities be assumed by the division. Variance committee, chapter 57, staffed only by DWR and the committee makes recommendations to the division director on remedial release sought by people who are substantially precluded from participating in a hunting activity or obtaining a wildlife document because of some event or condition that is beyond our control. Like, the others, the division would assume these responsibilities and that is the five rule amendments that are being proposed.

Dave Black- Thank you. Any questions? We don't have any comment cards. I'll entertain a motion.

Questions from the RAC:

Questions from the Public:

Comments from the Public:

Comments from the RAC:

RAC discussion and vote:

Braydon Richmond- I'll make a motion to accept as presented.

Dave Black- Do we have a second? All those in favor? Unanimous.

Other Business

-Dave Black, Chairman

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 p.m.

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

May 9, 2018

Motion Summary

Approval of agenda and minutes

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

Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments

MOTION: To ask the Wildlife Board, as an action log item, to evaluate the timing of the spring limited-entry turkey season so that it straddles the strutting seasons for Merriam's and Rio Grande turkeys, providing equal opportunity to hunt both sub species

Passed 10-0 (1 abstention)

MOTION: To accept the remaining Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, with the exception of adding a rimfire rifle option for the fall turkey hunting season

Passed 8-3

Coyote Bounty Program Amendments - Rule R657-64

MOTION: To recommend that the Wildlife Board ask the Utah State Legislature to amend the Mule Deer Protection Act by removing the bounty on coyotes in the general predator control program, but leaving the targeted predator control program in place to better control coyotes where doe-to-fawn ratios are below target goals due to coyotes

Failed 2-8 (1 abstention)

MOTION: To accept the Coyote Bounty Program Amendments as presented

Passed 9-2

Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

MOTION: To table consideration of the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

Failed 5-6 (1 abstention)

MOTION: To accept the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented

Passed 6-5 (1 abstention)

Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits - Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

MOTION: To accept the Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits as presented

Passed unanimously

Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57

MOTION: To accept the Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57 as presented

Passed unanimously

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

May 9, 2018 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Members Absent

Trisha Hedin, Chairwoman · Sportsmen
Kent Johnson, Vice Chairman · Public at large
Sue Bellagamba · Non-consumptive
Lynn Siterud · Elected official
Jeff Christensen · Agriculture
Jace Guymon · Public at large
Eric Luke · Sportsmen

Darrel Mecham · Sportsmen
Darren Olsen · USFS

Kirk Player · Public at large
Helene Taylor · Agriculture
Todd Thorne · Public at large
Dana Truman · BLM
Gerrish Willis · Non-consumptive
Chris Wood, DWR Regional Supervisor

Total public attendance

7

Others in attendance

DWR personnel: 15
Kevin Albrecht, Wildlife Board Member

1) Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure

- Trisha Hedin, RAC chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: OK, we're going to get started. We're a few minutes over, so we're going to get going. Thank you for coming. If you're new to the RAC procedure, please make sure that if you have a comment on an agenda item, there are some comment cards in back, and you would fill those out regarding the agenda item that you want to speak to and bring them up to either Chris or Morgan. So thank you for coming.

2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Trisha Hedin: We will begin tonight by doing approval of the agenda and the minutes from the last meeting. Do I have a motion on that? Or questions or comments?

Eric Luke: I make a motion that we approve the agenda and minutes.

Trisha Hedin: We have a motion by Eric Luke to approve the agenda and the minutes. Do I have a second on that?

Kent Johnson: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: And a second by Kent. All in favor. Looks unanimous and it passed.

VOTING

Eric Luke made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

3) **Wildlife Board Update**

- Trisha Hedin, RAC Chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: So next we have an update and that is by me. So I'm going to try to concentrate just on the items that we were somewhat concerned about, so this is from the last meeting. We were somewhat concerned about the numbers on the Central Mountains/Manti, and those numbers were reduced by 200, so that passed. We also were concerned about keeping the Pine Valley unit at the 2017 numbers, and that passed unanimously. One of our big concerns, and I went to the meeting with quite a bit of information and tried to really put that to task, was the Division recommended and increase on the limited-entry Book Cliffs mule deer tags, increasing them by 35. They did go up by 15 in the end, and that passed. Kevin came in and proposed a motion to reduce the Division's recommendation, and it did come down by quite a bit.

I'm trying to think of anything else that was of interest to us. We retained the elk permits on the Manti at 2017 numbers, and then the other was the sheep permits. There was a move to decrease them from three to two, and that passed unanimously. I think that was the major concerns. Are there any questions on that? So we pretty much got what we wanted, except for the Book Cliffs tags. And I think we made a compromise there. So at this point, we'll have the regional update.

4) **Regional Update**

- Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood: Good evening. Just to give you an update on what we're doing as an agency the last few months and in the next couple of weeks. These are some great pictures, by the way, that Morgan took. So if nothing else, you'll be looking at some great new pictures, too. They're not just stock photos that we sometimes use. These are great new photos. So our Aquatics Section has a big project going on starting next week. It's been going on for a year or two now, but in Range Creek, we've treated that creek with rotenone, and we're stocking that creek with native trout. So we'll be on two different properties in the next two weeks, working with the Preston Nutter Ranch and also Butch and Jeanie Jensen and stocking these cutthroats on their stretches of creek on those lands, and also there will be some public land where these native cutthroats get stocked. So that's a really exciting, kind of high-profile project that we're working on with these private landowners and with the BLM, too. We also have something called Conservation Days happening with the U.S. Forest Service in the upcoming weeks. It's a day where the middle schoolers in Emery County go up to Huntington Canyon and learn about wildlife biology and the creek ecology and do some fun, interactive, hands-on experiences with our biologists. And then it's that time of year, we do this twice a year. It's our gill net surveys. Tomorrow, I believe is the 10th, right, we'll be at Scofield, and next week we'll be at Joes Valley, and if anyone would like to attend either one of those, you're more than welcome to come. So we put out gill nets the day before, on the 10th and the 16th, we'll pull those gill nets, and it's kind of a snapshot of what's happening in the reservoir. So species composition, size of fish, and from that we can see whether our management strategies are working or not. As you remember, Scofield has a new management plan. We've invited those who were on the management team to that event, so that will be kind of fun for them to see whether—and the answer is, it is—whether the management plan is working or not.

Our Habitat folks have been busy. Restoration used to be more of a fall activity, but anymore, it happens year-round. I believe this is a planting project that happened at our Huntington Game Farm last month. We planted a whole bunch of shrubs, cottonwoods and willows for upland game and other species that are there. Also in our Habitat Section, we have a new manager: Makeda. You'll hear from her today. Congratulations, Makeda. She's worked for us for seven or eight years, but she's fantastic. She'll do a great job at leading the Habitat team. Daniel Eddington was the Habitat manager before, but he's been on a career mobility for over a year now. So he still works for us, he's just in the Salt Lake Office overseeing the Watershed Restoration Initiative funding end of things. It's that time of year we're hiring a whole bunch of seasonals in all of our sections, but our Habitat seasonals work on our Division lands. They spray weeds, they fix guzzlers, they help out on lots of different things. We have a planting at Nash Wash, which is our Wildlife Management Area in the South Book Cliffs coming up. And currently, I was up there today actually, there's some brush treatments on the north end of the La Sals with the Forest Service, cleaning up some oak brush and understory. It looks really good, actually.

And Law Enforcement. They're busy, too. Our AIS program, our aquatic invasive species program, is in full swing. We have a checkpoint coming up. Boaters coming out

of Lake Powell will be stopped, and we'll make sure they understand and are complying with the regulations with draining their boats and understanding where they're going next and how long they have to dry, or whether they have to decontaminate or not. They have several cases going through the courts, and our Cops & Bobbers event, it's our big community event in Carbon County where we invite families to come to the fairgrounds and participate in an archery shoot and the community pond, the fishing event. We supply all the things you need to have a nice fishing experience. That will happen on June 9.

Our Outreach Section has also been really busy. They have a few more events coming up in the next 10 days. Coming up this Saturday, we're teaming up with The Nature Conservancy and we're hosting a Migratory Bird Day on the Matheson Preserve in Moab. Beginning at 8:00, we'll have guided bird tours, and at 9:00, we'll have different stations people can walk around and do some birding. So that should be a great event. And then on the 19th, here in Green River, we have a ladies trap shooting clinic. I think we're capping the attendance at some point. So if you're interested in that, let's talk, we'll get you RSVPed for the event. It's been a great turnout in the past. We've gotten a lot of good reviews from people who attend that and all of our events. We're always trying to improve and offer opportunities for people with different interests and we hold events every month or so.

Our Wildlife Section, they've been teaming up with our Habitat folks. That picture there is kind of what I've been doing the last two days. Teaming up with our Wildlife guys and our Habitat folks and agency personnel from Forest Service and BLM, and visiting our winter ranges and assessing what the brush conditions look like, what kind of browsing pressures we've received over the winter, look at utilization and talk about the range conditions. It's a good time to get out and see what's happened over the winter. We'll also be working on pronghorn unit plans, coming up. Our sensitive species biologist, Scott, will be doing some bird surveys and some white nose syndrome bat surveys. And with that, I'll answer any questions.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. Next, we'll have Justin Shannon giving us a wildlife project update.

5) **Wildlife Projects Update**

- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

Questions from the RAC

No questions.

6) **Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans**

- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

Questions from the RAC

Gerrish Willis: So I was involved with one of the county plans, and the takeaway that I'm getting from you is that it's nice to have the plan in place, it was mandated by the Legislature and all the counties did it. But it seems like what you're saying is that even though those plans exist, they're advisory to the Wildlife Board, and they really don't have any importance as far as decisions that the Division would make on a particular issue.

Martin Bushman: The Legislature didn't direct the counties to make these plans as a vehicle for counties to manage wildlife. That was not the intent. The intent was the state still manages the wildlife. But among the many interests and different matters they address in these plans, there were some wildlife issues. It becomes an important document for the Division and those that make decisions through the RAC and Board process to understand what those county objectives are, and to seriously consider them. But again, under our government, the state is the primary form of government. Counties are political subdivisions, and it was not the Legislature's intent that resource management plans become a de facto tool for managing wildlife.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. Next we have Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments. Jason.

7) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
- Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader, filling in for Jason Robinson

Questions from the RAC

Eric Luke: The limited-entry areas, is this to be implemented statewide, the three tags?

Avery Cook: Three fall tags?

Eric Luke: Yeah.

Avery Cook: Yes. Each region does not necessarily have a fall hunt. This would just allow a hunter three fall tags. Each region can, at their discretion, assign fall hunt units in those fall hunt boundaries with a quota per region.

Eric Luke: So the Southeast Region, that's a pretty big region.

Kirk Player: Right now we only have a little farm in Hanksville, the only place you can hunt fall turkeys in the Southeast. Correct?

Avery Cook: Yeah, there's just that one unit.

Kirk Player: I mean, the vast majority of the Southeastern Region, it wouldn't affect at all.

Avery Cook: Correct.

Eric Luke: That helps clarify. I wasn't sure if it was going to be broken down into smaller units within the Southeastern Region or just the entire Southeastern Region.

Avery Cook: All of the fall units are small targeted units in areas where we're having nuisance or depredation problems, and we've tried other methods to alleviate those problems before going to the lethal control.

Eric Luke: On the shot size, how come you limit it to BB and not buck shot? Is there a reason for that?

Avery Cook: I guess typically, you are shooting a turkey in the head, not a body shot. Basically we changed one end of the spectrum. We didn't change the BB end. So we've changed the small end for the tungsten super shot.

Eric Luke: If you're going to open it up to rimfire, why put the restriction on the shot size?

Avery Cook: That's a valid point. Basically, we were just addressing one half of that shot size restriction.

Eric Luke: The last question is concerning safety with the rimfire. I know we hunt small game and rabbits with rimfire all the time, but in certain areas, I could see a high potential for safety considerations using a rimfire. They're prone for ricochet. Does the Division have any concerns with that?

Avery Cook: I think there are concerns for safety for basically any firearm you're using during that time of the year. There are other center-fire big game hunts going on, small game hunts, different bird hunts, shotgun hunts. So we don't see this as particularly more dangerous than any of the other hunts. It really goes back to the responsibility of the hunter, knowing their target and what's beyond.

Eric Luke: OK, that's all I have.

Trisha Hedin: Are there any other questions from the RAC?

Todd Thorne: I just had one question. In your rule change with control permits for turkeys, it mentions the rimfires may be used for control permits. So is that any season if you have a turkey control permit, you can use a rimfire any time?

Avery Cook: Yeah, so part of that is basically for fall hunts, and we've defined fall hunts as a calendar period. So any hunts in that fall period, you'd be able to use a rimfire, including a control permit tag.

Todd Thorne: I guess it was more of a technical question, because it specifically relates to control permits. So the way I read that part of the code, is if you have a control permit, you could use a rimfire any time.

Avery Cook: That's correct, yeah.

Todd Thorne: OK, on a control permit.

Avery Cook: Sorry, that part's in the depredation rule on taking turkey. So taking wild turkey rule is defined as a fall hunt, and the depredation rule you can use it for the control permit.

Dana Truman: I just had a question. Can you clarify the dates? Because you see August 1 to March 14, and then you also see the October to February. I was just curious.

Avery Cook: So the fall general season would be proposed to be October 1 to February 28 within the larger guidelines. Control permit vouchers can be issued from August 1 to March 14. A depredation hunt can also be implemented any time August 1 to March 14.

Trisha Hedin: If there's no more questions from the RAC, we'll take questions from the audience. Are there any questions?

Questions from the Public

No questions.

Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman, SFW: We support the Division's recommendations as presented. We just ask that we keep in mind the option of transplanting turkeys in these problem areas. Keep that in mind that we don't need to wipe them out. There's other options. Also why I'm here, I'd like to speak of a nine-year-old princess at home. I think the rimfire option is a wonderful option for kids. There's no way I'd put her behind a 12-gauge shotgun, or any shotgun for that matter, and let her get punished by shooting a turkey. She's not as tough as you, Eric. I think it provides tremendous opportunity for youth to have a good experience on a turkey hunt at a young age. Thanks.

RAC Discussion

Trisha Hedin: So at this point, let's take comments from the RAC.

Kent Johnson: I'll start. With regard to the rule change to allow rimfires for turkeys, I had exactly two people contact me that opposed it. And I talked to a whole bunch of people that were in favor of it. So I went ahead and contacted some folks in Colorado and Wyoming. Wyoming is pretty lax about what guns they allow to be used. You can use pretty much any firearm you want to use to hunt any game you want to hunt in Wyoming. This includes upland birds and everything. If you want to use a .30-06 to shoot pine hens, knock yourself out. I wouldn't advocate for that. Colorado's rule is kind of similar to what the Division is proposing. Within certain areas and certain situations, their fall season, they allow rimfires. And they haven't had any problems. And the people I talk to like it a lot, especially with regard to youth hunters. There's a lot of kids that want to go out and hunt, but like the gentleman said, you've got nine-, 10-year-old kids that if you want to chase them away from hunting, set them down on the ground, with a 12-gauge shotgun with a 3-inch shell in it. I can promise you that kid will never hunt again. They'll hate it. It's going to hurt them and scare them. So the idea of allowing them another opportunity to hunt turkeys with a gun that they can manage is probably a good one. And they haven't had any safety problems outside normal issues with people hunting and using guns anyway. And like the Division mentioned, you have the ultimate safety responsibility is up to the individual.

And then I had, I don't know how we want to handle this, I got a letter from an individual requesting some changes and for the Division to look at the timing of the draw hunts in the spring, with regard to the turkeys. Basically, we have two varieties: We have Merriam's and Rios both in Utah. And the Merriam's tend to be more of a mountain, higher elevation bird, and the Rios live in the riparian areas primarily along rivers and streams and in farmland. And this brought up something, and I had to look into it and find out that it is actually the case, that birds living in the higher elevations strut later, and the birds living down lower in the valleys, it warms up sooner, they strut earlier. And the concern with this individual was having—the hunt was moved back, it's later now. And trying to hunt the Rios, they're pretty much done strutting by the time the hunt starts, and it's a limited-entry hunt. There was concern about that. And the request, my takeaway from the letter was to try to move the hunt so it straddles both, so you have an opportunity to hunt strutting birds if you're down low. This year there was no snow or anything, so access to the high country where the Merriam's were at was probably not an issue. But there could be years where you couldn't access them very easily. And I don't know how you want to handle that. Do we make that a motion? Do we ask the Wildlife Board to put it on an action log?

Chris Wood: Do you want to respond to that, Avery?

Avery Cook: As far as the Board process, I'll leave that up to the Board Chair.

Chris Wood: As far as whether that observation is correct or not about timing and Rios.

Avery Cook: Generally, yeah, that is accurate. Specifically the dates and individual areas, I don't have good information on that. But typically, the Rios will be earlier than the

Merriam's.

Chris Wood: And the limited-entry hunt is missing that opportunity?

Avery Cook: Again, I don't have exact dates, but it's certainly plausible.

Kent Johnson: I can bring that up as we get motions. We can look at it then.

Trisha Hedin: Let's take other comments.

Eric Luke: I have one. Just the wording. As I read through the way it was worded, it was concerning to me because it sounded like it's pretty much, and I think there was some clarification, that they're not doing it statewide. It is broken down. But does there need to be some wording in there that discusses that, that it's not opened up statewide? I don't know if that's necessary or not, but that is a concern for me because here in the Southeast Region, there are certain areas in the Southeast Region that are thriving, but they're very small areas. The biggest part of this region is the birds are just barely starting to gain some momentum. So I see some potential with the fall hunt and the rimfire rifles, you could wipe out one of these flocks in small areas in a real short time. So I guess, I don't know that I have a motion or anything, but I would like that to be considered, whether it be by the Division or the Wildlife Board, if there needs to be wording to that effect.

Trisha Hedin: Is that verbiage already in the guidebook?

Avery Cook: Yeah, so the regulation is statewide, but it gives the region discretion for the fall hunts. So there won't be any fall hunts in a region or an area unless there is an over population concern. So there wouldn't be an opportunity for a fall hunt or a rimfire in an area where the populations weren't having issues with overabundance.

Trisha Hedin: I guess my comment is, I'm glad you brought that information about the rimfire from other states. That helps me because I was fairly opposed to it, even though I will state, the first time I killed a turkey, it did flip me over backwards. Even as an adult, I had that pain. But I guess what I appreciate about hunting a turkey with a shotgun is it really promotes that fair chase and having to really get close to a bird. And I actually think that's a great way to introduce youth to hunting. Turkeys are hard to hunt, so I appreciate that. I'm not opposed to the rimfire idea with that information. What concerns me is if we have a 20 percent hunt success and we're all happy with that, we're meeting those objectives, can we tip-toe into this idea of rimfire by allowing that, but maybe we stay at one fall turkey and giving rimfire? For me, to go rimfire and three turkeys, that's a little concerning to me because your hunt success is going to be way higher, and all of a sudden, you've tripled at a person's ability to kill a turkey. I just want to throw that idea out there.

Eric Luke: I agree with you. And if you go back to the slides, correct me if I'm wrong, but the fall hunt was about a 75 percent success. The spring hunt was 20 percent. Is that correct? So you add the rimfire and you could potentially decimate a population. Now I

really like what Kevin suggested, and I hope the Division remains open to that, because there are a lot of areas, right here is one of them in the Southeast Region, we would love to see some of the turkeys brought from these overpopulated areas and help our flocks out. There's other opportunities there other than just wiping them out.

Kent Johnson: I think part of it was, correct me if I'm wrong, because some of the wording was vague, I agree with Eric, but it was to target small populations that have become a nuisance. Is that what the intent was, the three permits allowing people to take three birds, either sex? To target localized populations that are becoming a problem because there are way too many?

Avery Cook: That's correct. We've got a lot of other tools in our toolbox as far as hazing and moving birds, and we've basically just put these fall hunts in places where we've kind of reached our trapping capacity. Last year we moved over 2,000 turkeys from some of these overpopulated areas.

Kent Johnson: So we are moving them. One other comment I would make pursuant to moving turkeys, I can't speak to everywhere in the Southeast Region, but I can speak to the Colorado and Green River corridors, and moving turkeys here ain't going to do you any good. We're overrun with raccoons, skunks, foxes and they get the nests. I don't see quail anymore.

Avery Cook: So we've got habitat problems.

Kent Johnson: Where I live along the river and stuff, I used to hunt turkeys, quail, occasionally a pheasant. But pheasants are their own issue. But my garden is raided constantly all summer by raccoons. At 2:00 in the afternoon the other day, I had a red fox in the corral with my horses, and I didn't used to see foxes in the daylight. So I like the idea of moving the turkeys and building populations, but I guess my comment is I would encourage the Division to look at predator control programs and some kind of scorched earth policy with raccoons in riparian areas before we spend money putting turkeys there that are just going to get their eggs destroyed.

Kirk Player: I just want to second what Trish said. I mean that's what I think, too. I understand it's just for targeted areas, but we're saying you can kill triple, and you can do it a lot easier. Let's maybe do one or the other first and see how it goes, and then go from there. The next one's the coyote bounty, so maybe you can lump raccoons in there.

Trisha Hedin: So at this point, do we want to entertain a motion? Accept the proposal as is?

Kent Johnson: I would like to, I guess, make a motion about the season dates. I'll try to get this right. I'd like to make a motion that we ask the Wildlife Board to look at the timing of the spring limited-entry turkey seasons to maybe move it to where it expands the strut for both Merriam's and Rios and gives an equal opportunity on both subspecies.

Trisha Hedin: So we have a motion by Kent for the Wildlife Board to consider an action log item in which they'll look at the timing of limited-entry turkey seasons to straddle both subspecies. Do I have a second on that? I have a second by Kirk. All in favor. All opposed. And then you're abstaining, is that right, Gerrish? So other than Gerrish, it was unanimous. So do I have another motion?

Kent Johnson: Want me to take a stab at it?

Eric Luke: Go ahead.

Kent Johnson: I make a motion to accept the remainder of the Division's proposals, with the exception that we remain at one turkey per hunter on the fall hunts. Does that work for anybody? Do an either-or on that?

Jace Guymon: I'd rather see the three tags, because where it's either sex. Because you can use a .410 shooting No. 9 shot with that denser load, any kid can handle that. So I'd rather see the additional tags and not the rimfire, if that's OK with you.

Kent Johnson: Motion withdrawn. Go ahead.

Jace Guymon: I make a motion to accept the remainder of the Division's proposals, with the exception of the addition of a rimfire rifle. Hold off on that and see how we go with the additional.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Jace to accept the Division's proposal as presented, with the exception of the use of rimfire weapons in fall turkey hunts. Is that correct? Do I have a second on that?

Helene Taylor: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: I have a second by Helene. All in favor. I think I have eight in favor. Opposed. Three opposed. I think we're good.

VOTING

Kent Johnson made a motion to ask the Wildlife Board, as an action log item, to evaluate the timing of the spring limited-entry turkey season so that it straddles the strutting seasons for Merriam's and Rio Grande turkeys, providing equal opportunity to hunt both sub species

Seconded by Kirk Player

Motion passed 10-0 (1 abstention: Gerrish Willis)

Jace Guymon made a motion to accept the remaining Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented, with the exception of adding a rimfire rifle option for the fall turkey hunting season

Seconded by Helene Taylor

Motion passed 8-3 (opposed: Kent Johnson, Eric Luke, Lynn Sitterud)

- 8) **Coyote Bounty Program Amendments - Rule R657-64**
- Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist

Questions from the RAC

Trisha Hedin: Let's take questions from the RAC.

Kent Johnson: I have a question pursuant to taking a picture and providing accurate data that way. This may be a question, it may be a comment. Has the Division given thought to the fact that a lot of areas where people are going to be hunting, there is no cell coverage?

Xaela Walden: Yes, and so the way the app works is it'll enter in all the data and it'll hold the data there. Your phone can georeference regardless of whether you have service or not, and it'll save it, and when you go back to your house and you do have service, then you can submit it then. So it saves all that info.

Kent Johnson: The app does all that?

Xaela Walden: Yes, it does.

Kent Johnson: I've taken pictures with my phone, and the reason I ask this question, I've taken pictures in the roadless part of the Book Cliffs, and it said I was in Moab.

Xaela Walden: Oh no. That's pretty bad.

Kent Johnson: I'm over 90 miles from Moab when I took the pictures. I'm questioning whether this has been looked into, if it's going to be accurate.

Xaela Walden: It should be accurate. One of the requirements will be that participants have their GPS location data turned on. And the app will notify them when they open it up that they need to have it turned on.

Trisha Hedin: Other questions from the RAC?

Jace Guymon: So obviously everyone kind of assumes people have smartphones these days. Pretty much everyone does. But I know a lot of hunters that don't. They still use the flip phone. Will that exclude them, even though they're active participants now? There will be no option to individually subscribe to a paper version?

Xaela Walden: So we are going to open it up to a trial run for a year where it'll be

optional, then in July 2019, we're recommending to make it a requirement, which would then exclude those that do not wish to use a smartphone. But I want to clarify that we're not preventing them from hunting coyotes. We're just preventing them from receiving a financial gain from hunting them.

Gerrish Willis: I have a question, too. My question is has the Division, I realize that the purpose for the act that allows the bounty to be paid was particularly to increase the doe:fawn ratio. Does the Division have good data that it's effective in meeting the objectives of what the act specified?

Xaela Walden: So currently we don't have an answer to that. I'm actually working on a thesis project to determine how effective it is, or if it is effective, by looking at how much spatiotemporal overlap there is between fawning and coyote removals. One of the reasons we haven't looked at it until now is because it takes a long time to collect the data, and also we haven't had a due date for how long guys can store up coyotes. So there's been a lot of missing information up until now.

Eric Luke: Maybe something that would answer your question, if you look at the slides they were showing during Guy's presentation, there's a tremendous amount of predation by coyotes. So any coyotes that are taken are helping that population, particularly the fawns.

Jeff Christensen: So is this program shifting more people that direction, or are we just hunting aimless sage brush flats with lots of rabbits?

Xaela Walden: So the majority of the coyotes are coming out of Box Elder County and Beaver County. And the vast majority, I can show you, those hot spots where it's yellow is where the most coyotes are coming out of.

Jeff Christensen: It wouldn't happen to be the thoroughfare to Idaho and Nevada, would it?

Xaela Walden: We hope not.

Jeff Christensen: That's my fear.

Dana Truman: What are the other states doing? Are there any bounties in other states?

Xaela Walden: Currently, we're the only state that has a bounty on coyotes.

Dana Truman: Do you know how the level of \$50 was determined?

Xaela Walden: I don't know. I don't know if maybe Darren knows.

Darren DeBlois: That was the language in the original bill, and that was a cap, so it can be up to \$50, and it can fluctuate under that. We began the program at that level. So that's

why.

Dana Truman: So then what currently happens when you run out of funding? Does it just stop?

Darren DeBloois: Right. We haven't run out yet, but the funding would roll over. So the years when we didn't spend the \$500,000, that money would carry forward. We're getting to the point now where we're spending that bank and we're getting to the point where we're looking at running out. So in that case, we'd stop payments that year until we got funding the following year, if we got funding.

Trisha Hedin: But you're still asking for donations to that fund when people put in for draws.

Darren DeBloois: This fund is appropriated by the Legislature. So that amount can change if the Legislature wants it to change.

Todd Thorne: And what is that appropriation amount?

Xaela Walden: So every previous year, it's been \$500,000 for payouts to coyote removals.

Jeff Christensen: And that's all coming from the Legislature?

Xaela Walden: Yes.

Jeff Christensen: So the \$5 coming out of the big game tags, where is that going?

Xaela Walden: That's going to the administrative costs of paying our technicians, paying for supplies, running the actual program.

Kirk Player: Is this data that eventually the Division might think about using, or would a goal be to kind of prioritize where maybe eventually you're paying a bounty during fawning in fawning areas, and that's it? Because that's where we need it. We don't necessarily need to pay a guy to hunt out where there's no deer, which we're doing right now.

Xaela Walden: So it's been discussed, and part of the reason is we don't have enough data to back up any changes currently. And on top of that, we are already addressing fraud problems. So trying to make it to specific locations like fawning grounds may be too much of a constrain to be able to actually regulate with the manpower that we have.

Kirk Player: And with how it's set up right now. I mean that would be easier with the app, right?

Xaela Walden: Potentially, yes.

Trisha Hedin: Any more questions from the RAC? So do we have questions from the audience? Comments from the audience?

Questions from the Public

No questions.

Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman, SFW: We support the Division's proposal on this action.

RAC Discussion

Trisha Hedin: At this point, comments and/or motions from the RAC.

Kent Johnson: I have one comment. Personally, I'd like to applaud the Division's efforts. I can see a lot of thought's been put into this, trying to come up with ways to reduce the fraud in the system. I know there is a lot of fraud in the system, and I've personally watched a lot of guys gathering up roadkill. That, if you ask me, is sharpshooting the system. And I applaud the Division's effort to try and reduce that fraud, because it is our tax dollars at work, and we'd like it to be put to work for what it was intended and not somebody defrauding and sharp shooting. So I'm appreciative of that effort. I do, however, I have concerns with how it's going to be implemented. I like the idea of using an app and being able to accurately pinpoint the location, but I wonder how well that's going to work.

Gerrish Willis: I have a comment. What I've noticed since the bounty was first enacted in 2012 was that other prey species have increased significantly, and I'm surprised that the Farm Bureau and ranchers haven't voiced objection to the bounty program. Because the number of rodents, lagomorphs has increased so much that, in places, there's no grazing but it looks like an area that has been totally overgrazed because of the number of prey species that are not being taken by coyotes now. And I wish that the Division would look more holistically at the issue of targeting one predator species with one prey species in mind to protect, and not looking at the effects of the increase in other prey species. So it's going to be difficult to shift gears, but part of the problem is, you know, in areas where there's not a problem with doe:fawn ratios, there's no deer, still people are out there killing coyotes just to get a bounty. It just seems like it's not so sophisticated enough program to really target and meet the objectives it was set up to do.

Trisha Hedin: Any other comments from the RAC?

Dana Truman: I guess I'll be very interested in the results of analyzing this and maybe

looking into literature review from other states if there were other bounty programs in the past, to find out the success or if they were not successful. Stay tuned.

Kirk Player: One comment I do have, too, is I think there was one out of Idaho, what can happen with coyotes. And I'm sure this isn't news to the biologists, but the more you kill them, the more they have. So are we just spinning our wheels and spending half a million dollars for nothing? I think going this direction will help us answer that question a little bit easier. Because that's a legitimate concern, it could absolutely be the truth that we've thrown away millions of dollars, and there's just as many coyotes out there. We've been trying to kill coyotes for hundreds of years. They're not easy.

Eric Luke: The government's been at war with the coyote since day 1. And when the last man on earth is dead and gone, there will be a coyote there to take a leak on him. So we'll never win the war with coyotes, but this is a proven method to help reduce the number of coyotes. It is effective, and there is data that shows that.

Gerrish Willis: Yet there's also data that shows that it's not effective in that you'll actually increase the population of coyotes in an area where they've been removed. So it has to do with the fecundity of the species, as the populations seem to drop, they have more pups, and transient coyotes will come and take the place of a dominant coyote in an area. So I would say the data isn't real clear to support what you said.

I'd like to make a motion. I move that the Southeast RAC recommend to the Wildlife Board that a recommendation be sent to the Legislature to amend the Mule Deer Protection Act to remove the bounty on coyotes from the general predator control program, and leave the targeted predator control program as is to better control coyotes where doe:fawn ratios are below target goals, and the reason is determined by a study or studies be conducted that the problem with the doe:fawn ratio is due to coyote predation and not other factors.

Chris Wood: So was that a motion to send a letter? I missed that first part.

Gerrish Willis: A recommendation to the Wildlife Board to recommend that the Legislature get rid of the program, the bounty portion of the program. I can read it again if you want.

Chris Wood: At some point maybe just give us your paper, too.

Gerrish Willis: Not sure if you'll be able to read my writing.

Chris Wood: OK. Say it again then.

Gerrish Willis: I move that the Southeast RAC recommend to the Wildlife Board that a recommendation be sent to the Legislature to amend the Mule Deer Protection Act to remove the bounty on coyotes from the general predator control program, and leave the targeted predator control program as it is to better control coyotes where the doe:fawn ratios are below target goals. And the reason is determined by study due to coyote

predation.

Jeff Christensen: What are your other methods?

Gerrish Willis: Excuse me?

Jeff Christensen: What are your other methods?

Gerrish Willis: Well part of the program is that the federal government and the state have hunters that go out where there are problems.

Jeff Christensen: I'm fairly well aware of that. But is that what you're talking about is UDAF taking back over complete control.

Gerrish Willis: Yeah. I think it's more effective to have targeted hunters going out into areas where it's been determined there's a problem and taking care of that problem than going out into the West Desert where there's no mule deer at all and just killing coyotes to kill coyotes for a bounty.

Jeff Christensen: I agree with you.

Gerrish Willis: Anyway, that's my recommendation.

Chris Wood: Your motion doesn't mention UDAF taking over the program or anything. Am I correct?

Gerrish Willis: The targeted predator control program remain in place.

Xaela Walden: I don't know if I can clarify on that, but there's a portion in the rule that we have a contracted portion where we can pay contractors and specifically target in certain areas that we specify. And we also have the bounty program where any member of the public can go anywhere in the state. And I think he's excluding the bounty and wants to get rid of that, but wants to keep the ability to have targeted removals.

Gerrish Willis: Exactly.

Trisha Hedin: OK. I'm not going to repeat that. Is that OK?

Chris Wood: It's good.

Trisha Hedin: Do we have a second on that? So we have a motion by Gerrish. Do we have a second?

Sue Bellagamba: I'll second Gerrish's motion.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a second by Sue. All in favor. So we have two. All

opposed. [Eight] opposed.

Chris Wood: And one abstention.

Trisha Hedin: Do we have another motion?

Eric Luke: I'll make a motion that we go ahead and accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Trisha Hedin: So I have Eric Luke making a motion to accept the recommendations as presented. Do I have a second on that?

Todd Thorne: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: We've got Todd Thorne seconding. All in favor. Nine. All opposed. Two, Gerrish and Sue.

I will take that to the Wildlife Board.

VOTING

Gerrish Willis made a motion to recommend that the Wildlife Board ask the Utah State Legislature to amend the Mule Deer Protection Act by removing the bounty on coyotes in the general predator control program, but leaving the targeted predator control program in place to better control coyotes where doe-to-fawn ratios are below target goals due to coyotes

Seconded by Sue Bellagamba

Motion failed 8-2 (1 abstention)

Eric Luke made a motion to accept the Coyote Bounty Program Amendments as presented

Seconded by Todd Thorne

Motion passed 9-2

9) Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

- David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist

Questions from the RAC

Trisha Hedin: Do we have questions from the RAC? And I have some. Go ahead, Gerrish.

Gerrish Willis: So we received a couple of emails, one from Beaver County today, that my read of it is that they're lukewarm to the idea, they're not really that supportive

because of the potential conflicts with, I guess it's primarily some sheep allotments. How much of the suitable habitat that you've mapped is within active sheep allotments?

David Smedley: Let me show you this. Out of the suitable habitat here, there's no sheep allotments within that habitat. There's, on the very north end, there's a sheep allotment that it's a cattle and sheep allotment. It kind of comes into that. Very north end, just a little bit, and it's kind of on the grass and on the east side. But that allotment they're phasing sheep out and they're trying to put an application to convert to cattle. And the BLM is aware of that, but they're working through that application process right now, so in the next few years, that sheep allotment will no longer exist.

Trisha Hedin: One of the letters we received stated that they were not historically native.

David Smedley: Right. So there's records in Beaver County, there's record on several mountain ranges in Beaver County that they are native.

Jeff Christensen: Are they native there?

Trisha Hedin: Are they native there?

Jeff Christensen: On that chunk of ground.

David Smedley: Do you want to answer that, Jace?

Jace Taylor: No problem. Thanks, Dave. My name's Jace Taylor, Division of Wildlife, working with bighorn sheep biologist. Probably the most comprehensive study that was done in Utah was 1971. The scientists were Dalton and Spillett. They did a good study going across the state, looking at skeletal remains, looking at pictographs and petroglyphs, and also looking at historical records of sightings of bighorn sheep. And basically what they concluded was that bighorn sheep were found in every major mountain range and every major river drainage in the state, and that they're ubiquitous to the state. We have very specific records near this. It's in habitat that is less suitable. This is great habitat. There's no reason to doubt that bighorn sheep were there. And that's where we stand. Does that answer your question?

Trisha Hedin: That helps. So David, you talked about moving 40 bighorns. Can you give us a cost on that, a general cost, so that we understand if we put those sheep in there and they don't make it?

David Smedley: I'm going to let Jace answer those.

Jace Taylor: There's some variation there. It depends on where we get them from, exactly how many. But if we're talking about 40 bighorn sheep, usually that ends up being about \$1,000 an animal, and then we also have collar costs. It's \$1,000 to capture the animal and to transport it. We also have collar costs as well. And then you can also factor in how much we spend on habitat work. We plan to do a lot of habitat work, water

improvements, to improve the range for current cattle grazers, as well as the bighorn sheep. We're committed to investing what it takes to keep those animals there.

Kirk Player: One question that I have had brought up to me, and I don't know if there's a precedent for it, but is that the adjacent permittees that do have sheep allotments might someday be held liable, whether it's from the Division or some other environmental group or even just nongovernmental organization, if this goes south. If we put 40 in there, we were wrong, they're too close, they get disease and they all die. Is there any legal protection, or can somebody go after those domestic permittees and try to hold them liable.

David Smedley: We haven't had that in Utah. We've been very supportive of those cases. I think Justin, you're more familiar with that, or Jace. But currently, we haven't had any of those issues and had any sheep taken away from that.

Justin Shannon: This has happened in the past. There's countless times where we've had domestic sheep and bighorn sheep comingling. And we've had disease events throughout the state, and we don't have a time when we've gone back and tried to hold somebody liable. What we're trying to do is, if you look at bighorn sheep and back way up, when Utah was first settled, bighorn sheep were the most abundant big game animal on the landscape. And most of the populations were extirpated. All the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were gone by about the 1930s, 40s, and most of our desert bighorn populations, except Canyonlands. So we're trying to restore these populations. And we recognize that in so doing, sometimes there's risk. But as we've had comingling events and we've had die-offs, we haven't sought out and said, "We're holding them liable." That hasn't been our interest. We've done restoration work since 1966 in Utah, and we just don't have a history of that.

Kirk Player: And there's no precedent of another, because I don't think the Division would ever do that. It just is what it is. But there's no precedent of some other NGO coming in and saying, "Oh, this is your fault."

Justin Shannon: They might try to place blame, but the Division of Wildlife manages that resource, so no repercussions that way.

Kirk Player: Thank you.

Helene Taylor: I have a question. From an ecological standpoint, just to use kind of an example, like the mountain goats that were transplanted on the La Sals, kind of what you were touching on, setting it up for another lawsuit because some other resource has been demised because of this transplant. Or something that's questionably native to the area.

David Smedley: So are you asking if there's something similar like that on the Minerals?

Helene Taylor: Not that we're aware of. And the BLM, I've discussed this, it's all on BLM property. But it's a very diverse, healthy, robust ecosystem. Lots of grasses, forbs

and shrubs, and there hasn't been anything that we're aware of that would be of concern there.

Dana Truman: Along those lines, is there any habitat monitoring protocols set up now?

David Smedley: There are some range trend sites there, and currently, when we go through and monitor habitat, one of the nice things with the GPS collars is we can see where those sheep are using, and then we can go out and look at where we need to set up new monitoring sites.

Eric Luke: I have a question. It goes back to the cost that Trish brought up. Correct me if I'm wrong, but this cost is being covered by sportsmen groups and the Conservation Permit Program. Correct?

David Smedley: Correct.

Jeff Christensen: So the woolgrowers have asked for an MOU. I'm sure you're aware of this. Are you guys willing to sign that MOU with the woolgrowers?

David Smedley: Justin, do you want to take that?

Justin Shannon: Depends on what the details of the MOU are. We're willing to sit down and discuss any of that stuff. But to give a blanket, "Yeah, we're willing to sign any—"

Jeff Christensen: And I understand that. But if you're willing to sit down and entertain the deal before, it's pretty hard to say, "We're willing to entertain it," and then make a decision here tonight on whether we agree with that.

Justin Shannon: Well if you look at our statewide plan, it's pretty clear. We wrote it this way by design. We're the Division of Wildlife, and we want to restore bighorn populations where we can on the landscape. And one of the phrases that we use in our statewide plan is that we want to manage for healthy, robust populations of bighorn sheep, but not at the expense of the domestic sheep industry. That's not what we're interested in. If you look at our track record in bighorn sheep restoration, we're looking for units like this that don't currently have domestic sheep grazing. We're not coming and proposing to put bighorns on the Manti.

Jeff Christensen: But in all reality, if you look for track record, use the Elliot for an example, once you guys wanted to transplant sheep there, the domestic sheep were gone not too long after.

Justin Shannon: In which unit? I'm sorry. Where at?

Jeff Christensen: The Elliot here.

Justin Shannon: In situations like that, there have been situations where we've had

willing permittees work with conservation groups and say, “I want to convert to cattle, or I want to do this,” and there’s financial gain to be had there. But that’s a willing permittee situation. I can’t think of a scenario where bighorn sheep have caused domestic sheep to be forced off the landscape in Utah.

Jeff Christensen: I’m just saying, as a track record, as soon as the wild sheep have moved out, the domestic sheep within not too long are gone.

Justin Shannon: Well the domestic sheep were moved ahead of time, before bighorn sheep were placed there. But again, that was a willing permittee saying, “Yes, I want to work with a group like FNAWS,” or something, and financially get compensated to convert from domestic sheep to cattle. So it’s a willing situation.

Jeff Christensen: And I understand that. I’m just saying, as a track record, that’s how it’s happened.

Justin Shannon: OK. We’re saying the same thing. Yes.

Trisha Hedin: Any other questions from the RAC? So do we have questions from the audience? Troy.

Questions from the Public

Troy Justensen, SFW: Can you elaborate on where that come from? You said Beaver County. Can you tell me who it came from?

Todd Thorne: It came from the public lands director.

Troy Justensen: Public lands director speaking under what authority?

Jeff Christensen: Kevin Whitacre.

Troy Justensen: Kevin Whitacre. Not county commissioners? Just public lands director?

Trisha Hedin: Does it say, Eric? Does he have a specific—

Lynn Sitterud: I did receive a phone call from their county commissioner just before the meeting started, telling me that they opposed it last night, so it was tabled and wasn’t acted on last night in the Southern RAC.

Troy Justensen: Which county commissioner called?

Lynn Sitterud: Tammy.

Troy Justensen: Tammy? We’ll address that a little later. Next question. We’re talking

about when they were there. Native species. Are domestic sheep and cattle native to that country? Don't think so.

Jeff Christensen: I don't know that we're real native, either.

Gerrish Willis: I think we can all agree, that's a true statement.

Trisha Hedin: Are there any more questions from the audience? So we're going to take comments. And we have Brett Behling from Utah Farm Bureau.

Comments from the Public

Brett Behling: I'll just pass on some of the comments that were made last night at the Southern meeting. Farm Bureau has not been in the negotiations that the permittees and the cattlemen and the county commissioners down there have had. So we won't comment on what went on. But there were significant concerns raised about negative impacts to grazing. We think that it was probably pretty close to them agreeing to it at one time, and at some point during the negotiations, it probably fell through. So based on that, just because of the concerns to the negative impacts, the Farm Bureau's policy is that we would oppose it until the permittees would be agreeable to it. As has been said in other areas, bighorn sheep and desert bighorns and others that have come into the area, it's been under willing circumstances. If the conditions were met, the Farm Bureau would be in support of that, as long as it wasn't negatively impacting grazing. So in other areas with other wildlife species, Farm Bureau has been actively involved in trying to help negotiate, especially with the buffalo on the Henry Mountains and other areas to try to facilitate AUM transfers to help make livestockmen whole down there. And we'd be willing to do the same thing here. But as far as this RAC is concerned, the Farm Bureau would officially oppose it today. But if the livestock permittees and the county commission and others were negotiated with at some time, we would like to help facilitate that discussion. Because we think we have much more in common on this than we're actually divided. I think the sportsmen and the livestock grazers can actually work together and make something happen that is beneficial to all.

Some of the comments that were brought up, I'll just point these out, a lot of the AUMs have been suspended in that area. Some of the ranchers have said as much as 38 percent of their AUMs have been suspended. And they're saying, if there's not some cattle reintroduced because there's more feed, how can we introduce more sheep? That was one of the concerns that was brought up. Another one is there's concerns about the bighorn sheep not staying in the area. Not sure that that's legitimate for this species, but the ranchers were pretty concerned about that. Third concern was private land. There's about 25 percent of the area, and I'm not familiar with it, but it is owned by private landowners, and there's concerns about the sheep grazing on the private land and affecting that as well. So in addition to that, there's other concerns, but those were the major ones. Officially, Farm Bureau opposes it at this point, but we would love to help facilitate and see if we can come to some agreement.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you, Brett. Next we have Julie from the Utah Woolgrowers.

Julie Hansmier: Hi everyone. I'm Julie Hansmier. You probably don't know me too well, but I'm north of the Danish Flat exit and I winter there and kind of hibernate out there and have my sheep camp out there. We're lambing right now. And then I summer in Colorado. So I often don't get this direction. I end up going that way, and I'm truly vested in Grand County, Utah, and the sheep industry. We raise merino ewes. We also run some cattle, so I do represent myself, and I've been asked to represent the Utah Woolgrowers tonight.

We all know, if you read the news at all, there's been a lot of discussion about bighorn and domestics. And there's folks who have lost their permits, there's a lot of repercussions. Don't ever think that there won't be repercussions from something like this. And that's where we already have both species, but this is an area where you don't have the bighorns right now, but you do have domestic sheep. And the bighorns may move. Did you get a letter from the Utah Woolgrowers? OK. Twenty-four thousand head of sheep and seven grazing permits in that area. That would be within 20 to 30 miles, and that's serious. It makes my knees shake. I'm not sure, I've got about five calls today, saying, "Julie, can you take a break from what you're doing lambing," we docked lambs this morning at 6:00, and I said yes, I can come down and visit. And I'm not a stranger to this issue, I don't think we have to go through all the details. I summer in Vale, Colorado, and I've been on a variety of boards. We do have a good, although occasionally, we butt heads, working group with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, now the Parks and Wildlife, and the bighorn sheep groups, and the forest and the Department of Agriculture. So we have been working through some issues in Colorado.

But I did hear a comment that none of our permits have been affected by bighorn sheep, and they have. And my personal one, my husband before he passed, changed some of our sheep AUMs to cows. We run 200 cows now. And when I asked, because I'm more comfortable with sheep, if I could change back to sheep, and they said no. The BLM said, "No, you cannot do that," because of the bighorn sheep, the potential problem. So I have been affected by them, by this issue, even though the majority of our neighbors are sheep. It's definitely unreasonable to think that nothing's going to happen out of this situation. I think there's so many issues in this state and in the country that we have to work through, and I think we're going to. And I hope, if you don't actually vote no on this, I hope you'll do what the Southern RAC did and recommend to table it or to really work with those affected stakeholder groups and come to some kind of agreement and some kind of understanding. The woolgrowers definitely don't feel like they've been informed on this proposal.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. Next we have Jeremy.

Jeremy Anderson: On this topic, I'm just representing myself. I do support the Division's proposal as they've given it. I also think it's hunting opportunity. It's conservation permit money put to work. I think it's a great thing for hunting opportunity.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you, Jeremy. Next we have Kevin Norman.

Kevin Norman: Kevin Norman, representing myself. I found it very interesting last night in the Southern RAC, the Forest Service gentleman spoke of the Oak Creeks, which there was sheep reintroduced there about five years ago. And a lot of these same concerns were brought up at that time, and he said none of those concerns have come to fruition. There's been significant financial gain from federal funding and other funds. Sheep are a very valued resource and get a lot of attention. And there's a lot of money that can come in to improve the ground, the habitat. Also, as far as the sheep movement, they've collared a bunch of those and it basically all stayed within a three-mile radius of where they were transplanted. And also as a sportsman, I think this opportunity is awesome to expand the opportunity to hunt sheep in our state. It's kind of a rich man's game, but this allows opportunity for the average Joe, like myself. So I definitely support the Division in this. Thanks.

Trisha Hedin: Thanks, Kevin. Next we have Greg Bird from Utah Wild Sheep.

Greg Bird: Good evening, RAC members. I appreciate the time to be able to speak. Utah Wild Sheep Foundation is in full support of the Division's recommendation. This has been a long time in the works. It's not just in the last year-and-a-half. It's been several years. And we think it's time to do it. There's a window of opportunity where we have a source herd. We lost 75 desert bighorn sheep out of Nevada last year because we couldn't get this through before. So it's the time to do it. We heard about risk assessment and special separation issues and, I mean, this Green River/Rattlesnake sheep herd is a good example of it. We have domestic sheep to the east, and these sheep wander into it, they get removed. This would be no different than right here. There are no active sheep allotments on this mountain. And we talk about a lot of it, 25 percent of it, is private. Actually, it's less than 5 percent of it is private on the mountain itself, where the sheep habitat is. The rest of it's out in these desert flats. Yes, occasionally we'll have a ram that will wander. That's just their nature. But when they leave that black boundary, they die. We assume the risk, we know we're going to lose some. If they leave that boundary, we want them dead. We don't want them to bring the pathogens back in. We know there are allotments out there, but there are none on this mountain. This is the perfect place to do it. And we're naïve to think that we have sheep all the way around this and they didn't walk on this piece of dirt. So we're in full support of this.

It was brought up the cost to get them here. FNAWS is ready to step up to take the lead in this and pay for this. And I know other sportsmen groups are in the same boat with us on that. We've also committed over \$100,000 to habitat improvement projects on this mountain, water, and land on the private and the public. We need to remember, this is over 95 percent public ground. We keep hearing issues about the cattlemen and the woolgrowers. There's guides and outfitters that make a living on this mountain too that never get mentioned on this. So it's multiple use. We just need to remember that. Thank you for your time.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you, Greg. And then Troy.

Troy Justensen, SFW: Greg brings up a great point. You all have sheep right in your backyard. And quite frankly, you have domestics closer than what you're going to have

down there. To say that this is a huge problem, it's too close to domestics, almost every wild sheep herd in this state has some sort of risk factor with domestic sheep. Quite honestly, we've worked real well with them in the past in realizing that once these sheep move, if they move, we remove them. I was just here a couple years ago as these sheep move toward Cottonwood and Diamond, I believe it was six, eight, 10 sheep that we removed because they were getting too close to that allotment. The other thing, too, is I would encourage you to call the other two county commissioners. Tammy's speaking out of line. They have not had a vote among the three county commissioners. Quite honestly, there is some support for it. So for her to say that, she is out of line. So I'd encourage you to call the other two county commissioners on that.

As far as the other allotment that's on the North, the Ensign Ranches, they are a current sheep allotment. They're in the process of moving to cows. He [is in] full support of having sheep on that mountain. The other thing that I think we need to take into consideration here is, like Greg pointed out, is the multiple use. As we sat in that meeting last night, yes, they did vote to table it. We were missing four RAC members. If those four RAC members were there last night, now granted, I admit they weren't there, you go with the vote of the people who were there, it'd be a different story tonight.

But the thing I want to focus on is it's not the issue we're talking about, there's not enough feed on the mountain. North Divide Grazers, me and Pete had a conversation. And point blank, face-to-face, I said, "Pete, you know there's enough feed for your cows on them mountains and these sheep," and he says, "You're exactly right. But until you guys and the Division are willing to a NEPA and give us the protection, there's no way. We're not going to budge on it." Well neither are we. So don't kid yourself. It's a posturing stance to say there's no feed there. We'd support having those AUMs kicked back. In fact they are, that private section in there, they are on a reciprocal grazing agreement, which actually artificially inflates the AUMs because there's no fences and they can move back and forth. We support those cows there, and once again, there is no domestic sheep there. There is a strong support for this in the community. This started almost eight, 10 years ago with the local Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife committee. We've worked long and hard to get it to this point. So it's important that, we mentioned before, this is multiple use. We need to look at other things. There's people who make money through guiding and outfitting and recreational activities. It's not just landowners themselves. The notion that we're trying to put the sheep industry out of business is simply not true. We've actually come to their aid. And quite honestly, it's no guarantee in the future that the feds or some other agency will try to force them out, but I tell you one thing, if the woolgrowers and the cattlemen are willing to stand by the side of sportsmen, when that time comes, we'll be there by their side as well.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you, Troy. Thank you for all of your comments. It's really appreciated. It really helps us make some decisions. So, comments from the RAC.

RAC Discussion

Eric Luke: I was glad it was pointed out, because there was a little bit of misrepresentation the amount of public land, and there are, correct me if I'm wrong, there

are no current domestic sheep except on the very north end, and they're, as you mentioned, currently moving to cattle. Correct?

David Smedley: Correct.

Eric Luke: So I'm glad that was clarified.

Jeff Christensen: How big of a boundary buffer zone there are you trying to hold around that?

David Smedley: What do you mean, buffer zone? Like an area of risk?

Jeff Christensen: From your domestic sheep all toments?

David Smedley: Where they wander to, is that what you're saying?

Jeff Christensen: So I'm assuming all your orange ground is the mountain range.

David Smedley: Right. That's modeled sheep habitat.

Jeff Christensen: So I'm assuming all of the white ground is your high desert ground.

David Smedley: Right. Yeah.

Jeff Christensen: There's no sheep in any of that at all.

David Smedley: There's not.

Jeff Christensen: Nobody is against this. Nobody has come out and said this is a hard no. The woolgrowers have said they are in favor of it if they can sit down and come up with an MOU. Also Beaver County, right in the very first line of their email said, "Fundamentally speaking, no one is opposed to the introduction of bighorn sheep." But nothing has been official. But they go through and list some concerns. I don't know anything about it, never been anywhere close to it. It's all I can do is read the emails they send, just like the sportsmen send to us. So that's my concern.

Lynn Sitterud: I'd like to make one comment. I come from a family that's been running cows for hundreds of years, but I also love to hunt. And my suggestions to the cattlemen in Emery County and the hunters is you better figure out a way to be on the same side, because there's a whole bunch of tree huggers out there and animal rights groups that don't want your bighorn sheep on the mountain, and they don't want to be stepping in cow turds when they're up there playing on the mountain. If you don't learn to get along, you're both going to get hurt. So I would love to see the sheep on the mountain and the cows on the mountain and then figure out how to do this MOU, because there's other people out there that are more dangerous to you than you are to each other.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so if we don't have comments, maybe we'll look at a motion.

Jeff Christensen: I'd make a motion that we follow the Southern RAC's trail and table it until they can get things figured out down there the way they need to it.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a motion by Jeff Christensen to currently table the recommendations by the Division. Do we have a second on that? I have a second by Gerrish. All in favor. We have five in favor. All opposed. We have a tie. And then we have some abstentions. We have Dana that abstained.

Chris Wood: So you're the tie breaker.

Trisha Hedin: I just really wanted to sit here. I'm going to go with to follow the recommendations by the Division as presented. So move forward.

Chris Wood: It fails five to six, is what I understand. Right?

Trisha Hedin: Yes. So all those in favor of tabling the recommendations. So we have five. And then those opposed to tabling.

Chris Wood: So we need another motion.

Trisha Hedin: Do we have another motion?

Eric Luke: I'll make a motion that we accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Eric Luke to go with the Division's presentation. Do I have a second on that? By Jace. All in favor.

Chris Wood: Five.

Trisha Hedin: All opposed.

Chris Wood: You're the tie breaker again.

Trisha Hedin: So I'm with Eric.

Chris Wood: It passes six to five. So one abstention again, is that correct? OK.

Trisha Hedin: I appreciate that conversation. And I agree with you, Lynn. We have to come together.

VOTING

Jeff Christensen made a motion to table consideration of the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan

Seconded by Gerrish Willis

Motion failed 5-6 (opposed: Trisha Hedin, Kent Johnson, Lynn Sitterud, Jace Guymon, Kirk Player, Todd Thorne; abstaining: Dana Truman)

Eric Luke made a motion to accept the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented

Seconded by Jace Guymon

Motion passed 6-5 (opposed: Todd Thorne, Jeff Christensen, Sue Bellagamba, Helene Taylor, Gerrish Willis; abstaining: Dana Truman)

Jeff Christensen leaves meeting at 9:38 p.m.

10) Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits - Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62

- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

Questions from the RAC

Kirk Player: You went over, and there was some changes, well not really changes, clarification on how the expo contract or whatever will be awarded. How do you distribute the conservation permits? How do you decide which conservation groups get the conservation permits?

Kenny Johnson: That's a good question. It's outlined in the rule. They have to be a 501(c)(3) organization that has a wildlife-related mission, and that it's spelled out in there how those permits are allocated.

Kirk Player: Is it a similar process, so like if two groups come and say, "We want that permit," then there's a similar process to decide which one to give it to?

Kenny Johnson: Yeah. Justin might be a better resource on some of this part of the rule. I typically deal with the back end stuff on the funding.

Trisha Hedin: Because the numbers are fairly, they're not equal. Some organizations get quite a few compared to others. Can you outline why, really quick?

Justin Shannon: What was the question? Can you clarify?

Kirk Player: How are the conservation permits allocated in a case where two qualified conservation groups would like the same permit?

Justin Shannon: OK. So hypothetically, if you have a Henry Mountains deer tag, who

gets the first shot at that permit? OK. There's something called market share in the rule, and essentially what that means is whoever brought in the most revenue for this program, because this program is about raising funds for conservation, whoever brought in the most of that, there's a formula, and they would have the first choice. And there's a second choice, and a third.

Trisha Hedin: Kind of like a draft, don't you think?

Justin Shannon: It's like a fantasy football draft, if you will, in a way. So whoever has the most market share gets ranked higher, and it goes down.

Kirk Player: And they get to pick, but then they're at the bottom of the line again, and the other groups can pick.

Justin Shannon: For all intents and purposes, that's how it works. So the one with the next market share would get to pick next. It's not fighting over the same permit, it's not like auctioning it off. When your turn comes up, you can choose the permits that are left.

Trisha Hedin: Any other questions from the RAC? OK. Do I have questions from the audience?

Questions from the Public

No questions.

Comments from the Public

Jeremy Anderson: I'm the regional director for Mule Deer Foundation here in Utah. This is actually my hometown. We're in full support of the Division, how they've laid this out. I want to thank Justin for putting together that PowerPoint at the beginning, whoever put it together for you. I'm assuming that's way over your head, right? It's awesome to see that because that's our money on the ground, that's how we're presenting these things. Here in the Southeastern Region, we've averaged about \$250,000 per year in funding on these conservation projects. Again, me being from this area, the biologists know how to tug at my heart and say, "Book Cliffs" and "Nash Wash" and "Sagers" and things like that. I tend to fund a little more money here. But it's a great deal. The expo permit money, I'm glad that they clarified in there as well. The 30-70 split. That 70 percent still is going to the ground. It's just we get to decide how to do it, whether it's purchasing urban deer trailers, which we have a huge problem up north with urban deer and things like that. In full support. Thank you.

Trisha Hedin: Next we have Kevin.

Kevin Norman: Representing myself on this. I, too, would like to thank Justin for his

presentation. I think as I've got more involved with SFW as of late, it's been mind-blowing what this program really does. And the one thing I want to stress where I think everybody's done a poor job is telling about it. I think if the general public had any clue of what really went on, any true sportsman would have a hard time throwing rocks at this program. It's unbelievable, it's unique to our state, it's amazing what gets accomplished through these funds. I'm in full support of this Conservation Permit Program. It's a little sacrifice, but in the end, it's really not a sacrifice. We have better herds, better habitat, and it's been awesome. So in closing, I guess I'd encourage all groups, including SFW, to do a better job at getting it out to the public what's being done with these funds.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. Next we have Greg from Utah Wild Sheep.

Greg Bird: I'll keep it short because I know we're all ready to go home and do other things. We're in full support of the amendment proposals, and this program is amazing. It's given us as Utahns the ability to have the best wildlife in the country, bar none. The Division has done a great job with this, and we're happy and glad to be partners with them. We applaud them for their efforts and hope it keeps going forward forever. Thank you.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. And Troy.

Troy Justensen, SFW: I'd like to expand a little bit on what we've talked about on this profit share and then also the draft. With these permits, they take a three-year average of what that permit brings, so if you draft, say, the Henry Mountains, say it's \$98,000 average, that comes off the money. So it reduces the money that you have to continue to bid on these permits. So it's all based upon return. The more you return, the higher you get, the more money you have to spend to draft these permits. So some groups have more, and it's all based upon performance on who brought more to the table as far as money generated.

I want to speak a little bit to the expo permits. There is a huge difference between the expo permits and the conservation permits. The conservation permits are earmarked and specifically have to go back into big game. We are actually selling a voucher for that. The expo is an application fee, no different than what we pay Fallon, Nevada, that we're all hoping to hear from in a week to see if we drew out. It is a 70-30 split, 30 percent, or the \$1.50 restricted goes into account, we have to spend that on projects that are approved by the Division. The other 70 percent, like Jeremy pointed out, we have the ability to choose where it goes. It gives us that flexibility. As you watched through this, it showed some different things that we funded, one of which was you saw was urban quail. We took some of that money and we actually hire a guy to catch urban quail. Jeremy talked about the urban deer project, now we've got the urban quail. Urban quail are a lot more dangerous than the deer though. But it's really exciting.

Another aspect it allows us to do is to fund different aspects of wildlife, like in Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, we're not species specific. We cover everything: fish, waterfowl, upland game. We take a large portion of that money and put it into upland game and waterfowl. Pretty excited to announce that we just purchased three marsh masters to fight the frag. Those of you who are waterfowlers and know marsh, frag is the

pinyon-juniper of the wetlands. It sucks up the water, it also chokes out the native habitat. So we're excited that we've been able to purchase these marsh masters to have one at Farmington Bay, Ogden Bay and Salt Creek to help get on top of that frag. We're excited about that. We've also taken some of that money and invested into water structures on our WMAs on upland game and waterfowl management units. Without water, you don't got no ducks. So it allows us to be a little bit more flexible with that, and we're excited about it. SFW's portion of that \$5 app is roughly about \$540,000 this year. Of that \$540,000, I've committed damn near \$530,000 to go back on the ground. Zero percent going to overhead. We're excited and I'm proud about that. When actually those sheets go through and we see that's funded, we'll post it on our website to be able to inform people where this money is going. And once again to remember, this is an application fee. No different than Fallon, Nevada. We see zero percent coming back from Fallon, Nevada. But here these groups have chosen to put it back and invest it in Utah.

Just one last quick point, we as conservation groups get all the credit for raising this. Who really deserves the credit is sportsmen. This is a sacrifice. These are their permits. Our permits, I should say. We took these permits out, up to 5 percent, to see if we could raise some money to see if we could increase our herds and do habitat work, and it's paid huge dividends. Thanks to the Division. Thank you.

RAC Discussion

Eric Luke: I think it's a great program. As we go around and promote our banquets each year, we hear that this is turning hunting into a rich man's sport. I get that concept. But when you can take a small number of people and generate the amount of money that's being generated through these tags, and you look at all of the different studies, the programs, the transplants that are happening now that weren't happening before this program, that's pretty cool to see.

Trisha Hedin: I guess I want to make some general comments. I think, and I think Troy, you said this, it is a public resource, and sportsmen are sacrificing some tags for this resource. So just to keep that in mind. I believe in conservation organizations. I was affiliated with one for an extended period of time, and I like that we're solidifying rules, we're making sure that these organizations are accountable, that there's transparency, I think that's key. And it really helps your organization when you're putting it out there, this is how much we brought in, this is how much we put out. Just to solidify that. But I like the solid rule change. Other comments?

Kirk Player: Kind of echoing what you said, the transparency, I think, is huge, and that seems to be improving right and left, not that I think it was ever necessarily real bad. But it makes it easier when somebody does say it's making hunting a rich man's sport, it makes it easy to say it. Another thing that might be interesting, as well as having the presentation on all of the amazing things that we've been able to do with those dollars that would be interesting what other states generate with their model, versus ours. That's something that I'd be interested to see. I imagine I know what it is, but it'd be interesting to see.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so should we entertain a motion?

Todd Thorne: I'll make a motion to approve the recommendations as proposed.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Todd to approve, and seconded by Kent. All in favor. I think it's unanimous.

VOTING

Todd Thorne made a motion to accept the Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits as presented

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

11) Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57

- Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

Questions from the RAC

No questions.

Questions from the Public

No questions.

Comments from the Public

No comments.

RAC Discussion

Trisha Hedin: Comments from the RAC. I'd entertain a motion.

Todd Thorne: Motion to approve.

Trisha Hedin: We have a motion from Todd Thorne to approve the recommendations as presented. Do we have a second? Seconded by Dana. All in favor. It's unanimous.

Meeting is adjourned.

VOTING

Todd Thorne made a motion to accept the Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57 as presented

Seconded by Dana Truman

Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on May 31, 2018, at 9 a.m. in the Department of Natural Resources Board Room, 1594 W. North Temple, in Salt Lake City.

The next Southeast RAC meeting will take place on Aug. 1, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell River History Museum, 1765 E. Main, in Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
May 10, 2018

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Natasha Hadden, BLM
Randy Dearth, NER RAC Chair
Brett Prevedel, Public At-Large
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Ritchie Anderson, Agriculture
Daniel Davis, Sportsman
Rebekah Jones, Non-consumptive
Boyde Blackwell, NER Regional Supervisor
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe
Andrea Merrill, Non-consumptive

NERO MEMBERS EXCUSED

Brad Horrocks, Agriculture
Joe Arnold, Public At-Large
Joe Batty, Agriculture

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT

Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist
Amy Vande Voort, NER Wildlife Biologist
Crystal Friedli, NER Law Enforcement
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist
Miles Hanberg, NER Habitat Manager
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Tonya Kieffer, NER Outreach Manager
Rori Shafer, NER Office Manager
Amber Pena, NER Office Specialist
Jace Taylor, Bighorn Sheep and Mt Goat Bio
Kenny Johnson, Admin Svc Section Chief
Xeala Walden, Predator Management
Specialist
David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist
Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief
Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General
Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader
Darrin DeBlois, Mammals Prog Coordinator

Welcome and Intro Appreciation

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES** – Randy Dearth

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**
 - MOTION to approve the agenda as presented.**
 - Brett Prevedel**
 - Andrea Merrell, second**
 - Passed unanimously**

 - MOTION to approve the minutes from the last RAC meeting.**
 - Dan Abeyta**
 - Natasha Hadden, second**
 - Passed unanimously**

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE** – Randy Dearth

There were several topics if you recall from our last meeting, one of them had to do with we had made a motion with the bighorn sheep tags for the Wasatch, Nebo unit to modify it from three to two and that is the way the Division went also; it passed 5-0. As you remember, there was a motion to decrease the South Manti deer permits from 250-200. The Board agreed with this and they passed that 5-0 also. There was also a motion to keep Pine Valley the same as last year and they passed that 5-0. On the Book Cliffs, lowered the additional deer permits from 35-15; that passed 5-0. The balance of the deer was passed 4-1 with four in favor, one opposed. The Division accepted the 2018 antlerless deer permits, and that passed unanimously 5-0. The topic of the 2018 CWMU antlerless permit recommendations that passed unanimous also 5-0.

- **REGIONAL UPDATE – Boyde Blackwell**

For all those who have noticed the appropriate credit card hits on your credit cards, congratulations are in order. So everyone run home and check their statements and see what's going on. I want to express appreciation; last time we met, we talked about a case that Eric Miller had been working on. It's a really big convoluted case. It's been on the news around here a lot lately. I want to congratulate him again on his efforts. He's done a really good job on putting that case together. It took a lot of work to get that done and it hit some folks that were killing a lot of our wildlife here in the basin. Again, I want to tell him I appreciate him. He's not here, but he'll know. As far as the rest of the regional updates I'm going to let two of the best, my wildlife manager and habitat manager are going to give the updates for the region. And with that, I'll turn the time back to you Mr. Chairman.

- **Wildlife Projects Update-** Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

See slideshow

- **Regional Wildlife Update-** Dax Mangus, Regional Wildlife Program Manager

See slideshow

- **Regional Habitat Update-** Miles Hanberg, Regional Habitat Program Manager

See slideshow

- **Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource-** Martin Bushman, Assistant Attorney General

See slideshow

Dan Abeyta: I've got a question for you. How is it different? How is that statewide management plan different than the counties?

Martin Bushman: They cover many of the same topics, as I understand it. The state plan is basically looking at all the county plans and synthesizing it down to what it considers from a

state perspective which would be all of the important objectives and policies that they want to pursue given the variety of various resource issues.

- **Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments-** Avery Cook, Upland Game Project Leader

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Brett Prevedel: What's the driving force of the rimfire if you're at 80% success already without the rimfire?

Avery Cook: It's an internal recommendation where we are looking at ways to increase success in areas where we are not having as high of success. And for some of the open agricultural fields where we were getting depredation complaints.

Brett Prevedel: So the average success, you still have areas where there are issues of not getting adequate success?

Avery Cook: Yeah that is the average so it is somewhat variable between units.

Daniel Davis: Has there been any consideration to have the limited entry holders in the spring to extend their season over to the general season if they are unsuccessful?

Avery Cook: There has been some discussion of that but it is unrelated to the bow hunt. I don't believe that we are going to recommend that change.

Dan Abeyta: The up to three fall permits, does that have to be in combination then?

Avery Cook: No, you could get just three fall permits.

Brett Prevedel: So it's over the counter first come first serve, so the first person could buy three tags on the spot.

Avery Cook: Yes.

Randy Dearth: I did receive one email about this, about a concern. But I have a question, how's the other RACs, have they received much info on this topic? Was there a lot of discussion from the other RACs?

Avery Cook: I did not attend the Northern or Central RAC. There was very little at the Southern and the Southeast.

Justin Shannon: Some of the discussion at the Central and Northern RAC centered around safety and the use of rimfire. They ended up passing at both RACs.

Daniel Davis: Have there been any issues with those fall permits not selling out completely?

Avery Cook: I believe they have sold out.

Ritchie Anderson: On the rimfire, I assume that other states allow rim fire?

Avery Cook: Yes, there are other states that allow centerfire for turkey.

Ritchie Anderson: No higher incidents for injury?

Avery Cook: No, it seems to be no higher than other small game hunting.

Comments from the RAC:

Daniel Davis: I think as a sportsman wanting opportunity having three permits with a cap sets some greediness. Whether they harvest all three or not. I kind of like that idea of a two bag limit so we can disperse that opportunity amongst the rest of the sportsmen.

Brett Prevedel: I would agree with either two or one since it's over the counter. If they are already selling out I don't see their rationale for multiple tags over the counter.

Tim Ignacio: I also agree.

Daniel Davis: My concern is a lot of feedback I've gotten has been the rim fire instance. The depredation issues; I can see a necessity with that cause it will more than likely target those open areas that are harder to hunt. Birds tend to hang out there cause they can see their avenues of ambush and can escape a little bit easier but the perception and feedback that I've got has not been well perceived with the rimfire proposal.

Tim Ignacio: Well what have you got left to eat?

Randy Dearth: It depends on how good of a shot you are.

Comments from the public:

Kevin Norman: Representing SFW. We support the Divisions recommendations on this. The only thing we ask that you keep in mind is the option to translocate turkeys. There are a lot of areas that are overpopulated and we understand that and the depredation problems, but there is also the opportunity to translocate them into areas that need them. We just ask you don't lose sight of that option. Also speaking as a father to a nine-year-old girl, I believe this rimfire option opens up a lot of options for our youth. I believe that I can take her out and put her behind a shotgun and let her get knocked on her can. She'd probably never want to go hunting again. I believe that it will be a very positive experience here in a short time with the rimfire option, and get her started off on the right foot with hunting. I support the rimfire option that the Division is proposing. Thanks.

Troy Justinson: Representing myself. Having traveled all the RACs and hearing the discussion has really been on the safety issue of the rimfire. Quite honestly they have talked about other states where it is legal, it's legal here in Colorado and they've actually stated that they've had more incidents with a shotgun than they have rimfire. Keep in mind it is legal to smoke pot there so that might be the reason why. As a whole, Kevin hit a very important part in the thing I think we need to realize is, this is a great opportunity but we don't want to lose sight of the moving of these birds. And the Division did a great job last year I think they moved over 2,200 birds last

year. That's amazing; 2,200 birds I would use that as a first option transplanting the birds since we have some open areas for them, but the other areas we have no problem utilizing this opportunity with the rim fire with the fall hunts. And another important thing to realize is that this is specific areas dealing with depredation like northern Utah.

Comments from the RAC:

Daniel Davis: Just for clarification, the rim fire is open for anybody, or is it youth specified?

Avery Cook: It's specifically for the fall hunt so anybody hunting the fall hunt would be eligible for rimfire. Both the fall general and the depredation hunts.

Randy Dearth: Is there any way to find out the time period of when the tags sell out? Does it take three days or does it take three months to sell out?

Avery Cook: It's generally in the days to weeks' time period.

Randy Dearth: So it's a pretty quick time period. You've got to get off the couch pretty quick to get these.

Avery Cook: Yes.

Randy Dearth: It sounds to me like what Daniel and Brett was talking about is actually a pretty good idea because if these sell out so quickly having 200 guys get tags instead of 2,000 guys get tags.

Daniel Davis: And if we've not had issues with them not selling out, here we are creating opportunity encouraging recruitment; of course I'd like to be greedy and hunt the entire season and kill multiple birds but if we're selling tags and our success rate is that high.

Randy Dearth: And overcrowding isn't an issue, it shows that overcrowding isn't an issue, so.

Daniel Davis: So no need to limit the number in the field.

MOTION to maintain one permit per hunter for the fall hunt, accept any gauge BB and limit the rimfire to depredation and youth only.

Daniel Davis

Tim Ignacio, second

Passed five in favor and three against

Ritchie Anderson: I guess I like Daniels proposal other than, right now its three turkeys per hunter, right?

Randy Dearth: Right now it's one.

Ritchie Anderson: And you don't feel like you have an overcrowding issue?

Avery Cook: No, we don't feel like we have an overcrowding issue. Part of the motivation behind that three is to allow, especially for the landowners trying to limit the number of people on their properties and making it easier for them awarding the permits that are awarded from depredation plan so the control vouchers too in addition to the depredation permits. I guess another thing that I neglected to mention earlier is general season permits have been trending up and rather than rewarding more and more of the depredation permits we'd like to shift the people over to just getting general season permits; it would be cheaper for them and less paperwork for everybody. That was part of the motivation behind that three permits per individual was to make it easier for landowners to get their permit vouchers out and get people on their property. Remove turkeys when needed.

Ritchie Anderson: I like both arguments; I'd maybe like to see the difference split and go to two and see what it does for a year then we could change it next year.

Randy Dearth: So you want to amend the motion from one permit to two permits per hunter but leave the other two items the same?

Ritchie Anderson: Correct.

Rebekah Jones: In the motion is the rimfire just for depredation and not for youth? What about including youth on that.

Randy Dearth: It was including youth on that, both.

Boyde Blackwell: The only thing that he was recommending changing was for two permits, not one.

Randy Dearth: Did you want to make the amendment Ritchie?

Ritchie Anderson: Yeah I believe so.

Randy Dearth: So what I think he is amending is Daniels motion is exactly the same with exception of two tags instead of one. And I need a second on that or it fails.

Ritchie Anderson: The way you stated it is correct.

Randy Dearth: I'm not hearing a second so that failed. We'll go back to Daniels original motion.

- **Coyote Bounty Program Amendments- Rule R657-64-** Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Tim Ignacio: On your coyote thing the tribal members, are we welcome to this?

Xaela Walden: Absolutely.

Tim Ignacio: I know a lot of the guys would like to go out and take these coyotes, I know there were quite a few taken last year, but there is still a lot more out there.

Xaela Walden: Yeah they are absolutely included as long as they are able to use the smartphones and take the education courses they are qualified to participate.

Tim Ignacio: Ok they still have to get on the smartphone and do it that way.

Xaela Walden: So we are proposing to make that a requirement in 2019, so for the next year it will be a trial run so the paper application form will still be available so it will be either one for the next year.

Daniel Davis: The controlling aspect for the coyote population since we went to the bounty vs the alternative methods; flight harvests, government trapping, how are the take numbers in balance in ratio to one another? Is the bounty surpassing what we were doing before or are we kind of equal?

Xaela Walden: I don't know the specific numbers off the top of my head but I do know that on average we are removing more coyotes with the bounty that we were prior to 2012 which is when it was initiated. We still do have wildlife service's doing areal gunning and other take methods in conjunction with the bounty.

Dan Abeyta: So across the state with the other regions, how has it been received? Because basically, the app would require a smartphone; so a lot of people have smartphones, not everybody does. Has there been concern from the other regions about that?

Xaela Walden: It has been addressed in three of the four other regions, and the recommendation was passed in all of the other regions. So it was addressed but it wasn't a top priority concern in most of them.

Randy Dearth: I can understand the fraud part of it. I think it would be pretty easy to put it in your freezer for a while and tell the Division that you got it somewhere you didn't. This would eliminate any of that.

Daniel Davis: I hope that expands to other species harvests as well.

Comments from the public:

Kevin Norman: Representing SFW. We support the Divisions recommendations on this. Also, I want to represent myself addressing the concern, I've been to all of the RACs as well, on the smartphone I believe that it's a tool. People are making money off doing this. If you're going to build a house you're going to need a saw. Anyone can go harvest coyotes but if you're going to collect the money it is a requirement that I think is legitimate. Thanks.

Comments from the RAC:

Brett Prevedel: I just want to compliment you; I think it's very well done.

Xaela Walden: Thank you.

Randy Dearth: Any concerns other than the smartphone?

Andrea Merrill: I think that now days even if an older person doesn't have access to a smartphone they have access to a younger person or family member who does.

And it's a good deal for the DWR and for the sportsmen, we're still paying \$50.00 for a coyote, so the fact that they have to do a little bit of data gathering.

MOTION to accept the Divisions proposal as presented.

Brett Prevedel

Natasha Hadden, second

Passed unanimously

- **Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan-** David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist

See slideshow

Randy Dearth: I think we've all had a chance to review the email that opposes this but I don't know if everybody here had a chance to review the email the county, Beaver County sent out today from David Wicker. Have you had a chance to review that letter?

David Smedley: I have not had a chance to read it, I think Justin has.

Randy Dearth: I would like to read it.

See letter

Randy Dearth: Are those issues addressed in the plan?

David Smedley: Yeah, I'm trying to remember everything you've said there but yeah we've addressed most of those issues in that plan. And as sheep go out if they come in contact with domestic sheep or get close, we are very willing to go out and remove those sheep. We are committed to that because it is in our best interest to keep that herd clean and not let those sheep that wander and come close to domestics come back. And we've got a track record, we've done that across the state. Sheep go out and wander that can happen but we've gone out and removed those sheep.

See letter #3

David Smedley: And some of those waters, we have a list there in that management plan, and we are very willing to help with those water management plans. We looked at guzzlers too to put more water on top for bighorns as well. So it's not just coming off those pipelines and springs but we'll help improve those waters.

See letter #4-6

Justin Shannon: If you keep reading the next line on this says that the money must go back into protecting and improving the habitat, not into somebody else's budget. Bighorn sheep is one where, the Division of Wildlife don't necessarily make money off of the permits. The number of permits that we issue and the conservation money that is generated that does not come close to

funding the surveys, the monitoring the transplant work, all those things that we've talked about. So it's not being stored in some account that's just getting banked, that money does go back into active management for monitoring, habitat restoration, guzzlers, those types of things; so that one does need some clarification.

Randy Dearth: That last line you read is not in the one they sent us.

Justin Shannon: It was last night, so pardon for bringing it up.

See letter #7

Randy Dearth: I thought it was fair that all of the RAC members had a chance to review that.

Questions by the RAC:

Daniel Davis: Seeing the unit boundaries looked up, in correlation to say big game/deer and elk, what unit would that be in?

David Smedley: It's on the Beaver West unit. West I-15 then it goes up the Black Rock Road, then down Minersville Highway there across to Milford.

Ritchie Anderson: So was it your understanding that Beaver county did support the plan?

David Smedley: Right, during those conversations they gave verbal support. Since that time, just recently there's been some new things that've come up.

Brett Prevedel: So there was a lot of opposition at the southern RAC?

David Smedley: So on the RAC themselves there wasn't necessarily opposition. A lot of them wanted to see some issues worked through that weren't worked through there; would like to see more people in agreeance.

Dan Abeyta: From the proposed unit boundary, how far away are the nearest domestic sheep?

David Smedley: The closest one would probably be on the south end of the boundary; it's the Greenville Bench allotment. South of Minersville Reservoir, which is the reservoir down there. That's the Greenville Bench. Currently, they run cattle, but they do have the option to run sheep. That could be a potential in the future. The next closest one is just west of Milford; you've got one like 5-6 miles west of Milford so it's quite a long ways across a desert grassland. Then there is one sheep allotment up here on the north, it's Ensign Ranch that owns that allotment, but they are in the cattle business so they are going through a process right now to get rid of sheep and convert to cattle so that one will no longer exist in the next few years.

Ritchie Anderson: What is the ranging distance on a bighorn sheep? Particularly a ram?

Jace Taylor: It's very variable, especially when you talk about historically against present day. Historically sheep like Dave mentioned were more common across the state and since their densities were higher they were more common to spread out across the state. With the low densities that we have right now, especially situations like this, that model habitat is 100,000 acres of suitable habitat. We're talking about 175 head of bighorn sheep and we're doing that on

purpose trying to keep a very low number; one sheep per 600 acres so they will remain in the most rugged and steep habitat. This place has some really nasty stuff that doesn't get used by hardly anything. So by keeping the numbers low, we can keep those animals there and hopefully limit their tendency to wander. As far as numbers go, there have been records of bighorn sheep wandering many miles, 40-50 miles whatever it is. We don't normally see that because we keep our densities low, it's hard to say, but we'll do what we can to keep them low.

Ritchie Anderson: So how many miles has your GPS data shown?

Jace Taylor: Variable, take the Oak Creek population; those animals that we released there within three miles most of those animals are not going anywhere; another situation where we have lower densities. Some of the other ones, the New Finland Mountains, we haven't had an animal leave the New Finland mountains. Stansbury unit is another one we've had a really hard time having those animals spread as well; they've stayed very much on the north end right where we've released them. Some of our Wasatch Front ones we've also had a really hard time since we've released them. Some of these ones up here in the North Slope, some of these animals are the greatest distances that they've moved. I think the most we've had animals move up here is 30 miles. It's a different situation where they have very distinct very high summer ranges, then very low winter ranges. So from Mirror Lake all the way up to Gilbert Peak so that is a little bit more of a different situation. Down here the desert bighorn sheep where we don't get the snowpack summer range lower movements.

Ritchie Anderson: Thank you.

Dan Abeyta: So in the southern region they voted 7-2 to table this, is that correct? What about the other regions?

David Smedley: So the central and the northern region it passed unanimously, and it also passed in the southeastern region last night.

Ritchie Anderson: How did it pass in the southeastern region?

David Smedley: It was 6-5.

Randy Dearth: The chairman didn't have to break that, did he?

David Smedley: The chairman did.

Ritchie Anderson: Can I ask another question to anybody that is involved in this management plan. Did Bill Bates in the last couple months talk to you at all about a conversation he and I had about some ideas to mitigate some of these concerns of the county; and the sheep and cattlemen and other industries in that area? We had had a meeting orchestrated by the Governor's public land office he presented some ideas that would maybe mitigate some of these; I had some ideas. I asked him to present that to the concerned parties. But from the letters I got, I don't know if they were presented the options that he and I talked about, and I can't get a hold of Bill. Apparently, he is indisposed until next week. I just don't know where our conversation went; I guess I'm a little disappointed that these issues are still on the table.

Justin Shannon: We met recently talking about forming a potential MOU to address these types of issues, not just for the Minerals but big picture when it comes to the Division and bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and the stakeholders that are involved. Because there are some conflicts that can arise when it comes to these types of things because of the disease issues. So we met we have another meeting scheduled here at the end of the month with them and we're making progress on that. If that didn't get communicated back to you, we apologize for that but it's been in the works.

Ritchie Anderson: Is there a reason some of this MOU's couldn't have been already in place? There's precedence for those MOU's in other areas in other species that mitigated a lot of these issues; is there a reason they can't be in place now?

Justin Shannon: You look at how Utah has managed bighorn sheep, our statewide plan is really clear. Our wildlife agency wants to restore native bighorn sheep to the landscape. That's something we're really interested in. But in our management plan, we say we don't want to do it at the expense of the domestic sheep industry. We've been very clear about that and some of these things that want to be seen in these MOU's is can the Division support the domestic sheep industry and try to help them thrive and be successful and still have bighorn sheep and not get into this win-lose situation. Try to identify where we can support each other and where we can have populations of bighorn restored. So a unit like the Minerals where we don't have domestic sheep this kind of makes sense to us. So one thing I want to do to highlight this is we're all familiar with the bighorn sheep issues on the North Slope of the Uintas right now. That's an area that has bighorn sheep, has domestic sheep conflicts and a lot of discussion there; a lot of the conversation we heard about in the southern region came from that. Two weeks ago we sent a letter to the Forest Service and it read this:

See letter

Justin Shannon: So we haven't had a formal MOU per say, but our philosophy has been we want to have bighorn sheep but not the at the expense of the domestic sheep industry. I can't think of a time when we put bighorn sheep on the landscape and forced a permittee off that wasn't willing to be compensated for it.

Ritchie Anderson: My concern is not with the DWR or the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Do you know who my concern is with? Our concern is with other radical groups that use wildlife species as the purpose for litigation to diminish other industries. It happens every day. It's the operating thing they use to cartel oil, gas, mining, agriculture. The DWR is not going to sue to remove the domestic sheep or cattle, I know that. The SFW is not going to sue to remove domestic sheep and cattle. We're arguing the wrong argument. My conversation with Bill Bates and I've had some conversation with some of these local people down there, and I said look what's your concern? Primarily their concern is not the bighorn sheep, it's not the DWR suing them, it's not the SFW suing them. It's the door that it opens for other groups, radical groups, I won't mention their names but you guys know who they are who continually use wildlife species to sue at the detriment of other industry. So Bill and I felt that we had some good ideas that had been presented and used in other areas, I felt that there was no reason that those MOU's

shouldn't already be in place. They benefit the wildlife as it moves the process forward. I was plenty willing to support this plan. I guess my question is if we know these concerns could have been mitigated with MOUs, why aren't the MOUs in place? I did my due diligence under what Mr. Bushman talked about under what the RAC member's purpose are. I gathered the information I presented solutions; and when I presented the solutions to these folks, they said that's a great solution but we've never been presented that. So I guess my question is why?

Justin Shannon: I don't know if I have a good answer as to why. Just know that we're working on it. We've had the conversations, we have more meetings. It probably doesn't do justice Ritchie for what you're asking for, but I don't have a good answer for you. It's something we're focused on and I think your concern has some validity when you talk about is domestic sheep grazing under attack under Utah's landscape and in the west, it is. And what I would offer is by reading this letter and doing some of these things it's not because we would sue it's because we're trying to be a good partner and that's what I wanted to highlight.

Ritchie Anderson: I appreciate that. And I want to make clear that I understand that and Troy and I would like to have had a longer conversation prior to this meeting, but he and I understand that. We're not too worried about each other, we're worried about opening the door for others that can hurt us both. I'll save the rest for the comment period.

Boyde Blackwell: How long ago was your meeting with Bill?

Ritchie Anderson: Oh I talked to the Governor's office this morning, I believe it was in February.

Boyde Blackwell: Certainly knowing Bill, I know he's not going to just shirk it. It may take some time but.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes, he may have done more than I realize but I can't get a hold of him so I can't ask him myself.

Boyde Blackwell: He's out of town.

Questions from the public

Troy Justinson: SFW. I guess my question to you is the thing you read from the county commissioners, is that the first or the second draft? There's two.

Randy Dearth: It's the only one I got.

Troy Justinson: It's the second one if you got it today. I'll comment on that a little later it's kind of interesting how that came about. My other question is dealing with MOUs. Has any of them ever been tried in court? Do they work?

Ritchie Anderson: The MOUs that I'm familiar with have not been tried in court. They don't leave a lot of room for that because of what Mr. Bushman talked about and the Divisions responsibility for wildlife in this state. There's not a lot of wiggle room for when the Division decides they want to remove something and they can't do it. I think it would be very hard for some of these groups to sue and tell the Division they can't do it because it's so explicit in the legislative law, to my knowledge none of the MOUs have been tried.

Troy Justinson: Is there any units that we've put sheep on that have similar circumstances with what we are seeing here on the Minerals?

David Smedley: That we put sheep recently? To the north, the Oak Creek unit, a lot of these concerns came up and that's on the Forest Service boundary, and the Forest Service guys said this at the RAC too but we put sheep on there in 2014 and none of those concerns that came up have been an issue. Those sheep are staying in place, they are staying up high and there really haven't been any of those concerns that have become a problem.

Troy Justinson: Similar to this they also have a sheep producer that patrols through, correct?

David Smedley: Correct.

Troy Justinson: Has it been an issue? And Ritchie let me ask you is it a concern that SFW will sue?

Ritchie Anderson: No, we are not concerned.

Troy Justinson: Let me put you at ease here, the only time we'd sue is to stand on your side to keep you on the range.

Ritchie Anderson: Exactly, I want to make that clear. We are not concerned about the DWR or the SFW suing us. You guys are not my concern, I've never known of a case like that happening. So, no you guys are not our concern.

Troy Justinson: As long as I have the reigns that ain't happening. So rest at ease, thank you.

Ritchie Anderson: Can I ask another question? If an item is tabled, an agenda or action item is tabled, can that come back to the RAC within say 30, 60, 90 days?

Boyde Blackwell: Our RAC meetings are scheduled out and unless it's an emergency, you may be able to get it back on the agenda for July.

Ritchie Anderson: So we could still get in on for July/August if an item was tabled.

Boyde Blackwell: It's a possibility, yes.

Randy Dearth: The Wildlife Board would have to table it.

Boyde Blackwell: This is going to go to the Wildlife Board and they have the opportunity to say well we tried and they can accept it anyways or they can say let's come back in July. But it's them who have to say.

Ritchie Anderson: I just want to know if this thing gets tabled, do we go through this stuff for a whole other year before it comes back up.

Boyde Blackwell: No I believe that if the Board deems it necessary it will be July or sometime after.

Brett Prevedel: Or the Board could just approve it.

Boyd Blackwell: Or the Board could approve it, yes.

Justin Shannon: If I may clarify. Tonight we are either approving it or not approving it. If it's not approved and you want to table it, you can do that in addition to not approving it. I don't think there is a process that is either yay, or nay, or neutral.

Comments from the Public

Cheryl Meyer: I'm the Uintah County Public Land Specialist. I spoke with Brad Horrocks today and he apologizes for not being able to be here but he also received that letter from Beaver County Commission and Uintah County has some of the same concerns that he kind of addressed with me. What I would like is some time to mitigate some of those concerns from the public or from the county. We are not opposed to this plan, but I would like to ask that you do table it for those considerations to kind of lessen the concerns that have been brought up today and will be brought up.

Kevin Norman: Representing myself. I support this wholeheartedly to put sheep on the Mineral Mountains. I'm an avid sportsman myself and sheep hunting has kind of been a rich man's game; this just affords more opportunity for the average Joe like myself to have an opportunity hunting these creatures. Also, one other thing I'd like to elaborate on, Oak Creek, the gentlemen from the Forest Service, with all the what-ifs that have been brought up by the grazers none of them have come about. But in return, there has been a substantial amount of funding come to that mountain on behalf of the sheep. There is a lot of finding out sheep are a sacred animal and there has been an abundance of additional funding come to that range because the sheep are there that has benefited everybody that is on that mountain. The other thing is the fact of the collared big horns on that mountain have basically stayed within a three-mile radius. That was shocking to me and a neat deal. Anyways with that being said, I support this action by the Division I think they are being proactive for everybody involved and I support that. Thanks.

Garrek Hall: Representing Utah Farm Bureau. I appreciate you reading the letter from Beaver County and their comments. I was in that RAC Tuesday. I also appreciate what Ritchie was talking about, about maybe having some MOUs some ways to mitigate some of the concerns that were brought up. Tuesday night we had a discussion that lasted 2-3 hours just on this topic with a number of concerns that were made and I agree some of those concerns are probably not even legitimate concerns, but there were some legitimate concerns that were brought up. There are sheep that trail through this area; there are domestic sheep that reside within the hunting boundaries. There are some concerns I think can be mitigated if given the time to do that. Our recommendation from UFB would be to table this issue long enough to work through those issues with the private landowners that are there in the area, and issues with the permittees, and let's try to work through some of these issues before we put sheep on the mountain, rather than try to work it out after we put them on the mountain.

Vance Merrill: I'm a member of the Uintah County Cattlemen's Association. We've got a lot of the same concerns that he just voiced about the negative impact to livestock grazing. I don't know what other industries are on that mountain but get these things addressed before sheep go

up there so there's a way to manage things. Back up and get these things addressed and then move on with it would be the way we'd like to see things go.

Greg Bird: Utah Wild Sheep Foundation. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the panel tonight. I've been in all these RAC meetings also and there have been some concerns. We approve and accept the proposal as presented by the Division. We feel like they have a sound management plan and they've done a great job presenting it. We're excited about this new herd. Desert sheep as it's been stated already, they are a precious animal. They are a resource that not many other states have. We have the opportunity right now to reintroduce sheep back onto this range. It's been brought up that they are not native and that's objective; they've been everywhere else and it's hard to say they haven't walked on that piece of land. One thing we can say is the cattle and the sheep are not native. So that argument is kind of a moot point to me, they are native, they're not native, whatever. We feel like we can all work together on this. There is plenty of habitat on that mountain for both. One thing as the Sheep Foundation we have never asked permittees to leave. As Justin stated there are committees that have transferred their sheep to cattle, but they have been compensated for it and they wanted to do it and they were willing partners. We want partners on the mountain. Some of these concerns by the grazers association. We've met with them and three times we've driven down there in the past six months and talked to them. Numerous conversations over the phone and emails. We're not going to turn our wildlife management over to the Federal Government, it's ridiculous and I don't know why they'd want that either. This mountain is perfect for desert sheep. It's been brought up that there's a big portion of private land on it, well the private land is in these big white flats around here and there is 4% or less on the mountain itself. With those concerns, we've talked to the grazers and the two grazers that are on that mountain were in agreeance with Ensign Ranches that they were going to convert to cattle. And the North Divide group, we've met and met and met. And their big sticking point is that NEPA. Between the grazers on the north divide and the Ensign Ranchers, we've committed over \$375,000.00 on range habitat improvement and water projects. Just for them to do something they are not currently doing or something they have not done in the past 100 years and in their own words will never do they are cattle ranchers, not sheep ranchers. So we've compensated them for the possibility, cause we want to be partners and we don't want to just shove the sheep down their throat. There is room for both. We need to keep in mind this is public land, a huge portion of this is public land. Grazers are not the only people to make a living on this mountain, there are a lot of guides and outfitters down in that particular county that make their livings doing this and it affects them also. So we just ask you to take this into consideration and I'd urge you to vote on it tonight. It's time. This has been several years in the process. We tabled it last year so we could run it through the process differently. And while we tabled it running it through the RACs last year we lost the opportunity for 75 bighorn sheep from Nevada and we run the risk of doing that again if we delay this. We run it back to July again we are going to miss that opportunity with Nevada. Once that resource is gone there's not just desert big horns around every corner that we could use for source herds. I appreciate your time and thank you very much.

Troy Justinson: SFW. I want to clarify a couple of things I wanted to give you a history of the RACs. As I mention the central and northern passed it almost unanimous. In the southern region,

it was 5-4 to not approve it and the 7-2 vote was actually to table it. They were missing four RAC members. Three of which I guarantee would have been a yes vote. We're not having that conversation today if those three had been there. It won by technicality, it is what it is, but that is just stating the facts. I think it's important when you try to get the right answer is you state the facts you don't base it off emotion. One thing I've learned in the 20 years of attending these meetings is you come in here you can tell who's going to vote which way. We all do it, you're going to vote your side, sportsmen are going to vote their side so really who I'm talking to is you guys who don't have an interest in it. I hope you can look at it objectively and think it out in your mind and say hey what's right? What makes the most sense? Another first was the other night was the first time I was accosted by a 70-year-old man. I voiced my opinion and he tried to drive his finger through my chest, the third time I warned him hey we're going to go to the ground if you don't quit it. It was quite interesting. Anyway, SFW supports this recommendation as it's been brought up there are no issues brought up that we haven't faced before. Almost every sheep unit in the state has these same type of conflicts. And we've managed to work together and we have a great herd for consumptive and nonconsumptive users to enjoy. We are committed to working with livestock owners, we're not trying to force anybody off. I'm a little bit upset about the letter that came from the commission. This is round two. The first round was not sent to you. This is around that was put together after we jumped down their throats a little bit because they took a few shots over the vow. This letter was not supposed to be released. It was released by one zealous county commissioner. The same commissioner that attended our banquet. I sat down and talked to her and said Tammy, I'm a little bit frustrated. It's been mentioned here that you guys need to go sit down and work out these issues. As Greg has been talking we've been working for six months on the north divide to come to an agreement. I said Tammy I'm frustrated this is what's been offered; this is what we've been working through, what's the problem. Her exact words to me were Troy, I don't know I've told them they need to accept it, this would be a great thing to have there. The problem is she keeps forgetting which side of her mouth she's talking out. That bothers me. She's a good person, but when a person doesn't honor their word, I have an issue with it. The other thing I want to talk about and Justin read that paragraph is it talks about the money that is generated from these things. They made the innuendo that the only reason we are pushing these things is the money goes into our pockets. That's the biggest crock of BS I've heard in my life. You see the slide there that talks about 181 million dollars, that's where the money goes. Anybody in the public position of government needs to study the facts and understand what they are talking about. Anybody that is familiar with the conservation permit knows that only 10% goes back to the group, 30% the Division keeps, 60% the group gets to influence where it goes it has to go back into big game. That's how we can generate 180 some odd million dollars to benefit all users. Now I see this newest draft and that was redacted. Amazing. Bottom line is this, we've tried, we tried a year ago to sit down. North divide grazers have drawn a line in the sand that says if you're not willing to do a NEPA we're at the end. I'll tell you what the offer was to them, there is no active sheep allotment on there except Ensign Ranches which is selling out. They have some private. They were offered 95,000 dollars not to have sheep or goats on their private ground. Currently, we are working under a reciprocal agreement which they are bound anyway. We just simply said you haven't raised sheep in the past, just to let us compensate you, here is 95,000. We also committed to

\$25,000.00 a year to water projects at a minimum and habitat projects for the next five years. Anybody that knows sheep knows that sportsman's groups love them and they continue to dump money into it and it benefits everybody on that mountain. We also offered them a seat to come to the table to help us manage them. We told them if we have any issues with these sheep coming off the mountain getting into anything kill them. We're willing to do whatever it takes to have sheep on the mountain, but we're not going to go through a NEPA and depending on the MOU, the devils are in the details is whether we'd go there. I ask you tonight to vote on this, accept the plan. We can work through some of these issues we've done our due diligence honestly were being held hostage in the sense of the guys trying in the livestock industry trying to get their AUMs back by holding us hostage. They can't we support them; we wish they had all their AUMs back. It's not our fault, it's not wildlife's fault. We're willing to stand with them but they've got to quit fighting against us. Thank you.

Comments from the RAC

Randy Dearth: I'm going to make this real clear, we're not going to table this tonight. I think if we have problems we need to vote against it if we don't we need to vote for it. I don't think we have the right to table anything.

Brett Prevedel: If the Wildlife Board acted, this meeting us tabling it, they wouldn't know what our opinion was.

Ritchie Anderson: That's what Justin stated. We could vote against it, but we could also vote to table it so it could come back.

Randy Dearth: Tabling it doesn't come back to us. We're going to tell the Wildlife Board we like it, we don't like it, or we don't even want to vote on it because we don't think they've done their due diligence and I don't think that's fair, we need to tell the Wildlife Board yay or nay.

Ritchie Anderson: I can agree with that.

Tim Ignacio: I agree.

Andrea Merrill: Well, in my opinion, there is precedence of it being successful. As we've said we have had the sheep out here for what 30 years? Was it Oak Creek? And I remember that it was a heated long discussion that we had in the RAC and it's been successful. So to me, it's a sound plan.

Daniel Davis: And staying up with these sheep units and mitigating these private landowner situations, we have one close to us where the Division fights the same battle to sustain that resource. Those sheep range, they move when they reach population and have to relocate and if they do get to the point of that, they mitigate that. We watched them do that with the Goslin herd when their illness was taking place just so it wouldn't spread over to Bear Top. The Division has done an excellent job mitigating those it's been proven in history and I don't see it deviating that in the future.

Ritchie Anderson: I think we're still in talking to the folks on the ground. They didn't indicate and this letter didn't indicate that they have a problem with DWRs mitigation plan.

Daniel Davis: I missed the big red truck cause I'm way lost on what the concerns are then.

Ritchie Anderson: The primary concern is with the folks I talked to is, and it talks right here in the county's letter how they have reached an agreement with the DWR for that mitigation plan. So let me explain what happens with a wildlife species and an erratic environmental group will come in and they want domestic sheep and cattle and they want them off the range, that's no secret. They are plenty open about it. So what they'll do is they'll come in and they'll sue if the BLM or Forest Service allows a grazing plan and the rancher agrees to it and the BLM/Forest Service agrees to it and move forward on this grazing plan. The environmental groups will come in and say you did not consider what that grazing plan will do for moose habitat or big horn sheep habitat, therefore, you cannot move forward, those grazers cannot move forward and they'll get an injunction from a court to hinder or keep the stockman from being able to use the range until the BLM or Forest Service mitigates their concern so the environmental groups are not usually suing the DWR directly, not the BLM directly, not the Forest Service directly, they are suing on policy rule deals or if they don't feel like the Forest Service or BLM adequately addressed a wildlife species concern. They'll sue on that to keep the ranchers from operating. A lot of their concerns are very trivial, no one else has them but them. That is where the concern lies. That's the process they are using. The only problem with that is the only one who can build in protections to keep these radical groups from doing that is the DWR. They are the only ones who can build in those MOUs and protections to keep them from doing that. So the people I've talked to on the ground I think there is an idea that there is an opposition to the species. I haven't talked to one yet that is opposed to the species they are opposed to the concerns that I think could be mitigated quite quickly. That's the deal. Nobody attacked the DWRs mitigation plan. Or the plan if the animal comes off what they are going to do. They didn't even really question that plan. They believe the DWR if someone calls and says hey we have an issue with an animal I didn't hear anybody say they think they won't take care of it. They believe they are going to take care of it.

Andrea Merrill: I think one of the difficult things with this is if you build in what you think will keep them from suing you in one way they are going to find a different avenue. So to hold something up until we find every single way that we can prevent a radical group from suing, we would never get anything done.

Ritchie Anderson: And we're not trying to hold it up, we know that it's not going to be litigation proof however as Mr. Bushman stated and to my experience, they haven't challenged it yet.

Andrea Merrill: It seems like maybe there is a different venue to work this out.

Ritchie Anderson: Yeah, there is. We would need a little more time to do this. I'd like to address a few more issues. The native thing brought up, I wish that hadn't had been brought up because I don't really care I guess. I don't know who brought it up if it's a native species or isn't a native species, the thing is I'm not native, you're not native.

Tim Ignacio: I am. Those sheep mean a lot to us to you best mean what you say.

Ritchie Anderson: That's my point. If we're going to do the native thing and base things on whether things are native or not, maybe they should be deciding.

Tim Ignacio: If you're going to leave it up to me to decide they stay there.

Ritchie Anderson: I agree, you just made my point. The native thing nonnative thing its neither direction.

Tim Ignacio: I'd prefer to be called Native American.

Ritchie Anderson: Well I was meaning the species, not individuals. The NEPA. I hate NEPAs. I think the reason they are still pushing NEPAs is that they haven't been presented these other alternatives that could have been presented two months ago. I agree there does not need to be a NEPA on this. We've got some stuff done one horses that everybody in the world said we would need to do a NEPA, we find out there doesn't need to be a NEPA. So the NEPA thing I think if they are presented the alternatives that should have been presented before, the NEPA thing will go away. You know I hate being pigeonholed on how I'm going to vote because at the last RAC meeting I voted on a proposal made by SFW on bighorn sheep actually. My thing is I don't think this thing needs to be drug out, I agree with you guys I've talked to the Governors Public Lands Coordinating office today, they're willing if we're willing, if the parties are willing, they will facilitate meetings in the next 30 days to address these issues, get them worked out, work on some MOUs back. Get this back on the agenda quickly and get it moved forward. There is no reason not to do that. I think it would be quicker to do that, on the Mineral Mountains to do it that way than to go through the sheep management program or renewal. That renewal that I know happens this month. I think we could separate this out, hurry and take care of this and move forward on it. I'm in favor of bighorn sheep. I'd like to hunt them myself one day I'm not opposed to them. They're not concerned about habitat. I think there is a disconnect on what the real issue is and what has been presented, and I think that could be mitigated quickly. So I think we just need a little more time this needs to come back no later than July/August. I don't see no reason for it not to. I think it's an opportunity, I can see where it could be used, wildlife could be used for litigation protection; if it's done right. Instead of the opposite, that occurs now.

Daniel Davis: So my question is all these permits are valid right now for the stakeholders when they come for renewal how often is that challenged.

Ritchie Anderson: Most of those come up every ten years. But they don't always come up at once which is the problem. So you'll have one permittee come up it's not all ten-year interval we look at all the permittees, the date is kind of set on it. I think we are very very close on this plan. I really do. I don't think it's quite there. I think we could spend 30-60 days now and prevent years of litigation later.

Randy Dearth: Keep in mind Rich, I know you're pretty passionate about this, keep in mind you can make a motion if you want to on something. That is an opportunity to let the wildlife board that a certain stamp would be a good idea.

Ritchie Anderson: Right.

Tim Ignacio: I'd like to see it happen; I'd like to see these sheep go there. They are a native.

MOTION to accept the Divisions proposal as presented

Daniel Davis

Tim Ignacio, second

Passed six in favor one opposed

Ritchie Anderson: I'd hate to see the ball that has already begun to roll. There is a meeting set up for 27th or the 29th that's already been set up. I would hate to see that ball that is already rolling that could potentially get the sheep out there and mitigate these issues both; I'd hate to see that opportunity lost.

Boyde Blackwell: The wildlife board isn't until... I think you'll be alright.

Randy Dearth: It's May 31st.

Ritchie Anderson: I would like it on record that we are not concerned about working with the SFW or the DWR. And we'll push it to make sure it happens quickly.

Boyde Blackwell: Do we want to ask those two that are opposed, why they are opposed? Or are you ok with taking that yourself to the Wildlife Board?

Dan Abeyta: There is passion on both sides obviously, and that's great. Just to me, it feels like there is enough concern. The southern region tables this proposal which tells me that they aren't ready for this. I've heard enough concern here tonight that makes me feel like this isn't really ready. That's why I voted against it.

Ritchie Anderson: We've got to get on the right arguments and what our real concerns are. For some reason when I talked to what's her name with the association and said look if we had some of these MOUs, and I told her what to we would look for in those MOUs she said why wasn't that presented to us? We didn't even know that was a possibility. I used the bison I the Book Cliffs with the oil and gas as an example and she said we didn't even know those were possibilities. And she liked the idea, they wanted the idea. I opposed it because I think there were solutions that weren't brought forward for whatever reasons I don't care, that could be brought forward and we could kill two birds with one stone.

Randy Dearth: I don't think this thing tonight stopped that from happening. I still think it could happen and probably should happen.

Andrea Merrill: No and it should. This is a statewide thing and not something for just this particular unit so it is something that needs to go on, is what I see.

Randy Dearth: I hope Justin that what you've heard tonight you'll really encourage that meeting to happen and have all the players at the table.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, I'll certainly take this back to our leadership and we do have that meeting at the end of the month. Ritchie, I appreciate your feedback it's been good to understand that one better.

Ritchie Anderson: Thank you.

- **Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-62, and Drawing Application Procedures Rule R657-62-** Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC

Randy Dearth: Can you go back to your first slide? I have a couple questions. It was on the conservation. How much funding are we talking about that isn't being spent within those first two years?

Kenny Johnson: It's pretty much all being spent. We'll have a better idea after the snapshot of this next budget audit cycle. It's essentially all being spent right now on projects.

Randy Dearth: So why do we need that?

Kenny Johnson: So this is just how it's always worked. We've just not had a lot of clarity on that on the reporting side so we've just added some clarity on that to make it a little more obvious to report it upfront.

Randy Dearth: So the rule has always been to require the funds be transferred to the Division.

Kenny Johnson: Not transferred, we've been reporting it as committed which is kind of projected to be used on projects. And now what we're going to do is either have them spend it on the project or transfer it to the Division to be used on projects. So it just tightens that up a little bit, but I think it's fair to say that those funds are primarily used, and it gives us some flexibility if a project gets canceled or postponed or prolonged we could credit them back that amount.

Randy Dearth: Yeah, I like that. It just doesn't feel good to be transferring funds. I'd feel better about some way of penalizing the organization of not doing it in the way of reduced permits for next year or whatever so that incentive is there; you want that incentive there to get that work done. I just don't like the idea of transferring funds to the Division.

Kenny Johnson: What the transfer does is it allows us to zero that balance out for sure and we don't have to carry over a committed piece that kind of loses some of its poignancy I guess, is the reason we want to do that. This will make sure we can balance it out and show those funds being fully expended on the kind of a first in first out basis which is what the Wildlife Board has asked us to do.

Randy Dearth: They haven't been expended they've just been moved to the Division to spend, right?

Kenny Johnson: Right.

Randy Dearth: So I'd make them spend it or reduce tags or something. I've got a couple other questions. So basically if I get a permit, if I buy a conservation permit, I can give it to somebody else, I can transfer it to somebody else if I want to, I just can't sell it to them?

Kenny Johnson: As long as the group knows about it and you follow the process outlined here. You can sell it for what you paid for it; you just can't make a profit.

Randy Dearth: Ok, I think that's all I have for now.

Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman: First I want to thank Justin for his presentation tonight on the conservation permit funds. Having recently been more involved with SFW I've been able to see the effects of this program. To be quite honest it's mind-blowing what gets done in this state with these funds. If any avid sportsman could throw rocks at this program I don't know how they could do it. It's done more for this state, more for wildlife. Yes, sportsman have to sacrifice a little bit but it pays its dividends. It's an amazing program that I support, I'm grateful that I've been able to see the successes of it. I just wish the Division, all the sportsman's groups including SFW would do a better job getting out to the public what is being done with these funds; because it is pretty dang amazing. Thank you.

Ken Powell: Chapter Chairman for the Mule Deer Foundation. I've been the Chapter Chairman for 13 years here in the Uintah Basin. We're very grateful we can participate in conservation permits at our local banquet. I have personally seen from the conservation permits right at 1 million dollars just in the 13 years I've been doing it from Vernal, the Uintah Basin. We have put more than \$140,000.00 a year onto the ground, so that adds up to well more than that since we've been doing this. We support the Division proposal as recommended. Thank you.

Greg Bird: Utah Wild Sheep. We support the amendment proposal as presented. We just want to state we're grateful to be part of this program, it is an amazing program. The Division has done amazing things with this conservation program and they are second to none in this country. The things that happen in this state just don't happen everywhere. Just from the sheep standpoint its allowed us to be the most aggressive state in sheep management, reintroduction, other states just don't have the money to do it. Though these programs we are just very blessed that we can do this stuff. Thank you.

Troy Justinson: SFW. I've got to admit one thing, this round of RACs have not been fun. And I'm being honest. It's not fun to have a slugfest with your brother and it's not been fun. But I appreciate you listening, putting up with my passion. Hopefully one day both us and the livestock industry can come together and stand together unified. I know that day will come. Thank you. As far as conservation permits go and the expo permits, truly a unique opportunity to participate in and I'm grateful for that. One thing that's missed is a lot of credit comes to us as an organizations, really where the credit needs to go is the sportsman. These are tags that you and I the average Joe gives up the opportunity to draw in hopes we raise enough money to generate and produce more opportunity and protect the habitat and the animals we love. I think that's only obvious by what Justin showed there. 181 million dollars, holy cow. The neat thing about there is 1.5 million acres. If any of you have attended a SFW banquet you've heard John talk that that is more acreage than all of the United States combined. We have a program here within the state that we've thought of a way to fund that has manipulated and treated more acreage than the rest

of the United States combined. That's off to the agencies that work with the BLM the Forrest Service, this is a neat project. Related to the expo, this year we had a great expo. Over 50,000 people attended, roughly about 15,000 participated in the \$5 app. This is a little different than conservation money in the sense that we're not selling a permit we're collecting an application fee that's no different than Fallon, NV. But the big difference between Fallon, NV and the expo is the money is spent here in Utah, put back into wildlife. This year alone from that \$5 app SFW will commit close to \$530,000.00 back on the ground. Different than the conservation permit also, it doesn't have to go into big game. This allows us to fund upland game projects, waterfowl projects and other things. I think from what we've contributed to waterfowl this year we've almost tripled their normal budget from the Division. This is a great thing, we're grateful to be a part of it. I'd like to thank the sportsman of Utah for letting us participate. Thank you.

Comments from the RAC

Ritchie Anderson: On these conservation tags, can any group apply to these as long as they commit their revenues to habitat projects?

Kenny Johnson: That's a fair question; they have to meet some minimum requirements. They have to be recognized by the federal tax code as a charitable organization. And they have to have a wildlife conservation mission to protect wildlife.

Daniel Davis: So a lot of these clarifications, did any of these time frames change from what they were before; like the 60 days, 90 days? Does that impose more infractions or time committed to a process on behalf of these organization to have to spend more time or more effort to get that to the Division?

Kenny Johnson: I don't think so; I think it streamlines it a little bit so we can report it a little more clearly. But the invoicing, the billing, and the database it should help us be a little more efficient with it.

Daniel Davis: Has anybody who has spent time on a committee or an organization or anything like that pro bono try to just do your time and follow those. There's a lot of animosity for some of that funding, having to pay people to commit to that. They've never been in the shoes of 100% nonprofit, I do this for nothing. The last one or two years, they have a job they have to maintain. I think it's come a long way to see where these jobs focused our desires as a sportsman and the state and wildlife. The program is amazing. The organizations involved have done, its incomparable to anything else. I think it's a great program.

MOTION to accept the Divisions proposal as presented

Dan Abeyta

Brett Prevedel, second

Passed unanimously

- **Proposed Rule Amendments Repealing the Certification Review Committee under R657-3 and R657-53, Error Committee under R657-50, Walk-in Access Advisory**

**Committee under R657-56 and the Variance Committee under R657-57- Martin
Bushman, Assistant Attorney General**

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC

Daniel Davis: Although these committees would be assembled and assumed responsibilities by the Division would there still be some direction or any outside involvement? Primarily walk-in access.

Martin Bushman: We're not going to eliminate the function of what was the committee, we're just going to have the Division eternally organize the group of people to deal with those issues should the need arise. The whole reason is for other requirements to be a public body which is a term used to define a group that has to comply with our open and public meetings act is that they are created in statute rule or ordinance. This is just an instance where we had some groups that because of that one fact alone they were arguably subject to the fact and we just didn't feel that they were very well suited for it. We're just trying to take away that one criteria that would arguably make them subject to an agenda. Not that they don't keep minutes but the formal process we go through for these RAC meetings. It's expensive, its time consuming and just not well suited for these five groups.

MOTION to accept the Divisions proposal as presented

Daniel Davis

Ritchie Anderson, second

Passed unanimously

MOTION to adjourn at 10:15 pm.

1 Year Conservation Permits

Species	Unit	Condition	Permits
Antlerless Elk	South Slope	Any Weapon	1
Bear	Nine Mile	Multi Season	1
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	East Canyon	Any Weapon	1
Turkey	Central Region	Multi Season	1
			7

3 Year Conservation Permits

Species	Unit	Condition	Permits
Antlerless Elk	Cache	Any Weapon	4
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns	Any Weapon	4
Antlerless Elk	La Sal	Any Weapon	4
Antlerless Elk	South Slope	Any Weapon	3
Antlerless Elk	Plateau	Any Weapon	4
Bear	Beaver	Multi Season	1
Bear	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Multi Season	2
Bear	Central Mtns, Manti- North	Multi Season	2
Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-South/San Rafael, North	Multi Season	2
Bear	Central Mtns, Nebo	Multi Season	1
Bear	Chalk Creek/Kamas/North Slope, Summit	Multi Season	1
Bear	La Sal	Multi Season	4
Bear	Nine Mile	Multi Season	1
Bear	Panguitch Lake/Zion	Multi Season	1
Bear	Plateau, Bourder/Kaiparowits	Multi Season	2
Bear	Plateau, Fishlake/ Thousand Lakes	Multi Season	1
Bear	San Juan	Multi Season	4
Bear	South Slope, Bonanza/ Diamond Mtn/Vernal	Multi Season	2
Bear	South Slope, Yellowstone	Multi Season	1
Bear	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/ Currant Creek	Multi Season	1
Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West Central	Multi Season	3
Bear	Statewide	Multi Season	1
Bison	Book Cliffs, Hunter's Choice	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Book Cliffs, Cow Only	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Henry Mtns, Hunter's Choice (early)	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Henry Mtns, Hunter's Choice (late)	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Henry Mtns, Cow Only (early)	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Henry Mtns, Cow Only (late)	Any Weapon	1
Bison	Henry Mtns, Hunter's Choice (Archery Only)	Archery	1
Bison	Statewide		1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Muzzleloader	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns (Management Buck)	Any Weapon	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Muzzleloader	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Archery	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	2
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	2
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	2
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon	2
Buck Deer	Cache, Crawford Mtn	Hunter's Choice	1
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oak Creek	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	La Sal, Dolores Triangle	Hunter's Choice	1

Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Muzzleloader	1
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Archery	1
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Muzzleloader	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Muzzleloader	2
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Archery	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Hunter's Choice	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	2
Buck Deer	Statewide		1
Buck Pronghorn	Beaver	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Box Elder, Promontory	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Box Elder, Puddle Valley	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Box Elder, Snowville	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Box Elder, West	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Fillmore, Oak Creek	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	La Sal, Potash/South Cisco	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Nine Mile, Anthro-Myton Bench	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Nine Mile, Range Creek	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Panguitch Lake/Zion, North	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Any Weapon	5
Buck Pronghorn	San Rafael, Desert	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	4
Buck Pronghorn	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	South Slope, Vernal	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	6
Buck Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	West Desert, Rush Valley	Any Weapon	1
Buck Pronghorn	West Desert, Snake Valley	Any Weapon	2
Buck Pronghorn	Statewide		1
Bull Elk	Beaver, East	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Beaver, East	Any Weapon	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon	4
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	1

Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Any Weapon	1
Bull Elk	Box Elder, Grouse Creek	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Box Elder, Pilot Mtn	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Cache, North	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Cache, North	Any Weapon	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon	4
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Archery	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	Monroe	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Monroe	Any Weapon	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Nine Mile, Anthro	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	North Slope, Three Corners	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	North Slope, Three Corners	Any Weapon	1
Bull Elk	Oquirrh- Stansbury	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon	4
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	San Juan	Archery	1

Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	2
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	3
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Multi Season	2
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Archery	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Muzzleloader	1
Bull Elk	West Desert, Deep Creek	Multi Season	1
Bull Elk	Statewide		1
Bull Moose	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon	2
Bull Moose	Statewide		1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Chalk Creek/Kamas	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Morgan-South Rich	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Oquirrh-Stansbury	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Plateau, Boulder	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Plateau, Fishlake	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek-North	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Wasatch Mtns, West-Strawberry	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	Any Weapon	1
Cougar	Statewide		1
DBHS	Kaiparowits, East/Escalante/West	Any Weapon	2
DBHS	Henry Mtns/La Sal, Potash/South Cisco/San Juan, Lockhart/San Juan, South/San Rafael, Dirty Devil	Any Weapon	1
DBHS	San Rafael, North/South	Any Weapon	1
DBHS	Zion	Any Weapon	1
DBHS	Statewide		1
Mtn Goat	Beaver (early)	Any Weapon	1
Mtn Goat	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon	1
Mtn Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas Central	Any Weapon	1
Mtn Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas West	Any Weapon	1
Mtn Goat	Ogden Willard Peak (early)	Any Weapon	1
Mtn Goat	Ogden Willard Peak (late)	Any Weapon	1

Mtn Goat	Statewide		1
RMBHS	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	1
RMBHS	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns (early)	Any Weapon	1
RMBHS	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns (late)	Any Weapon	1
RMBHS	Nine Mile, Gray Canyon	Any Weapon	1
RMBHS	Statewide		1
Turkey	Northern Region	Multi Season	8
Turkey	Central Region	Multi Season	7
Turkey	Northeastern Region	Multi Season	8
Turkey	Southeastern Region	Multi Season	8
Turkey	Southern Region	Multi Season	8
Turkey	Statewide		1
			327

To: Utah Division of Wildlife and Resources
Wildlife Board Chairman

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2017
Wildlife Director's Office

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is regarding my appeal to the case with an Order Number 2016-002654.

My name is Voskan Azaryan. I am an administrator in the Hospice Agency (Florence Hospice LLC, 100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Tel: (805)557-1212) that provides care to terminally ill patients during the time of their need. I am very passionate for my job and thankful for the opportunity to help others. Another thing I am very passionate about is hunting and finishing. I enjoy spending time in the nature with my family. My entire life I have been a law abiding citizen and didn't have any criminal records whatsoever. I have purchased hunting licenses, tags and entered drawings with only good intentions, I even got lucky and won drawing for deer tag at Bishop California for this year. After entering into the Pledge of Allegiance with the Kane County Justice Court, I have agreed to pay all the fines and behave during my probation period in order for my case to be dismissed by the judge.

Unfortunately for me I was out of country when I received the Order from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. I couldn't have seen or responded with request for appeal in a timely manner because of my absence.

Attached please find the copies of my airplane tickets and also a boarding pass that I saved when coming back to the United States. The trip was planed long time ago and the tickets were purchased March 2017, before my hearing in Salt Lake Utah.

I sincerely hope you take in consideration my situation and grand me with an opportunity to appeal second time because this is a very very important matter to me.

Thank you

Sincerely

Voskan Azaryan



11 Jun 2017 ▶ 24 AUG 2017 TRIP TO YEREVAN, ARMENIA

PREPARED FOR
AZARYAN/VOSKAN
AZARYAN/OFELYA
AZARYAN/NUNE CHD

YOUR TRAVEL EXPERT

RESERVATION CODE KUVTKD
AIRLINE RESERVATION CODE NUVCM (SU)



DEPARTURE: **SUNDAY 11 JUN** ▶ ARRIVAL: **MONDAY 12 JUN**

Please verify flight times prior to departure

AEROFLOT
SU 0107

Duration:
11hr(s) 40min(s)

Class:
Economy

Status:
Confirmed

LAX ▶ **SVO**
LOS ANGELES, CA MOSCOW SHEREMET, RUSSIA

Departing At:
4:05pm
(Sun, Jun11)

Terminal:
TOM BRADLEY INTL
TERM

Arriving At:
1:45pm
(Mon, Jun12)

Terminal:
TERMINAL D -
DOMESTIC/INTL

Aircraft:
BOEING 777-300ER JET

Distance (in Miles): 6078

Stop(s): 0

Meals:
Lunch

Passenger Name:

» AZARYAN/VOSKAN
» AZARYAN/OFELYA
» AZARYAN/NUNE CHD

Seats:

Check-In Required
Check-In Required
Check-In Required

eTicket Receipt(s):

5557956568563
5557956568564
5557956568565



DEPARTURE: **MONDAY 12 JUN** Please verify flight times prior to departure

AEROFLOT
SU 1862

Duration:
2hr(s) 50min(s)

Class:
Economy

Status:
Confirmed

SVO
MOSCOW SHEREMET,
RUSSIA

Departing At:
4:25pm

Terminal:
TERMINAL D -
DOMESTIC/INTL

▶ **EVN**
YEREVAN,
ARMENIA

Arriving At:
8:15pm

Terminal:
Not Available

Aircraft:
BOEING 737 800 JET

Distance (in Miles): 1139

Stop(s): 0

Meals:
Snack

Passenger Name:

» AZARYAN/VOSKAN
» AZARYAN/OFELYA
» AZARYAN/NUNE CHD

Seats:

Check-In Required
Check-In Required
Check-In Required

eTicket Receipt(s):

5557956568563
5557956568564
5557956568565

eTicket Receipt

Prepared For
AZARYAN/VOSKAN

RESERVATION CODE	KUVTKD
ISSUE DATE	17Mar17
TICKET NUMBER	5557956568563
ISSUING AIRLINE	AEROFLOT
ISSUING AGENT	YOUR TRAVEL EXPERT/AW1
ISSUING AGENT LOCATION	BEVERLY HILLS CA
IATANUMBER	05717880
CUSTOMER NUMBER	8185715715

Itinerary Details

TRAVEL DATE	AIRLINE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	OTHER NOTES
11Jun17	AEROFLOT SU 107	LOS ANGELES, CA Time 4:05pm	MOSCOW SHEREMET, RUSSIA Time 1:45pm	Class ECONOMY Seat Number CHECK-IN REQUIRED Baggage Allowance 1PC Booking Status CONFIRMED Fare Basis LVUHA Not Valid Before 11JUN Not Valid After 11JUN
12Jun17	AEROFLOT SU 1862	MOSCOW SHEREMET, RUSSIA Time 4:25pm	YEREVAN, ARMENIA Time 8:15pm	Class ECONOMY Seat Number CHECK-IN REQUIRED Baggage Allowance 1PC Booking Status CONFIRMED Fare Basis LVUHA Not Valid Before 12JUN Not Valid After 12JUN
24Aug17	AEROFLOT SU 1865	YEREVAN, ARMENIA Time 7:50am	MOSCOW SHEREMET, RUSSIA Time 9:45am	Class ECONOMY Seat Number CHECK-IN REQUIRED Baggage Allowance 1PC Booking Status CONFIRMED Fare Basis EVUHA Not Valid Before 24AUG Not Valid After 24AUG
24Aug17	AEROFLOT SU 106	MOSCOW SHEREMET, RUSSIA Time 11:55am	LOS ANGELES, CA Time 2:05pm	Class ECONOMY Seat Number CHECK-IN REQUIRED Baggage Allowance 1PC Booking Status CONFIRMED Fare Basis EVUHA Not Valid Before 24AUG Not Valid After 24AUG



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAEL D. FOWLKS
Division Director

May 7, 2018

Voskan Azaryan
6632 Green Bush Ave.
VanNuys, CA 91401

Dear Mr. Azaryan,

An appeal hearing has been tentatively scheduled for you with the Utah Wildlife Board on **Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** to present your case regarding the suspension of your hunting privileges. The meeting will be held in the boardroom at the Utah Department of Natural Resources building, 1594 West North Temple in Salt Lake City.

Please be prepared to present your appeal at that time. You may bring any evidence or witnesses you wish to present and, if desired, legal counsel. Mr. Gregory Hansen, assistant Attorney General, will be in attendance representing the state of Utah. Please contact me directly at 801-538-4718 if you are unable to attend this formal hearing.

I have attached an outline of the proceedings for you to review, however, please feel free to call with any questions, concerns or requests you may have regarding this hearing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Staci

Staci Coons
Coordinator, Utah Wildlife Board

cc. Gregory Hansen, Assistant Attorney General
Kirk Woodward, Chair, Utah Wildlife Board
Heather Shilton, Division of Wildlife Resources Hearing Officer
Chris Salcido, Council



APPEAL PROCEDURE INFORMATION FOR PETITIONERS TO THE UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD

You have appealed the Division of Wildlife Resources' ("Division") administrative order suspending your wildlife license and permit privileges, and a date has been set for an appeal hearing before the Utah Wildlife Board ("Board"). The following information is provided to help you understand the procedures in your upcoming hearing.

Judicial Format -- The appeal is a formal administrative hearing where evidence is presented and witnesses may be called. The Division will participate in the hearing through a representative from the Utah Attorney General's Office. You may hire legal counsel to represent you at the hearing or you may proceed on your own. The Board acts as the judge in the hearing and will hear the facts and arguments presented by both sides, consider the pertinent law, and determine an outcome. Although the formal rules of evidence do not apply in this hearing, it will loosely follow a judicial format comprised of the following three phases:

- 1. Opening Statements --** Opening statements are the first phase. The Division will go first and give a very brief summary of the facts and law supporting its suspension order. Next you will be given an opportunity to very briefly summarize the facts and law supporting your position and the relief you are requesting from the Board. Your opening statement should be limited to key facts and arguments you will make when testifying in the next phase of the hearing, under oath. An opening statement is not the correct time to submit evidence or provide testimony. An opening statement should take less than five minutes.

- 2. Presentation of Evidence --** Presentation of evidence is the second phase of the hearing. The Division will first present its case by offering evidence and calling witnesses to testify. You will have the opportunity to cross-examine or question the Division's witnesses. Once the Division presents its case, you will be given the opportunity to testify, present evidence, and call witnesses. The Division may cross-examine you and any witnesses you call to testify. All witnesses, including yourself, will be sworn in prior to testifying. You should be aware that members of the Board may ask questions of the parties and witnesses at any time during the course of the hearing.

During this phase of the hearing, the Division must present evidence supporting its decision to suspend your license and permit privileges. The Division carries the burden of proof to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence, which means "more likely than not," that you: 1) were convicted of a criminal offense under the Wildlife Code (Title 23 of the Utah Code); and 2) committed the offense knowingly, intentionally or recklessly. "Convicted," under relevant suspension laws, includes the following: guilty pleas, no contest pleas, pleas

held in abeyance, bail forfeiture, and diversion agreements. The evidence and testimony you present at the hearing should focus on the Division's allegations that you: 1) were convicted of a Wildlife Code violation; and 2) committed the offense knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly. If you simply want the Board to reduce the length of your suspension period, you should present evidence on any mitigating factors that justify a reduction.

3. Closing Arguments -- Closing arguments are made in the third and final phase of the hearing. After both parties conclude with the presentation of evidence (in the second phase), each will be allowed to make a closing argument. Like an opening statement, the closing argument is a brief summary of the key facts and law relevant to the relief you are requesting from the Board. The Division will go first and you will follow. A closing argument should take less than five minutes.

Board deliberation -- After closing arguments, the Board will retire to executive session to consider the evidence presented by the parties and the applicable law. The parties do not attend or otherwise participate in the executive session. In this closed session the Board members discuss the evidence they have heard and observed; consider the law relevant to the suspension of license and permit privileges; and render a decision on the relief requested in your appeal. The Board will then return to the hearing room and verbally announce its decision. A written decision will thereafter be prepared by the Board, signed, and mailed to you.

Again, this hearing is solely to determine if you were convicted of a wildlife violation and if that offense was committed knowingly, intentionally or recklessly. Mitigating factors may also be considered. Other information, such as the validity of your criminal conviction or irregularities in the criminal process are beyond the Board's authority to alter and will not be considered by the Board.

This information is provided in order to ensure the hearing proceeds in an orderly and fair manner. A copy of the relevant laws applicable to your suspension appeal is attached. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Staci Coons at (801) 538-4718.

Utah Code § 23-19-9. Suspension of license or permit privileges.

(1) As used in this section, "license or permit privileges" means the privilege of applying for, purchasing, and exercising the benefits conferred by a license or permit issued by the division.

(2) A hearing officer, appointed by the division, may suspend a person's license or permit privileges if:

(a) in a court of law, the person:

(i) is convicted of:

(A) violating this title or a rule of the Wildlife Board;

(B) killing or injuring domestic livestock while engaged in an activity regulated under this title; or

(C) violating Section 76-10-508 while engaged in an activity regulated under this title;

(ii) enters into a plea in abeyance agreement, in which the person pleads guilty or no contest to an offense listed in Subsection (2)(a)(i), and the plea is held in abeyance; or

(iii) is charged with committing an offense listed in Subsection (2)(a)(i), and the person enters into a diversion agreement which suspends the prosecution of the offense; and

(b) the hearing officer determines the person committed the offense intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, as defined in Section 76-2-103.

(4) Except as provided in Subsections (5) and (6), a hearing officer may suspend a person's license or permit privileges according to Subsection (2) for a period of time not to exceed:

(a) seven years for:

(i) a felony conviction;

(ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a felony, which plea is held in abeyance pursuant to a plea in abeyance agreement; or

(iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a felony, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement;

(b) five years for:

(i) a class A misdemeanor conviction;

(ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class A misdemeanor, which plea is held in abeyance pursuant to a plea in abeyance agreement; or

(iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class A misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement;

(c) three years for:

(i) a class B misdemeanor conviction;

(ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class B misdemeanor when the plea is held in abeyance according to a plea in abeyance agreement; or

(iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class B misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement; and

(d) one year for:

(i) a class C misdemeanor conviction;

(ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor, when the plea is held in abeyance according to a plea in abeyance agreement; or

(iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended according to a diversion agreement.

(5) The hearing officer may double a suspension period established in Subsection (4) for offenses:

(a) committed in violation of an existing suspension or revocation order issued by the courts, division, or Wildlife Board; or

(b) involving the unlawful taking of a trophy animal, as defined in Section 23-13-2.

(6)(a) A hearing officer may suspend, according to Subsection (2), a person's license or permit privileges for a particular license or permit only once for each single criminal episode, as defined in Section 76-1-401.

(b) If a hearing officer addresses two or more single criminal episodes in a hearing, the suspension periods of any license or permit privileges of the same type suspended, according to Subsection (2), may run consecutively.

(c) If a hearing officer suspends, according to Subsection (2), license or permit privileges of the type that have been previously suspended by a court, a hearing officer, or the Wildlife Board and the suspension period has not expired, the suspension periods may run consecutively.

(12)(a) A person may file an appeal of a hearing officer's decision with the Wildlife Board.

(b) The Wildlife Board shall review the hearing officer's findings and conclusions and any written documentation submitted at the hearing.

(c) The Wildlife Board may:

(i) take no action;

(ii) vacate or remand the decision; or

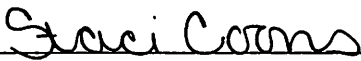
(iii) amend the period or type of suspension.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that on the 7th day of May, 2018, I caused to be deposited in the United States Mail, certified mail, a true and correct copy of the notification for the Wildlife

Board hearing to:

Voskan Azaryan
6632 Green Bush Ave.
VanNuys, CA 91401



Staci Coons



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J. SHEEHAN
Division Director

June 20, 2017

Voskan Azaryan
6632 Green Bush Ave.
VanNuys, CA 91401

Re: Case No. 2016-002654

Dear Mr. Azaryan,

The attached Decision and Order announces the outcome of the administrative proceeding held to consider the suspension of your wildlife privileges. If you have any questions about future legal wildlife activities, please contact an attorney or the Division of Wildlife Resources for assistance.

This letter also contains a Notice of Right to Appeal, which explains your right to appeal this decision to the Utah Wildlife Board. Please read it carefully because your appeal, if any, must comply with the time limitations stated.

Sincerely,
UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Osswald".

Meg Osswald
Hearing Officer &
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures.

STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

<p>In the matter of: Voskan Azaryan's license and permit privileges to harvest protected wildlife in the State of Utah.</p>	<p>DECISION AND ORDER</p> <p>Case No. 2016-002654</p>
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I. OVERVIEW

This Decision and Order announces the result of an informal administrative proceeding held before the Division of Wildlife Hearing Officer. The proceeding addressed the suspension of Respondent Voskan Azaryan's privileges to harvest protected wildlife in Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) alleges that Mr. Azaryan committed Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife and that Mr. Azaryan did so intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly.

The Division recommended suspending Mr. Azaryan's Big Game license and permit privileges for five years. After considering the facts and law as set forth below, the Hearing Officer finds that the Division met its burden of proof and a suspension of four years is warranted.

II. JURISDICTION AND COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS

The Hearing Officer has authority to hear this case and jurisdiction to issue this order under the Wildlife Resources Code, Utah Code § 23-19-9, and the Division's Rules, Utah Administrative Code Rules 657-26-1 to -6.

This proceeding was initiated through the proper means. The Division designated an Assistant Attorney General as the independent Hearing Officer. See Utah Code § 23-19-9(8). The Hearing Officer issued a Notice of Agency Action to Mr. Azaryan, which commenced this informal adjudicative proceeding under Utah Code section 23-19-9 and Utah Administrative Code Rule 657-26-3. Mr. Azaryan requested a hearing within the appropriate time and participated in

a hearing held on June 6, 2017. At the hearing, Hal Stout, Justin Shirley, and Zed Broadhead (by phone) represented the Division. Mr. Azaryan represented himself and Mr. Azaryan's friend who was present during the alleged violation, Edgar Manuksan, also attended. Witnesses Wayne Western and Gavin Wenzel also attended the hearing but did not participate.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

On September 14, 2016, witnesses reported that an antelope was poached in Strawberry Valley, Kane County. One set of witnesses reported seeing Mr. Azaryan and his friend Edgar Manuksan pursuing an antelope with an arrow in it, and the other witness reported watching a man shoot an antelope with an arrow. Both witnesses provided descriptions that matched Mr. Azaryan and Mr. Manuksan and the vehicles they were using.

Mr. Azaryan stated that he was in the area attempting to hunt coyotes, which are not protected under the Wildlife Resources Code. Mr. Azaryan stated that he shot an arrow at a coyote in a field, but did not see where the arrow landed and did not see an antelope. He stated that he shot into a field with multiple animals, and that he only saw animals running in different directions after he shot, so he did not know what he shot. The arrow found in the antelope was a three-bladed broad head, consistent with some of the arrows in Mr. Azaryan's possession when confronted by Conservation Officers. However, Mr. Azaryan also had two-bladed broad head arrows, which he claimed to be using that day.

The first set of witnesses claimed to observe an antelope crossing Strawberry Point Road with an arrow sticking in it and two men in a side by side attempting to follow the antelope. The witnesses also observed the passenger in the side by side knocking an arrow, and they stated that the passenger confessed to shooting the antelope. A second witness later came forward and stated that he saw a man shoot an antelope in the area. This witness followed the men as he knew no antelope season was in progress, and spoke with the men. He also described a side by side and a shooter in the passenger seat knocking an arrow. He followed the men to their vehicle and provided a description of the vehicle that matched the vehicle at Mr. Azaryan's campsite.

The State of Utah charged Mr. Azaryan with one count of Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife, a class A misdemeanor, in Case No. 161600138.

IV. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the Hearing Officer to suspend Mr. Azaryan's Big Game privileges, the Division must prove by a preponderance of evidence that Mr. Azaryan: (A) was convicted—or had some similar outcome—in a court of law for violating the Utah Wildlife Resources Code; and (B) committed the underlying violation with an intentional, knowing, or reckless state of mind. Utah Code § 23-19-9(2).

A. Conviction in a Court of Law

To suspend Mr. Azaryan's privileges, the Division must prove that a court of law sentenced Mr. Azaryan for violating the Wildlife Resources Code. *Id.* § 23-19-9(2)(a). A conviction, a guilty plea, a plea in abeyance, or a plea of no contest all satisfy the triggering statute. *Id.* For clarity, this order uses the broad term “sentenced” to include all of the similar possibilities noted above.

Here, Mr. Azaryan was sentenced for Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife in the Sixth District Court of Utah, Case No. 161600138 on September 14, 2016. Therefore, the Division proved the first element of this suspension action.

B. State of Mind

To suspend Mr. Azaryan's privileges, the Division must also prove that Mr. Azaryan acted intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly in the commission of the underlying offense. *Id.* § 23-19-9(2)(b) (referring to the mental states as defined under the Utah Criminal Code, Utah Code § 76-2-103). In this action, the underlying violation was for taking protected wildlife without a permit, however, even if Mr. Azaryan had a permit he would have violated the Wildlife Resources Code because the area was closed to hunting antelope. Utah Code § 23-20-3.

Mr. Azaryan admitted to shooting into a field with multiple animals. He admitted that his aim with a bow and arrow was not great, and he admitted that he did not see where the arrow landed. Because Mr. Azaryan's aim was bad and he could not see where he shot, he consciously disregarded a substantial and

unjustifiable risk that he would take protected wildlife without a permit. This gross deviation from the standard of care that should be exercised when using a potentially lethal weapon constitutes recklessness.

In sum, the Hearing Officer finds that the Division met its burden of proving that Mr. Azaryan was sentenced for the underlying offense and that he committed the offense with the required mental state. Therefore, the Hearing Officer has the authority to suspend Mr. Azaryan's privileges to harvest protected wildlife.

V. LENGTH AND TYPE OF SUSPENSION

Subsection 23-19-9(4) of the Utah Code places upper limits on any suspension ordered by the Hearing Officer. In this matter, the underlying sentence was for a class A misdemeanor, which allows a suspension of up to five years. *Id.* § 23-19-9(4).

Regarding the type of suspension, the Hearing Officer may suspend the privileges "most closely associated with the activity for which the person was participating in when the violation occurred." Utah Admin. Code R. 657-26-5(5)(b). Under most circumstances, this means that a Big Game violation results in the suspension of Big Game privileges (but not fishing privileges, for instance).

In addition to the statutory and regulatory limits, the Hearing Officer must "take into account any aggravating or mitigating circumstances when deciding the length of a suspension period." Utah Admin. Code R. 657-26-5(7). Neither the Wildlife Resources Code, the Division's Rules, nor the Division's guidance documents illuminate what circumstances might, or might not, be considered under this balancing test. Therefore, the Hearing Officer will consider any factors that bear on the equity of this administrative process.

A. Aggravating Circumstances

The Division argued that Mr. Azaryan's failure to take responsibility for shooting the antelope was an aggravating circumstance. The Division also stated that Mr. Azaryan told several conflicting accounts about the violation circumstances, showing his intent to lie or impede the investigation. The

Division also pointed out that Mr. Azaryan did not have any type of valid license to hunt in Utah, and that there is no antelope hunt for the Strawberry area.

B. Mitigating Circumstances

Mr. Azaryan has no previous wildlife violations or criminal background. Mr. Azaryan took the suspension process seriously and expressed his desire to be ethical and follow all hunting laws. Mr. Azaryan also stated that he did not have malicious intent before the incident in that he was there to legally hunt coyotes. Mr. Azaryan was cooperative in showing the conservation officers his bows, and was respectful during the hearing.

VI. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

On balance, the Hearing Officer finds that the mitigating circumstances in this case slightly outweigh the aggravating circumstances. Mr. Azaryan was not on a poaching expedition and did not have malicious intent. Mr. Azaryan also has a history of good behavior. However, it is important to stress that Mr. Azaryan should follow much safer hunting practices in the future. It is dangerous to shoot without full control over the outcome and without the ability to hit only the intended target, rather than an unintended target as Mr. Azaryan claims the antelope was. Therefore, the Hearing Officer orders that Mr. Azaryan's Big Game privileges be suspended for four years starting June 19, 2017 and ending on June 19, 2021.

ORDERED on June 20, 2017

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEARING OFFICER



Meg Osswald
Hearing Officer
Assistant Attorney General
Utah Attorney General's Office

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

1. This Order may be appealed to the Utah Wildlife Board. **Any appeal must be received within thirty calendar days of the date of this order.** The appeal must be made in writing to the Chairperson of the Wildlife Board, 1594 West North Temple, Suite No. 2110, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301. A copy of the appeal must be mailed to the Hearing Officer at the address listed above. The appeal must be signed by the Respondent, state the grounds for appeal, the relief requested, and the date on which the appeal was mailed.
2. After receiving notice of appeal, the Wildlife Board will schedule a hearing date at its earliest convenience. Notice of the hearing will be provided to all parties. The Wildlife Board will require that all parties attend the hearing. Respondent may bring counsel to appear on his or her behalf. Upon hearing from both parties and reviewing the evidence the Wildlife Board may take no action, vacate or remand the decision of the Hearing Officer, or amend the Order.
3. For additional information regarding the Wildlife Board Review process, please refer to Utah Code sections 23-19-9(12), 63G-4-201 to -206, and Utah Administrative Code Rule R657-26-8. You may also contact the Division of Wildlife Resources.


THE EFFECTS OF THIS ORDER

4. During the suspension period, Respondent must not participate in the activity for which the privilege has been suspended. He or she must not obtain or try to obtain a license or permit to participate in that activity. Any license or permit obtained or possessed for the activity during this suspension period is invalid.
5. During the suspension period, Respondent must not obtain or try to obtain any bonus points or preference points. Any points obtained during the suspension will be invalid; however, points acquired before the suspension remain valid during and after the suspension.
6. Subsequent violations occurring within the suspension period may result in a doubled suspension period. Furthermore, subsequent violations may result in the suspension of all hunting and fishing privileges.
7. Under the Wildlife Violator Compact, Title 23, Chapter 25 of the Utah Code, the Division may report to other states a suspension of wildlife privileges, which may lead to reciprocal suspensions in at least 45 different states. Respondent should verify his or her status before trying to obtain wildlife licenses in other states.
8. If a court has already suspended Respondent's privilege(s), this suspension may run consecutively with the court suspension. Utah Code Ann. § 23-19-9(6)(c).

VII. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that an exact copy of the foregoing DECISION AND ORDER and NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL DECISION was served by certified mail, return receipt requested, this 20th day of June 2017 to:

**VOSKAN AZARYAN
6632 GREEN BUSH AVE.
VANNUYS, CA 91401**



Jamie Martell
Executive Secretary
Law Enforcement Division
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources