

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

August 30, 2018, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtu.be/cO44XLst1gc>

Revised August 23, 2018

Thursday, August 30, 2018 – 9:00 am

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|--|--------------------|
| 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. R657-11 - Furbearer Rule Amendments
– Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019
– Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019
– Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Additional Anterless Permits to address drought condition
– Covy Jones, Big Game Section Chief - moved from item 11 to 8 on the agenda | ACTION |
| 9. R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments
– Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Expo Permit Audit
– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 11. Expo Permit Allocation
– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 12. Wildlife Board Stipulation and Order – Motion to Dismiss
– Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General | ACTION |
| 13. Prohibited Species Variance Request – Cliff Leavitt
– Staci Coons, Rules, RAC and Wildlife Board Coordinator | ACTION |
| 14. Other Business
– Kirk Woodward, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 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

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, 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. Wildlife Projects Update
– DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATION |
| 6. Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans
– Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General | INFORMATION |
| 7. Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments
– Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64
– Xaela Walden, Predator Management Specialist | ACTION |
| 9. Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan
– David Smedley, Wildlife Biologist | ACTION |
| 10. Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41,
Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rules R657-62
– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 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, Asst. Attorney General | ACTION |
| 12. Conservation Permit List – 1yr and 3 yr
– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 13. Box Elder Pilot Mtn. Season Date Change
– Chad Wilson, Wildlife Biologist | ACTION |
| 14. Scales and Tails – Prohibited Species Variance Request
– Justin Shirlely, Law Enforcement Captain | ACTION |
| 15. Wildlife Board Stipulation and Order
– Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General | ACTION |
| 16. Other Business
– Kirk Woodward, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

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
May 31, 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 Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 meeting as presented.

3) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

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

4) Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64 as presented by the Division.

5) Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (**Action**)

Karl Hirst prefaced his motion, stating that the statewide plan is in the process of being written; the Wool Growers should utilize their representatives to get the language in the plan – the plan protects all parties as much or more than an MOU; and the Division and Wool Growers should work together to get an MOU in place.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 5 to 1. Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.

The following amended motion was made by Calvin Crandall and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we amend the motion to include having an MOU signed and in place before the transplant happens.

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

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the proposed rule amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedure Rules R657-62 as presented by the Division.

- 7) 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**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the proposed rule amendments pertaining to the CRC, Error Committee, WIA Advisory Committee, and Variance Committee as presented by the Division.

- 8) Conservation Permit List – 1yr and 3yr (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 1 year and 3 year Conservation Permit List as presented by the Division.

- 9) Box Elder Pilot Mtn. Season Date Change (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the season date change for Box Elder Pilot Mountain as presented by the Division.

- 10) Scales and Tails – Prohibited Species Variance Request (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the variance request as presented.

- 11) Wildlife Board Stipulation and Order (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we grant the Stipulation and Order request for Weston D. Stoddard to reduce the suspension from 6 years to 4 years as presented.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 31, 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
Steve Dalton

RAC Chairs

Central – Kris Marble
Southern – Dave Black
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin
Northeastern – Randy Dearth
Northern – Bryce Thurgood

Division Personnel

Mike Canning	Martin Bushman	Valerie Fiorelli
Rory Reynolds	Greg Hansen	Holly Bosley
Bill Bates	Lindy Varney	Dave Beveridge
Kevin Bunnell	Teresa Griffin	Eric Anderson
Boyde Blackwell	Guy Wallace	Jace Taylor
Justin Dolling	Riley Peck	Phil Gray
Chris Wood	Randy Wood	Jane Finlayson
Jason Vernon	Dax Mangus	Annette Roug
Kenny Johnson	Jason Robinson	Anita Candelaria
Rick Olson	Xaela Walden	Ben Nadolski
Justin Shannon	David Smedley	Doug McCleave
Tom Thompson	Chad Wilson	Avery Cook
Mike Christensen	Covy Jones	Mike Styler
Paul Gedge	Kent Hersey	Mark Hadley
Staci Coons		
Thu Vo-Wood		

Public Present

Troy Justensen – SFW	Marc Coles-Ritchie	Bret Selman	Troy Forrest
Bryce Pilling – SFW	Coy Stowell	Kelly Rollins	Tina Eliason
Kevin Norman – USFWS	Clayton Beckstead	Travis Seifers – SFW	Brett Behling
Bill Christensen – RMEF	Barbara Cameron	Kelly Kreis	Sierra Nelson
Miles Moretti – MDF	Brandon Yardley	Dallas Hemeyer	Garrick Hall
Jamie Nogle – UT NWTF	Kendall Benson	Vance Broadbent	Kirk Robinson
Jeremy Anderson – MDF	Brayden Richmond	Matt Mickel	John Bair
Sterling Brown – UT Farm Bureau		Bart Vanderly	Scott Stubbs
Travis Jensen – UT Wild Sheep Foundation		Chris Carling	Alec Moyer
Floyd Yardley – North Divide Grazing		Kurt Wood	Brenda Mickel
Tammy Pearson – Beaver County Commissioner		Dave Freiss	Staci Jorgensen
Mike Osgothorpe – UT Wool Growers Association		Steve Lund	Troy Jorgensen
LuAnn Adams – Commissioner, UDAF		Jerry Taylor	Jack Jensen
Jason West – Backcountry Hunters and Anglers		Kay Benson	
Ben Lowder – UT Archery Association		Logan Wilde	
Susanne Tracy – Forest Service		Phillip Gardner	
Sierra Nelson – UT Wool Growers Association		Carlisle Hulet	
Wade Eliason – Farm Bureau/Wool Growers Assoc		Don Peay	

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
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1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://youtu.be/hSwwSe99DDI>

- 00:00:07** Chairman Woodward called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, introduced Board and RAC members.
- 00:02:08** **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.
- 00:02:32** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 26, 2018 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:03:00** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
No action log items at this time.
- 00:03:23** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Mike Fowlks updated the board on the R3 Symposium, peregrine falcon camera, southern region drought, and Watershed Restoration Initiative projects and funding.
- 00:08:20** **5) Wildlife Projects Update (Informational)**
Justin Shannon provided updates on wildlife and habitat projects funded through conservation permit programs and other sources.
- 00:25:09** **6) Wildlife Implications of New State and County Resource Management Plans (Informational)**
Martin Bushman presented the wildlife implications on the new resource management plans.
- 00:34:30** **7) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)**
Jason Robinson presented the recommendations.
- 00:44:38** **Board Questions**
The board asked for clarification on the fall permits, safety concerns with rimfire, Merriam turkey limited entry hunt, success rates with rimfire versus shotgun, and translocation count and count in southeast region.
- 00:50:26** **RAC Recommendations**

All RACs passed the recommendations and amendments with varying dissent. Southeast and Northeast RAC proposed some stipulations.

00:53:40 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

00:58:44 Board Discussion

Chairman Woodward summarized the motions from each RAC. The Board commented on the depredation issue.

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

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

01:02:40 8) Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64 (Action)

Xaela Walden presented the rule amendments.

01:15:00 Board Questions

The board asked for clarification on the one year harvest date, COR requirement and fee waiver, fraud issues, and concerns with reducing reward amount.

01:20:35 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the program amendments with some dissent. Southern RAC requested an action log item to look into other funding.

01:25:37 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:35:09 Board Discussion

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC motions and discussed the proposal to improve the program.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Coyote Bounty Program Amendments – Rule R657-64 as presented by the Division.

01:36:53 9) Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (Action)

David Smedley presented the management plan.

01:49:00 Board/RAC Questions

The board asked about boundaries, length of time domestic sheep spend in the area, location of sheep herd trail in relation to release site, and migration pattern.

01:54:41 Public Questions

Public questions were accepted at this time.

02:05:36 RAC Recommendations

All RACs except Southern RAC passed the management plan. Southern RAC voted in favor of postponing approval of the plan until the working group convened.

02:07:53 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

03:28:11 LUNCH BREAK

04:05:42 Board Discussion

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC motions. The Board further discussed the concerns that were expressed during the comment period.

Karl Hirst prefaced his motion, stating that the statewide plan is in the process of being written; the Wool Growers should utilize their representatives to get the language in the plan – the plan protects all parties as much or more than an MOU; and the Division and Wool Growers should work together to get an MOU in place.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 5 to 1. Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.

The following amended motion was made by Calvin Crandall and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we amend the motion to include having an MOU signed and in place before the transplant happens.

04:27:50 10) Proposed Rule Amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedures Rules R657-62 (Action)

Kenny Johnson presented the proposed rule amendments.

04:42:10 Public Questions

Public questions were accepted at this time.

04:47:20 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the proposed rule amendments.

04:48:16 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

04:57:53 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the proposed rule amendments to Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41, Wildlife Expo Permits Rule R657-55, and Drawing Application Procedure Rules R657-62 as presented by the Division.

- 04:58:49 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 presented the proposed rule amendments.

05:04:13 Board Questions

The board asked for clarification on members participating in the committees.

05:05:08 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the proposed rule amendments.

05:06:07 Board Discussion

The Board discussed a perception by an individual about the Division being in charge of all the committees and not having to answer to anyone.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the proposed rule amendments pertaining to the CRC, Error Committee, WIA Advisory Committee, and Variance Committee as presented by the Division.

- 05:08:40 12) Conservation Permit List – 1yr and 3yr (Action)**

Justin Shannon presented the permit list.

05:14:24 Board Questions

The board asked for clarification on permit number recommendations.

05:15:50 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

05:22:58 Board Discussion

The Board discussed concerns about public perception on the growth of the program and auction of cow elk tags.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 1 year and 3 year Conservation Permit List as presented by the Division.

- 05:24:47 13) Box Elder Pilot Mtn. Season Date Change (Action)**

Chad Wilson presented the season date change from September 15-23 to September 8-29 to align with the Nevada season dates.

05:25:48 Board Discussion

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the season date change for Box Elder Pilot Mountain as presented by the Division.

05:27:06 14) Scales and Tails – Prohibited Species Variance Request (Action)

Staci Coons presented the variance request.

05:29:16 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board asked for clarification on the request and ownership.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the variance request as presented.

05:31:43 15) Wildlife Board Stipulation and Order (Action)

Greg Hansen presented the appeal.

03:38:58 Board Questions/Discussion

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

MOTION: I move that we grant the Stipulation and Order request for Weston D. Stoddard to reduce the suspension from 6 years to 4 years as presented.

05:36:54 16) Other Business (Contingent)

Lindy Varney presented the number of youth hunters in the past few years.

05:43:20 Grand Canyon Trust comment on impact of mountain goats on La Sal mountain ecosystem.

05:47:20 Meeting adjourned.

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Approved Motions
July 2018**

R657-11 - Furbearer Rule Amendments

NRO, CRO

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

Motion Passes – Unanimous

SRO Motion: To accept the Furbearer rule amendments as presented but change the trap registration requirement on private property from 600 feet from a building to 600 feet from property line.

Motion Passes - Unanimous

SERO Motion: To request that the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work together to discuss what areas of concern the DNR has with coyote and raccoon trapping as it relates to protected wildlife, and if the UDAF agrees, the Predator Management Board can write the rule pertaining to livestock protection

Motion Passes 5-3

Motion: To accept the remaining Furbearer Rule Amendments as presented

Motion Passes – Unanimous

NERO Motion: To approve as presented along with an action item asking the Wildlife Board to have the DWR take these changes to the Utah Animal Damage Prevention Board.

Motion Passes - Unanimous

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

NRO, SRO, SERO, NERO

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

Motion Passes – Unanimous

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

Motion Passes – Passed 7-1

Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

NRO Motion - Recommend that the East Canyon cougar management unit have a zero increase in tags and that it stays a Limited Entry unit.

Motion Passes – 7 in Favor, 5 Opposed

Motion – Recommend the Wildlife Board add the GPS coordinate of the kill as part of the reporting requirements. Also recommend the Wildlife Board convene the Cougar Management Committee again prior to next year's RAC meetings to further discuss this. Also recommend the Wildlife Board keep the Book Cliffs unit as a Split rather than a Harvest Objective. Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the balance of the Division's proposal as presented otherwise.

Motion Passes - 8 in Favor, 4 Opposed

CRO Motion: To recommend a split hunt rather than a harvest objective hunt on the Book Cliffs, East unit.

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Motion: To recommend that the DWR bring back recommendations to the RAC's and Wildlife Board to require the use of GPS coordinates of mountain lion harvest in 2019.

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Motion: To recommend no increase of permits in the Central Mountains, Southwest Manti unit.

Motion Passes – 6-2

Motion: To accept the remainder of the Division's proposals as presented.

Motion Passes – 5-4

SRO Motion: To accept as presented but create a Cougar sub unit on the Mineral Mountains.

Motion Passes – 9-1

Amended Motion: to also make the book cliffs unit a split unit

Motion Passes – 6-4

SERO Motion: To request that cougar hunters be required to submit the GPS coordinates of their harvest to the Division of Wildlife Resources

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Motion: To change the Book Cliffs East cougar unit from a harvest objective strategy to a split strategy

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Motion: To request the Wildlife Board to consider the feasibility of allowing leg-hold traps as a legal method of take for cougars

Motion Passes 5-3

Motion: To increase the number of permits on both the Central Mountains, Southeast Manti and the Central Mountains, Southwest Manti cougar units by two permits from the 2017-18 season

Motion Passes 6-2

Motion: To accept the remaining Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019 as presented

Motion Passes 7-1

NERO Motion: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented

Motion Passes 6-2

R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments

All RAC's

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

Motion Passes – Unanimous

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Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Library
45 South Main Street, Springville
July 26, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by George Garcia and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the agenda as written

2) Approval of minutes

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by George Garcia and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the minutes as written

3) R657-11-Furbearer Rule Amendments

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

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

4) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Ken Strong and passed 7 to 1. Christine opposed.

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

5) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder and seconded by Mike Christensen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To recommend a split hunt rather than a harvest objective hunt on the Book Cliffs, East unit.

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

MOTION: To recommend that the DWR bring back recommendations to the RAC's and Wildlife Board to require the use of GPS coordinates of mountain lion harvest in 2019.

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: To increase Central Mountains, Southeast Manti unit by two permits rather than the four recommended by the DWR.

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and seconded by George Garcia and failed 3 to 5. Christine, Ben, AJ, Mike, Ken opposed.

MOTION: To increase Central Mountains, Southwest Manti unit by three permits rather than the six recommended by the DWR.

The following motion was made by George Garcia and seconded by Danny Potts and failed 3 to 5. Ben, AJ, Ken, Josh, Mike

MOTION: To recommend no increase of permits on the Oquirrh-Stansbury unit and West Desert, Tintic-Vernon unit.

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and seconded by Danny Potts and passed 6 to 2. Ken, Ben opposed.

MOTION: To recommend no increase of permits in the Central Mountains, Southwest Manti unit.

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by Ben Lowder and passed 5 to 4. Josh, Christine, Danny, George opposed. Kris votes in favor for tie breaker.

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division's proposals as presented.

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and seconded by Danny Potts and failed. 4 to 5. Ken, Ben, AJ, Mike opposed. Kris votes opposed for tie breaker.

MOTION: To recommend the DWR review the mountain lion management plan and not make changes to unit numbers for at least 2 years.

6) R657-48-Sensitive Species Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Danny Potts and seconded by Christine Schmitz and passed unanimously.

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

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Library, 45 South Main Street
July 26, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

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

Member Absent

Jacob Steele
Mike Gates
Alan White
Brock McMillan, Excused

Others Present

Jason Vernon, CRO Reg Supervisor
Karl Hirst, Board Member

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

VOTING

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

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

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

Wildlife

* Biologists are in the middle of Elk and Pronghorn classification

* Despite the lack of water, our depredation and nuisance (bears, cougars, and moose) issues have been at a normal level. There are times when we see an increase in depredation and nuisance instances when there is a lack of water, but this year seems to be normal in this regard.

* Biologists are finishing updates to the deer unit management plans and those plans will be presented for review to the RAC in an upcoming RAC meeting

Aquatics

* We are receiving good fishing reports from Jordanelle Reservoir for kokanee. This is exciting for anglers and we are excited to see how well they are doing. The reservoir was stocked with kokanee 3 years ago and we anticipate that we will see them starting to spawn upstream this fall.

Law Enforcement

* There has been quite a bit of shuffling of officers in our region.

* Sean Spencer is our new North Utah County Officer. Almost everybody knows Sean from his years already working in Hobbie Creek area. Sean transferred into the position recently vacated by Tait Larson.

* James Thomas is our new Hobbie Creek Officer. James comes from the Emery County district after almost 5 years. James has strong family ties to the Utah County area. It is great to have him here, and look forward to many years with James in Utah County.

* Tait Larson left the DWR to pursue other adventures. We regret losing him and his numerous skills. Tait was one of our Utah County Officers almost 10 years. Tait will be missed, but we appreciate the great job Sean will do filling in behind him.

* Brandon Olson transferred from the Strawberry District to the Kamas District. Brandon and his almost 10 years of experience will be missed.

* This last month has been very busy dealing with the newest threats from Quagga Mussels. The water conditions at Lake Powell have produced almost 60 separate boat inspections and decontaminations in our region alone. We are attempting to deal with this very serious and immediate threat. We are still developing our revised interdiction efforts moving forward this season and into next year. Please remember to Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat when you leave any of Utah's waters. The dry times, possible decontaminations, and self-certifications are extremely important to remember when planning your boating trips.

* Hunting season is quickly approaching with the general archery hunts beginning August 18. Please remember those regulations. If you have questions or need to report any suspicious activity please call 1-800-662-3337 (DEER), or *DEER. In addition, you can report violations via email at turninapoacher@utah.gov or online at wildlife.utah.gov/utip.

Conservation Outreach

* Just a reminder that the bow hunt is just around the corner and if you are a dedicated hunter and still need to fulfill your hours there are many opportunities to do so. You can find the opportunities on our webpage. The Utah State Fair is coming up in September (September 6 – 16). The Division will have a fishing pond at the fair and we are always in need of volunteers to help the youth catch fish. If you need dedicated hunter hours this is a great event to help with as

there are many different shifts throughout the entirety of the fair. You can go online to the Division's website to find this and many other opportunities.

Administration

* We are in the middle of building a new regional office. The current office building is scheduled to be demolished on August 8 and the new office building will be built on the same site. In the meantime, we will be operating from a temporary building just north of the current building. We will be moving from our current building to our temporary building. With the move, we will be closed for business on Friday, August 3 and will have limited service on Wednesday, August 1 and Thursday, August 2. Substantial completion of the new facility is scheduled for June 30, 2019.

4) **R657-11-Furbearer Rule Amendments** **Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Kris - You mentioned in the rule amendment and just to clarify where it states the designated person you have, is it referring to the owner of the set or the primary permit holder and I'm guessing they assume legal and civil liability? I assume that also includes designated person as well? Darren – Right, obviously it would depend on what actually happened and what the case was, but I think we just wanted this language which was kind of in rule before, to let the RAC be aware we changed it a little bit. If you're going to authorize a person to act on your behalf, then you need to make sure that they are doing it right. Kris - I just wanted to make sure that the designated person was also on the hook.

Mike - In the slide you showed that the owner of the trap has to have the licenses and you refer to it as the person and then down on the bullet points it talks about the owner and also talks about the person; are those bullet points the person or the owner? What I am getting at does the designated person has to have a trapping license or anything like that? Darren – No, I can see how that was a little bit confusing. In this case under the bullet points we are talking about the owner is the person that has the trapping license and has their number on the trap. The person they designate can then go check and don't need anything additional. If they are trapping for coyotes all they need is the permission from the trap owner to do that.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

None

RAC Discussion

None

VOTING

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

Seconded by Ben Lowder

Motion passed unanimously

5) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019 Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Mike - Does it concern you Darren that the trends are all going the wrong way?

Darren – Obviously it is something that we will be looking at. The way the plan is set up is once it falls below; we may see some changes next years if it continues on that path. I think probably what is driving this is a decline in rabbit population. We have seen a significant decline in the prey base and so you'd expect to see that predator population follows that. So the plan is set up to be sensitive to that and as long as it is within the bounds according to the plan we are okay, but again that is definitely something we are watching.

Josh –You said during the coyote talk, about 25% of targeting coyotes aren't actually catching coyotes. What percent of bobcats are being caught in coyote sets?

Darren – I don't know if they teased that out or just said non-target. One thing we do know from our data is that about 40% of badgers that are caught in the state are caught while someone is trapping for something else. They don't indicate what they were trapping by. It could be bobcats, but it could be coyotes just probably more likely to be coyotes. Same thing for the grey fox. So these are both, well it may not be foxes, I probably better check. I have the data if you want to look at it later, but again you put a set out; you may catch something else. In order to catch a badger you got to have a furbearer license and so we want to make sure people can let that animal go if they are not intending to keep it. Josh – I guess that was my bigger question. You said one of the recommendations was to release animals that are able. Do you see more people coyote trapping with snares or leg holds? Darren - I think they use both. I don't know if the trappers have a sense for....Alan Robb – Mostly leg holds. Josh – So there is a chance those bobcats can go free then? Darren – Right. For non lethal sets it's a 48 hour check time frame and for lethal sets its 96 hours.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

Al Robb/Utah Trappers Association – The only thing I want to recommend was pertaining to the other furbearers: beaver, mink, badger, grey fox and kit fox and those listed there. The season start is recommended for September 22. I would like to see that be changed to October 22. Their fur is not even close to being prime. I'd like to see that set back a month so they have a better chance. Furs are not sellable at that point and to me it is kind of a waste of the resource as far as that part of it goes. I would like to recommend October 22 start on both of those seasons for those species.

Bryce Pilling/ Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife - We support the Division's recommendations as presented.

RAC Discussion

Mike - Along the lines of making that a later start date, do you see cases where there are problems with the public getting involved with your sets? I mean if it was moved later would it take away any conflicts or anything like that? Has that been an issue? Alan Robb - That is really not a concern. Kris - Darren, what are your thoughts on moving that season? Darren - I have not had a lot of time to think about it. I don't disagree with what Al said about fur being prime. I think usually as managers what we try to do is allow people a reasonable window to go engage in these activities. I think I mentioned to Al, if you know what you're doing, you're probably waiting anyway. From a biological stand point, I can't think of a reason why it would make much of a difference to go earlier or later in terms of population management.

Josh - We trapped a lot growing up as kids and I don't do it anymore but do you find that people are trapping still to sell the fur? For instance, like badgers and skunks. Are they just trapping to get rid of them? Are they actually taking them to market and selling them?

Darren - I think they do both. I think people that really do it a lot are selling the furs and taking care of them. Again, that might be a good point. If you're trying to manage for the species and you're not selling the fur, a little bit earlier opener might help a little bit. With coyotes there is no season for coyotes. Josh - Does it have to be all one swoop? For example, does martin and weasel have to be tied in with skunk and badger? Darren - No. One thing we'd like to do is simplify things and so having different opening dates for different species gets confusing and if you don't have to, I'd prefer not to do that.

Kris - What would you anticipate as far as social blowback for moving that date?

Darren - Again, I haven't had a lot of time to think about it, but I suspect there are some folks that would feel like moving it back a month would be undesirable, but I don't know for sure.

Ben - How does the current opening date compare to traditional opening date? Darren - As far as I know I don't think it has changed much. We have some guys that have a lot more experience than I do and has it pretty much been that way for a while?

Alan Robb - Generally in the past we have always recommended in October. Darren - So it sounds like for the purposes of selling fur it would be more desirable to start later. Again, the only thing I could think of is; if you're doing some kind of control effort, it might be advantageous to have a little bit extra time. But just off the top of my head that would be what I would say.

Ken Strong - Here is the problem we are running into not just this issue but other issues in the state. We complicate things. If a person is out there to catch prime fur to sell, they know when to go and that is when they would start their trapping. If someone is just out there to trap, that is a different story. I think we need to think about keeping it simple and have all the start dates together so people understand. We run into this in all kinds of issues and I think we just need to keep it simple and start them all the same time.

Ben – Here is my take. I am mostly with Ken; but the one point I disagree with you on is I don't care about complexity. It's 2018 and we all have computers and phones. Different start dates don't bother me. I think for proper management that is better than simplicity. That is my personal opinion. That said, I do agree with you Ken that we should keep the start dates the same and the reason I believe that is exactly what you said. Just because we have an opening date doesn't mean you have to set out your traps that day. If you're a trapper just looking for prime fur, you can self regulate and set them out later. You don't have to start on day one. For flexibility and opportunity; I would prefer to keep the date as is.

VOTING

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

Seconded by Ken Strong

In favor: Danny, George, Ben, AJ, Josh, Mike, Ken

Opposed: Christine

Motion passed 7 to 1

6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019 Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Dan – I am trying to figure the difference between male and female issues but also younger vs. older males. What is the typical range difference between an old trophy category tom and a young tom? Darren – I think in general older toms tend to set up larger territories than younger animals. Usually in a cougar population you have females that sort of set up territories that overlap a little bit with each other but then also overlap by a male and typically that is the male that does the breeding. You always have this kind of undercurrent of juveniles that are there and they kind of get bounced around and if they can find a place to be. The juveniles are there but typically older males will hold onto more territory than younger ones. Danny – So it's that the young males might be moving more? Darren – Yes and that and I think they are less capable of defending a territory because they would get beat up pretty easy. Danny – Also, what about the cost of dealing with cougar and human interactions? I think the Division is kind of required to take care of those kinds of problems, right? For example, a cougar in someone's back yard; they need to move it. What is the cost to dart or kill that kitty? Darren – I don't know. It's tough to put a dollar amount on it. It would depend. Some years are worse than others. Danny – I mean per cat, on the average. Darren – That's a tough one. Let me tell you what it tells. It would in tell truck time, gasoline, personnel time and the drugs aren't cheap, transporting and releasing the animal. It's expensive. I remember doing these urban removals on mule deer and it's probably \$250-\$300, but that is with a lot of volunteer time and so it can be pricy. It doesn't happen very often either.

George – It looks like where you had increases you increased significantly where you had a decrease in numbers that was real low. Darren – Right, Usually on the decreases they just start edge up above and usually they have done two things. On the Wasatch/Cascade they are starting to decrease. There were not a lot of permits to begin with. There were just five. So a decrease in one is more significant in that situation or by two when you only have seven. So we want to see what that does. So again, what we look at over the three years; when you have a low sample

size, there is a lot of variance in that. It just depends on how old or how many females they take and that can jump around a lot. The other one which was the point that I was going to make is the Ogden. In this case we only reduced by one but we also changed the strategy to try and see if we could get people to be a little more selective on that unit. The idea being; if they know they're not out there with the mob maybe they will pass on a female. They are more likely to pass on a female than to take it. We did both there and we will keep an eye on it and see if that works and if not then we will have to make further adjustments. George – Also on predator management considerations, it's obvious where you have deer, big horn sheep so where it says "No" you still showed increases in those units. Again, is it for livestock depredation reasons? Darren – No. In most of those cases their females in the harvest is below 40 and in some cases way below and if you look at it, and I know it was an eye test, I put everything on one sheet in your packet and so I apologize for that if you can't read it then I can get in to the details. But in most of those cases, there well within the management perimeters and so there is opportunity there to increase. In most of those cases, they're only increasing two or three. The ones where they got some livestock concerns is usually something like five to six just kind of a general rule.

Josh – It would have been really helpful to see which units were specifically targeted for livestock depredation. Do you know which ones they are? Darren – I could do that in the future. It might be easier if you have a unit that you're wondering about. Josh –Your one slide showed an average of about 20 cats being killed by wildlife service's and the slight uptick was two or three a year for the past two or three years. If I knew Central Mountains had an uptick because of sheep, I could get behind that pretty quickly. Darren – The ones off the top of my head and we have some folks here that know the actual be districts for the Central region. The East Canyon /Morgan and Morgan and Summit County were some of the highest incidences in the state. We have talked in the past with the RAC's in these meetings how to do a population reconstruction and try and figure out what your trend is. What we have seen over the last decade or so is a growing lion population based on that reconstruction. If you overlay that with the mule deer population trend, adjusting for the numbers, the trend is almost identical. The lions actually start below deer and then they catch up and almost grow at the same rate. We have seen in the last two years declines in mule deer and now starting to see lions kind of do this classic predator prey thing where they lag but then they start to maybe level off. I think part of that is reflected in some of these recommendations for decreases. We will have to keep an eye on how that goes. Again, we are looking at three year chunks at a time.

Mike - When you look at East Canyon the female portion of the harvest is half of what the target is. The age of five and older is double of what it could be. So it's not that we're pushing the limits by any means on say units like that for example, even when you throw in the livestock depredation on top of that.... Darren - The dynamic that's going on there is East Canyon is mostly private so access is a limiting factor and so it does a couple of things. One we would like to see sportsmen take those lions instead of wildlife service's if we can. This then allows the landowners to get a harvest objective permit later in the season; and if they got a lion that has been hitting them try and get it themselves because they have access obviously.

Ben - I was noticing the same thing on the East Canyon and I would like to see a general deer unit that had a 15-17 buck to doe ratio and our buck to doe ratio was actually 28. There is a lot of room to increase and it feels like East Canyon falls into that kind of scenario. Darren – And

really there only a handful of units in the state that have a former predator management plan. Most of these units fall within the management guidelines and there is room to increase. So that is why they have done that. Usually if they increase in the five to six ranges, they are being generous both because they can according to the plan but also they have some other concerns trying to address.

Questions from the Public

Danny Robb/Self- Why is the lion management plan based solely on pursuit and trapping is not part of that management? Trapping could play as big as part of that as pursuit could. Darren - I think the main reason is a social reason that the public will generally not support trapping mountain lions. I think that is the easiest answer. Although, in situations where lions are taking livestock; wildlife service's does use authorized to trap those individual lions. Danny – So what you're saying is the public is more willing to accept the fact that dogs run a lion for miles and miles and gets tired of running and goes up a tree versus being trapped? Darren - I think it would be difficult to add trapping to the ways that we hunt lions. We already have quite a bit of opposition to the use of hounds but that is something that we have done for a long time and so that is a tradition that we are maintaining. Danny – I understand that but I guess I am just kind of opposed to sticking to traditions for just because. Darren – I understand that. Danny – You're not going to know what the public would say or their comments would be until you do it. Darren – Yeah. Danny – Thank you.

Jason Binder/Self – What was the average age of lions killed last year? Darren – Let me see. 3.1 Jason – 3.1? Darren – It looks like just over three. That is since 1996. That is kind of in trend that we saw some decreases in the 90's and that coordinates to that harvest I think that you saw back then. The trend since 2008 has been slightly increasing but we are starting to see a lot of variance over the last five to six years where it has jumped around quite a bit. That is why we use three year averages. We take it in three year chunks. The idea in the plan is we are not constantly shifting year after year but if the overall trend levels out and you know you can kind of see like in 2013 we saw something similar to what we have seen 2016 you know is that going to balance back up, we don't know but we definitely want to keep an eye on it. Jason - How many of the split or harvest objective units were over harvested last year? Darren – There were a few; less than 10. Well, I don't know the answer off the top of my head. Let me see if I can figure it out for you. Jason – So last year we over harvested lions on some of these units that we are now raising tags on this year? Darren – I don't know for sure. I need to see what units they were whether we increased or not. Sorry, I will find out tonight. Jason – How come if the units are not longer on predator management, why are they still on split or harvest objective when they should go back to limited entry? Darren – Well they can be split but the plan says it recommends that we don't use harvest objective if they're not under predator management. But a biologist still has the discretion to do that. Jason – When these units get down to one lion on a Friday, the hunt stays open and so we end up harvesting five lions over. How do we come up with a solution to not do that anymore? Darren – What I want to do is do an electronically check in so that takes some development time. What I would like to see is something similar to what we do with coyotes this year. If you harvest a lion you get a GPS location with your phone that starts the check in process. It's real time. If you have taken a lion on a harvest objective or split unit during that harvest objective season, that updates our data base immediately so we know that lion has been taken. That's before you even come to an office. That eliminates the

lag time between somebody harvesting an animal and showing up at our office and it also eliminates the problem on our end where somebody chucks their form in the back of their pickup truck and forgets about it. That is where I would like to see us go. Jason - Is this something that we can implement this year or when it gets down to one on a Friday maybe put a 24 hour notice that it's going to be shut down? Darren - The way it is now is in rule. We would have to change rule to do that. That is just administrative. The reason why it is the way it is sometimes people will go out on a Friday and they are out of phone service for the weekend. They just can't check in and so we wanted to try to allow for that. On the other end of that, we still have the management perimeter so those lions are still counted when we look at percent females and ages in the harvest. If we're overharvesting a unit theoretically the plan would start to decrease the number of tags. Also the biologists look at that too. If they feel like they overharvested they have the discretion then to make adjustments for that as well. We kind of take all that into account. Jason - Could we implement GPS on all lions taken? I know there are some lions that have been turned in that have been killed on a limited entry and then turned in on harvest objective. Darren - I would like to go there Jason, what I would really like to do is make sure this coyote app is going to work the way we think it is and get all the bugs worked out of one and then we can move a lot quicker into doing it with the others. There is no reason, in fact, it's not required right now but probably 70% of the lions that we check in have GPS coordinate where they were taken, but that is what is reported to us. We at least get drainage.

Colton Belliston/Self - My one concern is and I have hunted a lot of areas in Alaska hunting sheep where they worry about GPS locations and a lot of people just lie anyway. I am all about trying to figure out a better way to do this because like Jason said that happens all the time; especially on these harvest objective units. People are killing lions on a limited unit and saying it was killed on a harvest objective unit. I don't know if there is really a way to be able to make it so people are honest. I don't know if that is going to solve anything when it comes to that nor is there another effective way? Darren - I agree you can make it a little bit more of a hassle to cheat but you are always still going to have people that are motivated to cheat. Using the phone thing you're going to have to physically be where that picture is taken. In the coyote program we had a few folks that were killing somewhere else and they would come back home and say I got it here and I got it there. So it makes it a little bit more of a hassle, but obviously you could drive anywhere you wanted to and take a picture. But it also gives our law enforcement folks a picture to look at in case they need to investigate. The other part of it is we would want to protect that data and so the other concern is people might have is, I don't want people to know where I hunt. I don't want a map out there that shows all the locations across. That is what we do with the coyotes stuff. You can request to have your information kept confidential and we have never published anything that showed that data to the public in general. Hopefully those two things would help, but again if people want to cheat and are motivated enough they certainly could. Colton - Right. You were talking about a trend kind of in females especially this year being taken. In my eyes it's not that hard to be able to tell whether it is a tom. A lot of times you're sitting under a tree and you have all the time in the world to figure that out. Is there a way that we can, I don't know if it has ever been looked into but look into a tom only hunt. Is there a way to get people to be more selective because there are so many females that are getting killed? It's drastically hurting a lot of the units that I hunt. Some of these raises on presentation, I'm just shaking my head. I can't believe it. Is there a way to maybe do something like that? Sheep hunting, for heck sakes, we're counting rings to make sure they are eight years old. Is it that

hard to look under a tail? Darren – I think some people if you're new to it it can be tough. But we have that problem we need to take online to try and tell the difference. Hopefully that helps a little bit. The data suggests that people are selective in general. Across the state you saw what that percent female trend has been doing. It looks like people are getting better at figuring it out. Colton – Hopefully. Darren – Most guys don't want to take a female. I think they want to get a big tom. You can tweak the hunting strategy to maybe give people a chance to not feel the pressure. I hesitate to do a male only. Anytime we do point restrictions or anything like that; we get guys that shoot something and are pretty sure what it is, get it on the ground and say "Oh crap!" And then they're shoveling, shut up or it ruins their experience for years to come. I hesitate to go that far as long as we can maintain our objectives where they need to be I think they are okay.

Andy Lyon/ Self – Is the Southwest Manti under predator management or is it just a consideration? Darren - I think they submitted a plan for it, I'm pretty sure they did but I will double check and let you know. Darren - Do you know Rusty? I know Southeastern Region submitted quite a few and I'm pretty sure the Manti was in there but I can't remember for sure. Rusty - I think they probably submitted it on their side. I didn't submit a formal plan on the southwest side but it was definitely consideration. Andy – I can see on your paper it is a consideration but my question is, is it under management or not? Rusty – I think it qualifies for it. It's just what tree you go off of when you're following the plan and they both called for an increase. So in the interest in simplicity, we went off the easier tree to follow. It's two to three times the predation rate on mule deer. In 2016-2017 it was the highest depredation rate on deer for any unit for any year since we have been putting collars on deer so it is super high; almost three times the state average. Andy – Is that one of the units with livestock problems? Rusty – Yes, and I don't know if it reflects. I don't think we had any depredation mortalities this past year but historically it has been. Andy – Yeah, I'm sure historically it has been but... Rusty – There are a lot of domestic sheep on that mountain. Andy – Yeah, I understand that. So we don't know for sure? Rusty – The past year there wasn't any reported. Andy – Okay, thank you.

Darren West/Self – Darren, can you elaborate a little more on what brings a unit into consideration for predator management for deer? Darren - There are several criteria in the plan Darren, so what the biologists do when they make recommendations is they look at their deer population estimates and there are certain things that have to occur in order to have a unit qualify. What we look at relating to the first question you asked is the population over 65% of objective? Is it below that? That's one box that you would tick, and that's just the previous year. The other thing that we look at is over that last three years and if the population is below 90% of objective, that would be another thing that the biologists would look at. The other thing that we look at is whether the deer population is at or below 85% survival for two of the last three years and finally if it's below 80% adult survival, one of the last three years. Basically what we are trying to see is the herd struggling or not? That is what qualifies it for deer. For Big Horn Sheep is a little bit different. It is similar; the first thing is it below 90% of objective? Those herds tend to be relatively small. Most Big Horn Sheep units would qualify just based on that alone. The biologists gets to decide okay well I meet the criteria but where am I in terms of carrying capacity and as Rusty mentioned what's my cause specific mortality. If they got collars, does it look like lions are increasing depredation? So, all those things go into a mix. So

again, whether it qualifies and whether they actually actively write a plan and actually are trying to reduce a cougar population would be the next step. That is something that the biologist has to decide.

Randell Cox/Self - I have hunted lions for over 40 years. Last year was the worst year I have ever seen on the Central Mountain /Manti. I know how you can straighten this out; put it all on limited entry. Then if you want to kill more lions, put more tags out for that limited entry unit. Then you won't be killing out these other units. Simple! I hunted probably two times a week this winter and ended up catching three lions. That's unbelievable. The reason is to we have no deer. The deer are gone because of the highways and over killing. You could shut the deer hunt down for 10 years and still not have any deer. Darren – Yeah, It's tough. I recommend to that you visit with your local biologist. Do you know who that is? Randell – No, I don't. Darren – I am sure he is here tonight. Get with him and sit down with him talk about some of this stuff. I would recommend that you guys talk on those local units on a local level and have those conversations. Randell – Yeah, because I would hate to see the deer leave. I hate to see the lions leave. Darren – Okay great, thanks. Sounds like you have a lot of experience. Randell – This is the solution to this stuff. Darren – Okay, thanks.

Colton Belliston/Self – As we are talking about deer, it seems like kind of the lion population you're taking aspect of whatever the deer are doing, that is kind of what the lions are doing. Right? Do I understand that correctly? You said the population for years have been doing really good then you move one direction with the lions, if the deer are doing bad then you put more lion tags out. There has been a heavy trend with more deer tags offered every single year, like it's a nightmare hunting deer in this state anymore. The deer are going down. The quality is going down. It kind of really feels that the lion are taking a lot of the heat for that. Why don't we lower deer tags if we want more deer and leave the lion alone? Darren – Obviously there are a lot of moving parts. I have enough to worry about. I'll let someone else worry about deer. In general I think statewide again it looks to me like the lion population follows deer numbers and that makes perfect sense, I think. Again, these decisions about units are made by those local biologists. It's really important that you get with your local biologists. Colton - How do you get your numbers just for me? Darren – The stuff we are looking at tonight? Colton – How exactly do they come up with those numbers because it would be a heck of a job to get accurate numbers, I get that. It seems pretty easy for tags to be raised but there is so much question of how many lions are really there. It's concerning. Darren – That is definitely something and again this study I mentioned is something that we want to try and get a better estimate. I think we have a pretty good feel for trend. Just in the interest of time I'm going to dive into the weeds on this, but I would be happen to talk to you about the population and how we try figure out what is going on there. But, they did a 10 year study in Utah on the Monroe and the Oquirrh's and then they went back and looked; they had pretty good estimates for lion numbers on those units. They had collars on and when you have that kind of data you can figure out about how many there are. What they did is take these management perimeters and lay that on top of know population trends. The Oquirrh's is sort of a lightly hunted unit. Monroe was more heavily hunted unit. They said these two perimeters are fairly predictive. As long as you are below 40% on females and you got that older age class you should be able to sustain or grow a lion population; but that obviously things get more complicated. The real world is messy; but I think the plan is a good one. I think we're on the right track, for sure. Colton – Okay, that's it. Thanks

Randy Cox/Self – How many true limited entry units based on your recommendations for this year are left, not split? Darren – Three...Chalk Creek/ Kamas, Current Creek-North and West Strawberry.

Alan Robb/Self – Traditionally the Division has stated a cougar population statewide of 3,000-3,500; what is that estimate now? Darren – Again, it is complicated. If you do a population reconstruction and that is just based solely on animals that are checked into us, so it's going to be low, it's an absolute minimum. We think we have probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 2,000 that are two years old or older. That is just a minimum, at least that. Then you need to add in kittens and yearlings to that. Again, the more these sere leaps of faith you make, the less confidence you can have. That would probably easily would double the numbers so say 4,000. That doesn't take into account natural mortality and any kind of natural mortality that would increase the number. That is why I am hesitating to get into numbers. Regardless of what natural mortality is that trend remains the same. It just shifts up and down on a scale and the trend has been increasing since 2008 or so and we might be starting to see it level off.
Alan – Okay, Thank you. Darren – There is a predator management plan for the Manti.

Garret Smith/Self – Do you have an age classification for males and females or just an overall average? Darren – We have that but that is not what the management perimeter just takes into account all. You want both; you want both older age class females and males; but because we harvest less than 40% females that are skewed more to the male's side. So it is based on what is harvested. So, if you harvest more males, that average age is weighted a little bit more towards males.

Craig Christinansen/Self – I am just wondering who is the Central biologist? I called the Salt Lake office and Price office last year and left messages and no one ever called me back.

Kris – For which unit are you calling about? Craig – Southwest Manti.

Jason – Rusty Robinson is in the back there. He was up here at little bit earlier. He is our new biologist on the Manti on the Southwest portion. So everything from Skyline Drive down through the valley there to the Nebo Unit. So if anyone has questions on that unit, call the Springville office and we can get you in touch with the right biologist. Craig – Okay.

Comments from the Public

Jason Walker/Self – I want to thank the Division and the biologists for allowing us to pursuit season on these lions. It's nice to be able to buy a pursuit permit and load up your dogs and just go train hounds rather than have a kill permit. I really value that. There is a lot of freedom in that and I appreciate that. I think sometimes the public, not trying to cause any hard feelings or anything with anybody but lions are a good runner for a short distance. They are short distance runners. There are a lot more trailing involved than actually catching lions. So you might trail a lion for miles but once he's jumped he's usually not going to go far. I have seen a lot older lions just fall asleep right in the trees so they don't seem to be too stressed. Especially the older ones I have seen not upset. I would always like to see more lions. I am a hound's man and I like lions, so I would always like to see fewer tags but one thing that concerns me the most is every time we substantially increase the overall permit numbers in the state, we seem to get a little more

attention from the anti-hunting groups. That makes me a little nervous. I would like my boy to be able to carry on with this sport one day, if he's like to. I would very much like to see it stick around. I do really get a little nervous about these anti-hunting groups and the attention we seem to bring on ourselves when we increase these permit numbers. Thank you.

John Bown/Stockman from Fayette – I would like to thank you for increasing the cougar permits in most our area. I think you should think about the Fillmore/Pahvant Unit and increase that at least another 10 permits. Lions are coming down across the highway into Scipio coming west. They are coming into Mayfield. Wildlife Services caught one in Mayfield 30 days ago and two weeks ago they caught one in Sigurd right in the middle of town. In both towns lions have killed sheep and goats. I think you need to give more permits out. Thank you.

Jeremy Anderson/Mule Deer Foundation - We support the Division's recommendations as presented. We would love to see some sort of amendment, but also understand they are in concern of making sure the GPS thing with the coyote deal works. Maybe monitor it for a year, but would love to see that in the future and just like to thank the Division for all the work.

Mat Farnsworth/Utah Hound man Association – Read a letter from the UHA. A couple of units I had some concerns about and to speak to Mr. Garcia's point about the huge increase of tags. When you look up at 6, 2 3, 4 it doesn't really add up. But when you look at it at a 200% increase on some units and a 60% increase on other units, that's very alarming; especially to someone that hunts those units...I'll echo some of the others in the question phase, again this last year I understand the snow levels weren't all that great and my dogs aren't all that great either, but I had a hard time producing lions. Back to some of these particular units on the Vernon; there are a total tag number of 12. Historically over the last three years the yearly harvest is only three lions and that is with it going to a split unit and harvest objective and I would argue. I will probably get beaten up in the parking lot for this one when we're done, but two of the best packs of dogs went within a day's driving distance of that unit. They could hunt it freely on the harvest objective but they are not killing the lions because the lions aren't there. The Oquirrh-Stansburry, 14 tags recommended, the average harvest over the last three years is seven. So we are giving twice as many tags for that unit so historically produced. It just seems a little bit out of line. The other thing personally I would recommend is harvest objective that are over harvested one year, we have those 10 units that were over harvested this year, those numbers would be subtracted from the quota the following year, that makes sense. We kill five too many this years, so let's take five off that the next year. I would like to thank the presenter today. There are a lot of jobs I'd like to have, his is not one of them. Thank you guys for the RAC. I want to leave you with this. I have had hounds for a long time. I have had many days of I should sell these things and buy a boat and go fishing, but the only thing that keeps me from doing this 90% of the time is watching the joy of my 10 year old boys face as he turns his dog into a pack with bear; or driving down the road at 2 am and sees a track and states, "Let's sit on that track till daylight and we can turn my dog out." My boy has trained himself. I echo Jason's statements. I am really worried about all that stuff going away. Thank you guys for your time; I really appreciate it!

Andy Lyon/Self – I would ask the RAC to consider the following. I believe that the DWR recommended eight tags for the Southwest Manti last year. This was changed during the RAC and Big Game Board process to 12 tags last year. Now the DWR is recommending 18 tags and I would ask the RAC to consider eight tags this year on the Southwest Manti as the unit has been hit hard and can't take anymore. I would ask you to consider the process of turning in lions that are harvested. I would ask that you are required GPS coordinates for the lion kills to ensure they were harvested on the proper unit. I would ask that the harvest numbers for the unit show up on the website in a more timely fashion. With today's technology I don't see why the harvest numbers on the units can't change immediately. It is my understanding after last year the numbers get changed at noon each day. This allows a unit basically to be open for extra day of harvest objective has been met on that unit. I understand this unit has a predator management consideration for deer and if this is the case, why have we been told that deer are doing good and tags for the deer in the last few years has been changed and have went up. In closing, I believe that the DWR proposed tag numbers are way too high and need to be carefully considered by you, the RAC. Thank you.

McCrae Christiansen/Self – I would just like to go with what Andy said. I think the number on the SW Manti is way too high. We have increased it over 200% the last two years and changed it from a limited entry to a split. I would like to see it back into a limited entry where we can manage numbers on an even basis not an over kill one year and then shut it down the next, which we have done for the last five years on that unit. Thank you.

Darren West/Self - Speaking on behalf of a sportsman, I have seen the decline over the last several years of our mule deer herds. It is extremely concerning and we have heard several people get up and talk today about the opportunity for their youth or their kids to be able to hunt. If we continue to do this trend of downward decline in our mule deer herds; it really concerns me about the opportunity for youth to hunt mule deer in the future. I think the way that the Division has recommended more permits to use as a managing tool, to increase deer herds, I would fully support the Division's recommendations as presented. Thank you.

Jason Binder/Self - This is a tough situation we're in. Several of these units that were brought up on the board with substantial increases; a lot of them are over harvested last year, but yet this year we are looking at increases. A few years ago we had to have an emergency shut down on the Manti because of over harvest of females and now we're looking back at going back to harvest objective or splits. We need to get away from these harvest objectives and splits. All they are is legalized poaching! It comes down to the end and guys run to those units and they get over harvested every year and that is all it is, legalized poaching. We're giving them a tag and then they are allowed to kill even though the number of permits is expired. We need to have GPS coordinate. We really need to start implementing ways to see where these lions are coming from. They are being killed on one unit and turned on another. I know several people and lions which I didn't turn them in myself, but I have had guys call me and say we turned them in the DNR and they shot a female with kittens and they won't do nothing. To me that is pretty heartening! It is starting to happen with the bears too on the harvest objective. They are getting wiped out. We really need to start looking at our management practices with these predator animals because I understand where everyone's point is with the deer population. I drive from Wallsburg to Park City every day. I can count five to ten deer ran over on the highway. Those

deer weren't killed by lions because not very many people own a cougar anymore that they drive around back to forth to work. I would like to see the DNR go with no increases this year. Go with the numbers they have last year and go back with the units back to what they were last year instead of changing them around. Thank you.

Alan Olsen/ Utah Wool Growers - I am representing them tonight and we fully support the plan that the DWR has presented here tonight. I guess what I am asking people to look at is we had so many kills that we did not receive 100% of our reimbursement. There were so many that they ran out of funding. We only received a portion of that. I appreciate that the hounds man aren't finding them, but they need to hunt a little closer to a herd of sheep cause the lions are finding us.

Robert Olsen/Self – The West Manti has been getting hammered. Like Jason says, we had an emergency closure on that four years ago and now we're going backwards. Eighteen? That's ridiculous! I recommend we go back to eight or put it back to a limited entry. This unit it takes about 12 points to draw on that unit and it took two weeks after the March when the split started for that quota got met. We got some good snow the first of March. People were out hunting their butts off and it took two weeks to fill two or three cats on that big unit with tons of public access. The cats aren't there. That is why it took two weeks in good snow for half the outfitters in Utah down there hunting the most sawed after unit in the state. And now we're putting an increase like this on it? I disagree with it. Thank you.

Bryce Pilling/Sportsman Fish and Wildlife - We support the Division's recommendations on this with two exceptions. We would like to support the hound's man on the Book Cliffs Unit that they want to change and also GPS locations. We think that is critical and would also like to see that mandatory for wildlife services. The increases really necessary especially the way our deer herds are and what they suffered two years ago, in 2016. Thank you very much for your time.

Jesse Painter/Self – No increase.

RAC Discussion

AJ - I heard on the Southwest Manti, we increased it by six permits, but we don't have a livestock problem, did I hear that right, historically we have right? Darren – I think Rusty is the best to answer that, but that is what I got out of the conversation but I think maybe one thing that we missed is there is a deer concern there. We have seen 18%. We have seen lions specific mortality on those collared deer increasing the last three years and then last year was 18% so that is 18% of the deer herd being taken by lions. That is probably the main driver, is the deer.

Ben – I have a question for Bryce Pilling. If I recall correctly you guys, SFW, was asking at the big game meeting a couple of months ago, the Manti was designated for an increase and you guys were asking for a decrease or something like that. Do I remember that correctly?

Bryce – I don't know. Ben – You don't know, okay.

Mike – You do remember that correctly. Ben – Okay, thanks Bryce. The reason I bring that up is and we have heard a lot about the Southwest Manti tonight and I appreciate those concerns; but we have also heard on the other side that there is heavy deer concerns there and as I recall those deer have been struggling down in that area for quite some time. As I look at the numbers

here, that unit falls into every objective without issue and from my perspective just the straight numbers I don't see any reason that this unit couldn't support additional tags that are being asked for. I have heard some comments that if this were any other species there are no way they would let this happen, and I disagree with that. With deer, I think we've do the opposite. If there is room for more opportunity, we try to give that additional opportunity. So that is where I am at on the Southwest Manti; considering the historical livestock issues, considering the current and ongoing deer issues, and all the numbers line up for an increase. Despite the out speak of it here against it, I would support it.

Ken – Ben, what I think you are referring to is on the Southwest Manti -San Rafael. Our RAC dropped the permits 150 and the other four RAC's dropped it 200 for deer. I think the Wildlife Board dropped it 200 for deer. Ben – Thank you for that. Again, the deer issues are there. One other comment I would like to make is as we make our recommendations tonight, when we make recommendations on a predator species, cougars tonight, we're impacting just more than cougars. We're impacting our ungulate populations as well. I think we have responsibility to take that into consideration.

Mike – Could you speak about the Book Cliffs limited entry idea, the Division's? Darren - The issue is as the hounds man mentioned when you look at the lions that are taken on the Book Cliffs Units, when we switched to harvest objective on the Book Cliffs we saw a kind of a flip flop between the percentage of between of non residents taking lions and residents and that gap has been widening over time. But really what the regions objective is; again a deer issue that they have seen decreasing adult survival. They want to make sure those lions are taken. So really the social aspect of how does the RAC feel about non residents predominately being the people harvesting out there? I think is a social question is perfect venue to have that discussion. Mike – Am I wrong to think that we could accomplish killing those lions by going to a split where we do limited entry and the residents get their tags and they can go out there and hunt and have that opportunity to hunt, and if they don't fill those tags, then the split kicks in and it goes to harvest objective. That's the purpose of that, right? So that would protect the residents and also protect the deer herd because those guys are obviously going to come in and kill a cat. Am I reading that right? Darren – If we changed it we obviously want to look and they may make permit adjustments depending on how that all pans out. Sometimes the limited entry portion is a prime time to hunt and then if that goes under filled by the time harvest objective kicks in, they may hit quota. They may not. But most of our split units hit the quota so that's probably the track record I would suspect.

Ben – You and I discussed this the other day and you had mentioned that the 80% numbers are from this past year, the non residents. Darren - I looked several years on that. You can see a divergence in 2013. So prior to 2013 that was a split unit, if I remember that correctly. When they switched to harvest objective again to try and make sure they were taken the cougars that they needed to take. Mike – When did you say that went from limited entry to harvest objective? Darren - So that is what has been going on. Biologically the regions concerned that their addressing the deer issue out there and socially does this concern you. Mike – Was it just limited entry or was it just split? Darren – Split. Mike – So it was split. Darren – So this is what was happening during the split. The other thing that I noticed Ben is success rates were lower so they actually had higher quotas during this time period but they weren't filling them. This first year

in 2014 the quota was 25 or so. Once it kicked into harvest objective, they were below the first year and then I think out of the last four they were under in 2016. In the other three years they hit the quota. That is something that I think the region and something I would be concerned about. We want to keep an eye on what success rates did. If we want to keep it split it may mean we'd increase permits to meet that objective. Mike – Are you doing a different season on the Paunsagunt? Probably wouldn't be prudent to a different season on the Book Cliffs. Darren – I prefer not to. The Book Cliffs draws plenty of attention. I don't think we need to. I think it would close before it really made sense to extend it.

Kris - The reason we are here is to take public input and to listen to what the public has to say. I think within this particular proposal we have some leeway to listen to some of the comments and concerns that we've got and still address some of the biological needs on some of these units. As a chair I am unable to make a motion, but I would like to see if we couldn't find a way to use a little creativity or to find a way to meet in the middle on this. I think in my opinion that would be the right thing to do here on this particular issue. Pick a unit or two or maybe a concern and maybe meet in the middle or something like that. That is just my two cents.

Josh – I have a similar thought. 100% of the emails I received in the last two weeks said, don't increase any permits. That is both from non consumptive and anti-hunting groups; but also from hound's man groups. And when I see both sides being opposed to something, I think we risk ostracizing our public if you accept these whole sale. I have taken a number of comments both in email and tonight. I have some specific recommendations I could make a motion for, but I think it is important to keep in mind with all the very passionate interests that showed up tonight, we have to recognize them or else what we're doing here seems suspect.

Ben – I would also like to point out that we have had multiple sportsman groups and livestock organizations that do support the plan and the increases. There is both support and non support on both sides. The emails that I have received; there's a hound man letter that was read to us tonight and I am definitely sensitive to that group. The rest of the emails have all been from that environmentalist anti-hunting group. In my opinion, I don't buy any of their comments. I think them all have the same comments and aren't supported by any data. Mr. Chairman, I've got a list of things that have come up tonight. I would like to go through the four recommendations or at least a few of the recommendations from the UHA address those individually.

George – I kind of feel the same way. I think we have gotten a lot of input on the Southwest Manti and I think we need to listen to that and make a motion in regards to that unit. Regardless to the SFW and the sportsman's groups, these groups always get up and support the DWR. They never come to the table with anything different, ever. Yes that is true. I have sat here and listened to the SFW every single time they have the same comment and the same response every single time, nothing different! I am a big Mule Deer Foundation supporter and I support the Mule Deer Foundation, but I agree with this gentleman right here. I am not buying West Desert, Tintic- Vernon increases and the Oquirrh -Stansbury increases at all, so I would be willing to make a motion to not increase those units.

Danny – I really do respect the need for the Division to try and sell permits and fill those gaps. I think cougar and deer and all the other prey were here long before human management. Cougar

are entirely capable of self regulating their own population. Basically it's older toms killing kittens that might not be their own and there are studies that back that. The data definitely demonstrates that over the last four years, the higher harvest has actually resulted in higher depredation rates. This is not a coincidence. This is not magic. In my mind I take that as a trend. I take that the more cougar we harvest the problems we have with livestock and humans and all of that. I don't think that naturalist feel like they have been duly represented either in the process for the management plan over the years; fairly uneven. I don't think they feel like all of the science has been included; especially in the behavioral science. When I did my Master's Thesis, I could account for 90% of the variability in looking at the numbers, but the other 10% was purely behavior. Behavior can be huge. Also, I am not an anti-hunter. My point is that I am representing non consumptive users that feel under represented. I think what George was indicating. I agree entirely with the hound's man with their suggestions. When you kill those trophy animals you really disrupt their social structure. What I would recommend hounds man eat younger toms. They taste better. I hear cougar is great to eat. So that would be my recommendation. We do harvest more cougar, but we focus on those younger toms and we eat those and females. In terms of East Canyon, I've hunted East Canyon area my entire life and it goes through a decade of boom and then a bad winter and bust. Up and down and all we have to have is a big snow fall and all the deer end up dead in the bottom of ravines cause they can't even get out of the deep snow. Well, sorry that cougar could solve that problem if there was a balance in the cougar population that could handle that. We can't get on those private properties up East Canyon. It's very difficult. I have to hunt on public land and it's a real pain and I know that people want to respond to all of my comments, but I kind of held back here today to listen to other people. I recommend that we follow the hound's man recommendations and basically leave it as it is. We don't have enough information. I think the information is too fuzzy to be making these herky jerky reactions year to year.

Mike - I think discussion is great because I think let's people know where everybody stands. I don't think the data that the Division uses is herky jerky. I think that the data the Division uses is pretty solid. They pull a tooth out of the cat and they cut it. They get it within a year, usually. It's a little harder on predators than it is on ungulates. I served on the cougar committee. It was represented very well by non consumptive, sportsman groups, non sportsman groups, sportsman, hound man, agriculture. The data that we used to manage these predators can't just be thrown out the window. We have paid biologists that put together these recommendations. They don't want to see the cats all killed. When we talk about the Vernon which has been brought up a couple of times; you said there were only three cats killed last year? That's a three year average. Last year there were nine cats killed on the Vernon. 11% of those were females. The target is up to 40%. Only 11% were females. 33% of the cats killed on the Vernon were five years old and older. The target is 15-20%. So it's hard to say we'll just throw out my own personal feelings and not look at the actual data that we have on paper given to us by the DWR. If that data is false, then how can we ever know? It's not! There are numbers of cats that were physically turned in. So it's hard to say we'll I want to throw all these numbers and make them my numbers. No, the numbers are right there. It's not three; there were nine killed last year. I know that it's so trend over time but....

Ben - Mike, No...I think there is a mis-understanding on those numbers because I had it too and I was going to ask Darren earlier but maybe Darren you could clarify. The table that you're

looking at, I have been looking at it too. The top says summary of harvest data from last three years. So these numbers Darren are these last year's numbers? Darren – Those are the three year totals. The reason we do that Mike and you know this from the committee is to avoid that herky jerky reaction year after year. But that is based on nine individuals that were turned into us. Ben – So to clarify, on the Vernon there were nine cats killed over the last three years. Mike, I had the same mis-understanding earlier. Mike – That makes sense. Darren – Maybe I should have made that more clear, so I apologize. Mike - I think most of the increases fall in line...I really like the increases in Northern Utah. I kind of raked you under the coals last year because you didn't have any increases at all. I really like the idea of somehow protecting the residents in the harvest of the cougars on the Book Cliffs. I think there should be something done there. I think we should address the Southwest Manti numbers a little bit, just from the public reaction. As it goes through the process it can be flushed out a little bit more by many other RAC members.

Ken – On the Southwest Manti, I can see where it's coming from, but I can also see the deer situation. I can see where tags were reduced on the deer last year because the deer are down. It is an area where the lions are being feeding on the deer, so I think where it's at is perfect.

Josh –The point about the data clearly the Division has gotten better about crunching numbers. We learn more every day. When we get this GPS program and the electronics going; it is even going to even tell us that much more. But we have that data because hound's man is out there chasing these things all winter long. So accepting their recommendations is probably a pretty good move. Addressing the Southwest Manti, do we need 10 totals; can we cut that in half? We can go through and cherry pick, but I think the biggest problem that needs to be addressed is in the plan management review. A comment was made during the bear RAC and I sat right here in the other building, and you said you know you're giving us the number of harvest data for the last three years, you're giving us the three year average per age, but you're making changes every year. If you want to get a more accurate why don't we get more data points? I know the current management plan says we tweak it every year. Why don't we make a move to not tweak this every year and not rehash this conversation every year and let the data speak for itself? Then we can get more accurate. In my opinion it would be more accurate because we have more numbers. I would make specific recommendations also during a motion, but my number one recommendation that I would like to see this RAC move towards is to figure out a longer a period of time in which to have this conversation again.

Christine – Darren, you said you based this on the western management plan and there is new science that you're going to put into this new thing; how does that affect all of this?

Darren – There are a couple of things. One is that is something I am always looking at. There are a couple of things that have come out, which Dan I think you kind of mentioned. I think the only thing I'd say is be careful about correlation versus causation. You see a trend in one number then another, certainly they are correlated. I agree with you a 100%, but we have to figure out what the cause of that is. Is it a growing lion population which another data point seems to indicate? That is one study that recently came out. Peoples did a paper I think in Wyoming; I always get it mixed up, but, basically the same thing. They saw as lion harvesting increased in incidences. So something similar to what we have seen here. The other big recent one is the Uncompahgre Plateau study that Ken Logan did in Colorado. He suggested there that

if you harvested more than 10-15% of your independent animals of a population, you should expect to see a decrease in that trend. Those are a couple of things that we are looking at in the update. In terms of Utah, Ken Logan had a lot of collars out and I don't have any reason to doubt his numbers. If that is the case and we're still growing it suggests to me that we're not harvesting 10-15% of the total independent lions in the state. This is kind of the conclusion I would come to. There are a lot of other things. There is new social stuff. What I prefer to do is kind of let that review happen. This plan is up for review every five years so it would be up for review beginning in 2019 for a 2020 recommendation cycle. Obviously, the Board can instruct the Division to do it sooner. There is a lot going on. The technology is really advancing quickly. Camera trapping, so there are a lot of stuff out there so all those things I think we want to implement if we could as they come online.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to recommend a split hunt rather than a harvest objective hunt on the Book Cliffs, East unit.

Seconded by Mike Christensen

Motion passed unanimously

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to recommend that the DWR bring back recommendations to the RAC's and Wildlife Board to require the use of GPS coordinates of mountain lion harvest in 2019.

Seconded by Ken Strong

Motion passed unanimously

Motion was made by Josh Lenart to increase Central Mountains, Southeast Manti unit by two permits rather than the four recommended by DWR.

Motion failed for lack of second

Motion was made by Josh Lenart to increase Central Mountains, Southwest Manti unit by three permits rather than the six recommended by the DWR.

Seconded by George Garcia

In favor: George, Josh, Danny

Opposed: Christine, Ben, AJ, Mike, Ken

Motion failed 3 to 5

Motion made by George Garcia to recommend no increase of permits on the Oquirrh –Stansbury unit and West Desert, Tintic-Vernon unit.

Seconded by Danny Potts

In favor: Christine, Danny George

Opposed: Ben, AJ, Ken, Josh, Mike

Motion Failed 3 to 5

Motion was made by Josh Lenart to recommend no increase of permits in the Central Mountains, Southwest Mani unit.

Seconded by Danny Potts

In Favor: Christine, Danny, George, AJ, Josh, Mike

Opposed: Ken and Ben

Motion passed 6 to 2

Motion was made by Mike Christensen to accept the remainder of the Division's proposals as presented.

Seconded by Ben Lowder

In Favor: Ben, AJ, Mike, Ken

Opposed: Josh, Christine, Danny, George

Kris broke tie in favor

Motion passed

Motion was made by Josh Lenart to recommend the DWR review the mountain lion management plan and not make changes to unit numbers for at least 2 years.

Seconded by Danny Potts

In Favor: Christine, Danny, George, Josh

Opposed: Ken, Ben, AJ, Mike

Kris broke tie for against

Motion fails

7) R657-48- Sensitive Species Rule Amendments
Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Danny – At first I would like to applaud your efforts in streamlining that document. For someone that has worked 11 years on endangered species issue here in Utah, I thought it was really cleaned up. It made it simpler to follow. All those red lines are awesome!

Christine - With the Trump administration's motion to adjust the endangered species act, how does affect what you're going to do? Is it going to have an impact? Kim – No impact at all. These are completely separate processes.

Josh – Why the change from species of concern to sensitive species? What did the Division feel like was the rational for that? Kim – Overall, it has been referred to as the sensitive species list and the sensitive species included all the other things under there. Rather than pointing out species of concern, it just goes back to sensitive species which, it has been used more frequently.

Mike – I appreciate all the work you guys do and on this regard; I think we get hung up on game species so much that this kind of work is what really protects the State.

Questions from the Public

None

Comments from the Public

None

RAC Discussion

None

VOTING

Motion was made by Danny Potts to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Seconded by Christine Schmitz

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm

In attendance: (42) 8 RAC Members, 8 DWR employees, 26 public

Next Board meeting: Thursday, August 30, 2018, DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 @ 6:30 pm, Springville Civic Center
110 South Main Street, Springville

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-26-18

Name Al Robb Phone Number 435-660-9240

Address 689 So 200 E. Nephi Utah 84648

Who are you representing? self group Utah Trappers Association

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Furbearers #6

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 7/26/17

Name BRYCE PILLING

Phone Number 435-864-9802

Address DELTA UT.

Who are you representing? self group S.F.W.

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? #6

COMMENTS We support DWR's Plan.

**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 7-26-18

Name Jason Walker Phone Number 801-798-0871

Address 791 No. 240 W. Santagwin, Utah

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Recommendations #7

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 _____

Name JOHN BOWN Phone Number 435-528-3858

Address _____

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Recommendations

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 7-26-18

Name Mat Farnsworth Phone Number 801-404-7071

Address 668 n 100 w Santaquin ut. 84655

Who are you representing? self group UHA

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Recommendations #7

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 7-26-18

Name JEREMY ANDERSON Phone Number 801-471-8254

Address 1334 OWL LANE Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

Who are you representing? self group Mule Deer Foundation

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? #7

COMMENTS We Support the Division's plan as
RECOMMENDED + Report of GPS tracking of
Harvested Lions.

**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 7-26-18

Name Andy Lyon Phone Number 435-851-1524

Address 775 N. Snow, Mant, UT

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Lion #7

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 7-26-19

Name Randell J Coa Phone Number 801 232-6735

Address 110 N main sterling ut

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Lions # 7

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 7-26-18

Name McCrae Christiansen Phone Number (435) 851-6492

Address 960 N 200 W Manti UT 84642

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Congress #7

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 7-26-18

Name Darren West Phone Number 801-330-7535

Address 1365 Owl Lane

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Permits increase

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 7-26-18

Name Jason Binder Phone Number 435-671-0637

Address P.O. Box 217 Wallburg Nc 28682

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Recommendation

COMMENTS No tag increase! Gps on all lions killed.

**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 7-26-18

Name Jesse Painter Phone Number _____

Address _____

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougar recommendation

COMMENTS NO increase!

**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 7-26-18

Name Allen Olsen Phone Number 435-469-1293

Address 165 So State Fountain Green UT

Who are you representing? self group Utah wool Growers

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? lion

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 7/26/18

Name Robert Olson Phone Number 435 469 0059

Address Fairview Utah

Who are you representing? self group _____

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? Cougars #7

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 7/26/18

Name BRYCE PINKINC Phone Number 435-864-7807

Address DENTA UT.

Who are you representing? self group S.F.W.

Would you like to address the RAC today? yes no

Which agenda topic? 7

COMMENTS We support DWRS REC

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

**Northern Regional Advisory Council
July 25, 2018
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah**

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:00 p.m.

RAC Present

John Blazzard- Agric.
Paul Chase- Forest Service
David Earl- Agric
Christopher Hoagstrom- Noncon.
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
Justin Dolling
Nicaela Haig
Brad Hunt
Eric Anderson
Randy Wood
Rich Hansen
Kimberly Hersey
Nate Reed
Chad Wilson
Scott Walker
Jordan Hastings
Darren DeBloois
Pam Kramer
John Luft

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman

RAC Excused

Randy Hutchison- At Large

RAC Unexcused

Chad Jensen- Elected

Agenda:

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda and May 2, 2018 Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
R657-11 - Furbearer Rule Amendments
Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019
Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019
R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments
Hardware Ranch Management Plan
Howard Slough WMA Habitat Management Plan

Item 1. Approval of Agenda

-Bryce Thurgood, Chair

Agenda Approved

Item 2. Approval of May 2, 2018 Minutes

-Bryce Thurgood, Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Bryce Thurgood:

Turkey recommendation rules and amendments-motion to accept as presented which passed unanimously.

Coyote Bounty Program-motion to accept as presented that passed unanimously.

Mineral Mountains big horn sheep-Motion was to approve as presented by the division and that passed 5-1. There was a long, healthy debate. Motion to have a MOU signed and in place before transplant happens which failed for lack of a second.

Rule amendment to conservation and sportsman permit rules, wildlife expo permit and drawing application procedures-Passed unanimously.

Advisory committee, Error committee and variance committee-passed unanimously.

Conservation permit list-Approved the one year and the three year conservation list passed unanimously.

Season dates for Box Elder Pilate Mountains-Passed unanimously. Motion to accept variance request-passed unanimously.

Stipulation order request for Weston/Stoddard to reduce suspension from 6 years to 4 years-passed unanimously.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Law Enforcement- Officers working with large fires doing border control and security. Brandon Olson is our new Kamas/Uintah officer. AIS component is finding a lot of boats with attached mussels.

Wildlife- Biologists working on moose and pronghorn unit plans. Collard 2 bears over the summer to monitor reproduction. Flying for mountain goats in August. Board meeting to talk about the possibility of adding some antlerless permits due to the prolonged drought.

GSL program- Goose banding wrapped up for the summer. Banded 500 pelicans on Gunnison Island.

Outreach- Working on walk in access properties for upcoming hunts. Developing dedicated hunter projects.

Aquatics- Completed blue head sucker egg take. Uintah's are fishing well right now.

Habitat- Continuing to keep a close eye on fires and assess if re-seeding can occur early fall and winter.

Kevin McLeod: Have the attached mussels affected any more waters in Utah or are we still just holding with mainly down south?

Justin Dolling: Lake Powell is the only positive infested water right now. Deer creek was a suspect but came off the list because it was surveyed for 3 years and was found to be clean. This year we have had all kind of boats encrusted with mussels.

Kevin McLeod: I hope we don't get more affected waters in Utah.

Justin Dolling: Yeah, I agree.

Item 5. R657-11 - Furbearer Rule Amendments

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

RAC Questions

Mellissa Wood: Didn't we vote or did they present about disbanding all of these committees that were formed?

Darren DeBloois: Those recommendations were specific committees that were defined in rule and never met. But if it is in rule, those committees have certain responsibilities. That was an attempt to get that out of rule. We still use committees for many of these things. The directors office directs who is on those committees and they approve that.

Mellissa Wood: Thank you.

John Blazzard: It seems like not long ago we talked about people being able to trap raccoons so far.

Darren DeBloois: Yes, that doesn't change. If you are within 600 feet of a dwelling or building, then you don't need to have any licenses. This is just outside of that envelope around those domestic facilities. So, in the field basically.

John Blazzard: Okay.

Public Comments

John Ziegler: I am completely uneducated on the traps. In this particular scenario, are they lethal traps?

Darren DeBloois: They can be both. For a coyote, a lethal trap could be a snare that captures the animal around the neck. The leg hold trap grabs and holds the animal but is made to hold the paw which would be non-lethal. They need to be checked every 48 hours. If you catch a bobcat, our objective would be to have those animals released alive rather than be there for a long period of time.

John Ziegler: How many domestic animals are typically trapped?

Darren DeBloois: I don't think we know all the incidents but we did have a couple last year. It happens but it's rare. It is distressing to the animal but not lethal.

RAC Comments

Aaron Johnson: I have had 2 dogs caught in traps and the trappers in Utah are very responsible. I was able to get both of my dogs out. One was a snare around the neck. There are safety features. The other was in a foot hold.

Motion – Mike Laughter – Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Second – John Blazzard

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Item 6. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No public questions.

RAC Questions

No RAC questions.

Public Comments

Ken Duncan: I have been lion hunting for over 50 years. I have been the president of the Utah Big Game Hound Association years ago. I have been disappointed the last few years because I use to come and they never pay attention to what you said. The numbers here in the audience show that they just give up. They don't want to voice their opinion because you go along with what fish and game recommends. I am totally against the amount of cougar tags you are putting out in Morgan County.

Bryce Thurgood: This is the bobcat presentation, the lion presentation is next. Do you have comments on bobcat?

Ken Duncan: No, not on bobcat.

Bryce Thurgood: Can we save it for the lion presentation?

Ken Duncan: Ok, I will say a few things about bobcat then. I am fairly ok with what your recommendations are there. I know the bobcats do not increase unless they have the prey base. Rabbits are down, especially in our area because coyotes are way high.

Bryce Thurgood: Thank you.

RAC Comments

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

Second – Kevin McLeod

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Item 7. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Ken Duncan: I would like clarification. You have the Morgan/East Canyon and Davis, is that strictly East Canyon or is it East Canyon/Davis front?

Darren DeBloois: We made some name changes to try and make the names the same for all species. That is what it changed to but that is the Davis face.

Ken Duncan: What about East Canyon?

Darren DeBloois: I think they are both in there. They should be.

Ken Duncan: In your presentation, it just showed East Canyon/Davis.

Darren DeBloois: Did I miss it? Let me look. We are recommending no change to East Canyon/Davis. That is a split unit with 5 permits. East Canyon, they are recommending an increase of 5.

Ken Duncan: So, nothing different on the Davis front, just the East Canyon.

Darren DeBloois: Right, the East Canyon includes the face.

Ken Duncan: If you have an East Canyon tag, you can hunt the Davis front.

Darren DeBloois: Right, the reason they did that front is just that urban interface to try and target some lion take.

Ken Duncan: Thanks for clarifying.

RAC Questions

Aaron Johnson: I want to state that I have a huge amount of respect for Darren. This management plan he was given so some of the things he may not have the answer to. Objective in the lion plan says there will be biannual training to identify the sex of lions by the division. Has that occurred?

Darren DeBloois: We have put that online. So, people can go online.

Aaron Johnson: I mean for the division representative that checks the lion so they know how to sex the lion. Has any training been done at the division level.

Darren DeBloois: I don't think that has been done lately and is something we definitely need to do again.

Aaron Johnson: The plan asks that there is a way of rewarding hunters for being selective. What is the division doing to reward sportsman for being selective?

Darren DeBloois: Nothing specific. It looks like, in the data, that people are selective. There is no incentive or bonus point or anything like that.

Aaron Johnson: Predator management. We looked through the list here, at least half are in predator management. 3-4 years ago, 3 were in big horn sheep management. Now there is 18. How does a unit go into predator management? Is it just deer, or in this case, big horn sheep numbers that puts them in?

Darren DeBloois: There are a couple of levels. First is, does it qualify? What you see on your sheet is whether it qualifies or not. Then, as a biologist and scientist, we ask the next question? Does it make sense biologically for it to be in predator management? In that case, a formal plan has to be submitted to the director for his signature. There is a difference between what you see qualifies and what we actually submit to the director. In most of these units, they are still within management parameters anyway. Even if they qualify.

Recommendations don't necessarily reflect predator management for prey species. There are some units with recommendations with regard to livestock trying to address those concerns.

Aaron Johnson: Up north, we talked about the desert. You are increasing tags in the big horn sheep. Is that because there are big horn sheep on the Newfoundlands?

Darren DeBloois: The sheep there are the ones on the Newfoundlands.

Aaron Johnson: Does anyone hunt lions on the Newfoundlands?

Darren DeBloois: I don't think so.

Chad Wilson-Biologist over Box Elder County: I don't think a lot of people go to the Newfoundlands and hunt. WE did have a possible cougar out there this last year.

Aaron Johnson: A possible cougar? One?

Chad Wilson: Yes.

Darren DeBloois: That is a big unit. They are right up on the stopper on the females. They are at 40. This 50% on the age, is a lot older lions out there. That indicates to me that probably an access issue.

Aaron Johnson: Within predator management, they put a number on a herd objective correct?

Darren DeBloois: Yes.

Aaron Johnson: If it is below objective, it may fall under predator management. Deer numbers directly affect lion management.

Darren DeBloois: There are several things they look at. One is what percent of objective are they at? It has to be less than 65% from the previous year and less than 90% from the previous 3 years. We look at those metrics and are obtained from collared deer on specific units.

Aaron Johnson: Is it just a dream that at some point we will have 38,000 deer on the mountain but never will occur.

Darren DeBloois: It shouldn't be and that is something the district biologists and managers need to look with their continuance on.

Aaron Johnson: If it is below the deer number for say, 20 years, but we are not within 10,000. Shouldn't that objective be altered?

Darren DeBloois: Right, those are conversations we have.

Aaron Johnson: Units in the state that the deer objective has been below for 20 years, when will be adjust those goals.

Darren DeBloois: Those are addressed in deer unit plans. Those are things they look at. There is a public portion to this too.

Aaron Johnson: Sure.

Darren DeBloois: We have to take all those things into account. It is something that we have discussions about during this process. When we talk about predator management plans, does it make sense to put this in predator management if you are never going to get to that objective?

Aaron Johnson: The educational part about cougar and prey relationships. It is objective 3 of the cougar management plan. It talks that there will be an educational process to educate the public on the true effects on predator/prey populations. What educational properties have we done in the last 5 years to teach people that.

Darren DeBloois: We did a RAC but not public and when I meet with different groups, I offer that. What I try and do is meet with interest groups and walk through the details of this. Those tend to be somewhat informal and small. I would like to do some bigger venues where we get into the details. We have not done much of that lately.

Aaron Johnson: Are there studies that would suggest predator management is the least effective way to manage populations?

Darren DeBloois: It is difficult but in small areas we have seen some success. BYU is working the collared deer. They are coming out with some results on cause specific mortality and timing of mortality.

Aaron Johnson: If the citizen is held to the book and the management plan, I believe the division should be as well. If we are suppose to vote on this management plan and these things, yet things are not occurring, how do we fix that? What happens? We punish the citizen and I don't want anyone to be punished but let's do what we proposed to do.

Darren DeBloois: We managed to the plan. We feel an obligation to do that.

Matt Klar: The 72 permit increase total, can you tell us how many of these you are trying to shift from the depredation to the sportsman side? It sounded like a large percentage.

Darren DeBloois: The biggest changes are on units where we are seeing increases in depredation and trying to make up for that. Again, the 72 is the sum of all of those different unit plans. I could go through and point out a few. I think if you just look at the difference from last year. If it is more than 2 or 3, those are ones where that is a concern or it is a predator management issue. We have a prey population that looks like it is getting hit.

Matt Klar: On those units, would it be true that those animals are already being removed because of depredation issues?

Darren DeBloois: Right, the one thing that changes is the way the plan works is when we take these numbers into account, we do not include others like road kill or depredation by landowners. If someone has an animal in their sheep herd, they can legally take that animal. We do not include those in the matrix we present tonight for management decisions. If those numbers creep up, it can get to a significant point. If they are taken by sportsman, they are included in the numbers we look at.

Justin Oliver: Was there a number of how many cougars were taken by Wildlife Service's last year?

Aaron Johnson: I think it was about 70.

Darren DeBloois: I will go back to that. You can see with all those units, the numbers add up quick. 70 was the number of incidents and they took about 29.

Public Comments

Ken Duncan: If you kill more lions, you have less opportunity to take one, you have less opportunity to hunt and less opportunity to enjoy a cougar race. I am from the East Canyon area and we have access under lock and key for about 13,000 acres along with private ground. Last year, there was only one adult female and she had kittens. There was one sub adult female and 2 toms. We hunted for the big tom and he ended up getting killed at hardscrabble so we hunted for the other tom and it took us until March 10th when we harvested that. That

was the only lion in that area. I have 10 points and did not draw a cougar tag. If you have 10 points and waited that long to hunt lion, you ought to be able to take a half way decent tom and not have to settle for female or a kitten. I read an article on chronic waste in deer herds and they said lions are the best thing to keep it under control. I feel that some of the depredation is coming from the females being killed in areas and then kittens are not trained. That is why they get hit on the road. I am against increasing the numbers in Morgan on the East Canyon side because it will ruin my hunt. When you went to the quota last time, I went 7 years without running a lion because there was none there.

Mitch Herzog (Utah Houndsmen Association): Randy will read a letter that the board has come up with and I support the letter we have come up with. I am concerned with the Box Elder unit. We keep increasing the tags every year. The numbers are down. I would like to keep the number at 8.

Randy Hatch (Utah Houndsmen Association): UHA cannot support such a drastic increase in tags as this is not sound management. UHA recognizes that proposed increases fall within the parameters of the management plan. An increase of no permits also falls within the management plan. We do not feel the cougar population is increasing and is not stable or stabilizing. We believe this is not the best management practice for cougars or other wildlife species. We ask for the following changes: Bookcliffs east unit move from harvest objective to split. We also ask that the Monroe cougar unit be looked at to have 0 increase of tags as well. Central Mountains southwest cougar unit also have a 0 increase of tags. We would like to recommend that there be GPS coordinates for kill sites of all cougars harvested provided by all tag holders upon checking in a cougar.

Paul Zuckerman: I am not a hunter but assume there is a couple of beliefs we all share in this room and have in common. Statistics are indisputable that the vast majority in Utah do not hunt wildlife. These many in our state, who do not hunt, but still care about wildlife currently have little representation about decisions we make. Recently, I and other citizens, have been in discussion with the DWR to urge the lieutenant governor to give Utahans information regarding hunting policies and practices. I would like to propose for you to consider moratorium on raising permits until we can find out what others decide. It is my hope that the DWR considers ways to involve all citizens and that will result in sustainable and humane treatment of animals.

Sunday Hunt (Humane Society): I have been working with Darren and appreciate his openness to hear our position. I respectfully request this council reject the DWR's proposed cougar hunting quotas. Take action to prevent the unsustainable killing of Utah's cougars. The proposed hunting quota of 653 cats not including 4 units with unlimited quotas will allow for killing 25-30% adult and sub adult cats. Utah's cougar biologists have warned that the DWR permits far too much hunting. Trophy hunting jeopardizes our cougar population. Research shows that trophy hunting increases complaints and livestock losses. Research shows that cougar and human conflicts are higher in areas of trophy cougar hunting. Studies have shown that killing cougars to grow mule deer or big horn sheep herds will not work either. We ask to address the true culprit of big horn sheep decline. Utah statutes requires to establish rules supported by substantial evidence and the current proposals do not do that and are not in the best interest of cougars. These recommendations far exceed a sustainable hunting quota for Utah's population and threaten the species persistence in our state. Multiple studies show that the large majority of Americans value cougars and appreciate their persistence on the landscape. We ask to reject the proposed quotas as they do not conform to the best available science. We ask the DWR to be responsible and put a 12% cap and update the management plan to include this cap.

Arthur Benjamin: All scientific data shows that cougars are on their way to extinction. I want my grandkids to see them and be able to hunt them. I ask the council to consider and hiatus until the data that is being obtained from current scientific studies comes forward over the next year to preserve the cougar culture of this wonderful state and don't diminish it as the levels this hunt pointed to and will make it harder to rekindle the population. The livestock depreciation will continue to go up when the wrong cats are taken.

John Ziegler: I feel this is a series of problems with the entire wildlife management system. The public input process is flawed. Our use of science to make wildlife management decisions is not very sophisticated. The use of mule deer populations as depredation rates to extrapolate population of cougar is seriously flawed. We really don't know how many cougars we have in the state. Majority of people are not fans of trophy hunt. Against increasing the quota on the cougar hunt.

Denice Peterson: Moved here from Michigan to live in mountain lion country. Overharvesting cougars actually increases conflict. Raising the quota will not solve our problems, it might make them worse. People vacation here to see these animals which brings money in also. I would like to see reducing the quota to around 12%.

Kerry Kunzler: Sheep, cattle and horses are everything to me. It has been nothing but a nightmare. I am for controlling the lion. I support the increase.

Wyatt Selman: I am in favor of the changes by the DWR with one exception of the Ogden unit which is proposed to decrease by 1. Ogden unit was one of the first closed correct?

Darren DeBloois: I think you're right, Wyatt.

Wyatt Selman: In favor in keeping the Ogden unit at harvest objective. If not, propose split season to first of February if their number is still on the quota.

Brett Selman (Utah Woolgrowers Association): Support recommendation of increased tags. Depredation losses are increasing. Seems to me like lions are increasing because our livestock losses are increasing. We are at 75% compensation for our confirmed losses. When we are losing 100 lambs in a 6 week period because of mountain lions, we are out of business. We need to keep control of these predators and help producers be compensated for losses.

Kevin Norman (Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife): Supports the division on recommendations with exceptions. Support Houndsmen on making Bookcliffs a split unit and GPS requirements on checking in a lion.

Steve Sorensen: I say we let Darren and the professionals manage the lion population in the state.

Travis Burton: Support Brett Selman as well as the fish and game. I have seen more lions in the last 2 years but I have been in the field more. I think they need to be managed and I do believe the fish and game knows what they are doing and agree with their recommendation.

RAC Comments

David Earl: In favor of this proposal in all of these units. We have seen a huge increase in depredation in northern Utah. I understand you want to take a trophy animal. Support the increase and I think we are using the best science we have. I wish there was something better but I think we are doing the best we have.

Aaron Johnson: I support the wool growing endeavors. I married into a family that run sheep in Wyoming. I am not a sheep herder but I support the wool growers and cattleman's association. They have every right to defend their flocks by all means necessary. There is an army of houndsmen to help these guys if we make it legal to help them. The houndsmen will do it for free to help the ranchers. We will not endorse poaching or having some kid go out there and have it be illegal. There is two sides. I was contacted by several sportsmen who are interested and concerned about this. They don't want the Bookcliffs to go to split. That Bookcliffs unit is a non-resident hunting unit. If that is ok with everybody here, let's make a motion to put the Newfoundland big horn sheep as a non-resident hunting unit. If Utah residents and sportsman are going to be first, harvest objective is not the best strategy. It may be necessary in certain units. In that unit, it is a disaster. 79.3% of lions are being killed by non-residents. No Utahans should be for that. All sportsman groups I contacted are for the Bookcliffs moving from harvest objective to split. The GPS coordinates on kill sites will help prevent poaching. The other 2 units, the hound association that it remain at 0 and they contacted me and are not for this. I think that 90% want a 0 increase. They are asking for no increase on the central mountains southwest Manti unit and on the Monroe. I can't understand why that is not a great compromise. I don't feel the increase is warranted. Mr. Duncan has more years hunting lions than I have been alive and has firsthand knowledge. DWR employees need to be educated on how to check in a lion. Even hunters shoot bobcats and lions and think they have killed a female until someone shows them it is a tom or vice versa. I have helped friends kill lions throughout the years and I am for lion hunting 100%. I have never had a DWR officer check the sex of the animal, he takes my word for it. Rewarding hunters for being selective. Don't automatically increase tags. Regional biologists need to find out the social aspect of this. If you have a problem with a predator on your property, let someone go and kill it. The problem is when I go knock on someone's door with private property and ask to hunt because I have a kill tag, 90% of the time they say "only if you kill everything you tree". That is

against the law. There are 70 confirmed livestock kills in the state of Utah but 500 up here. That will never be resolved until we have a GPS collar. Some die from natural causes. I'm for ranching, I'm for private property. If you have a problem with a predator, you should open your gates. Predator management for big horn sheep. This raise on the desert is going to help. Lion numbers on the desert will go up next year. More communication prior to RAC meetings. Harvest objective takes away the DWR's ability to target a unit. Better reporting and accountability at the divisions level of sexing lions and getting them reported will avoid overharvest. Wildlife management areas owned by the division are closed in the winter. How can you harvest a lion if you close public property. That means you can only hunt them private. Reconvene the lion committee. Bryce Thurgood: There will be time to hash those out and those recommendations can be looked at seriously. Kristin Purdy: I agree with you Aaron, many of the things discussed tonight from here and the audience is beyond the scope of the proposal. It clearly points out that the cougar advisory committee needs to meet again and there is a great deal of conflict with the plan. The particular point that brings that up for me the most, is that the Utah houndsmen are in opposition to many of the increases and targets because it is not supportable. They believe the increase in target is beyond what is appropriate. Coincidentally, when the cougar advisory group met three years ago, there were 2 members that were so in opposition to the targets being appropriate that they had their names asterisk. Beside their names it says: "These members support the majority of the plan but are of the opinion that the approved targets will offer the possibility of excess cougar harvest as judged from the standpoint of the best available science". It is surprising that their opinion about that just 3 years ago, this is a relatively fresh plan, is somewhat now in line with what the Utah Houndsmen feel about this proposal for the increase in permit numbers. A controversy surrounding the plan really pushes the need to meet again. I realize it is not going to happen for another 2 years. My concern, like many others, is are the proposals based on science or not? That does not seem to be holding true. That could be because of the difficulty of knowing the size of the population.

Bryce Thurgood: That is a recommendation that they meet again in two years but that does not mean that we can't ask the wildlife board to do it sooner.

Darren DeBloois: Yes, anything they want us to do, we can do.

Bryce Thurgood: That is something we could ask for after separately. Possibly explore opening that sooner if the RAC feels strongly about that.

John Blazzard: As a representative of agriculture, I am sure that you all think that I think we ought to kill all the lions there are in the world. But, I have spent probably more of my life in the outdoors than anybody in the room. When you think about moving to Utah to see a lion, I think you are sorely mistaken because in my whole lifetime, I have only seen a handful and I have spent a lot of time in the mountains. These management plans try to quantify on paper what does not work in the real world. Last time we had a RAC meeting, we had people who really were upset about the fact that we were going to increase the big horn sheep permits by 1 or 2. That was part of the management plan. The science said that we could handle that extra kill of sheep without hurting the population. Still, they did not want to do that. In my opinion, the problem we have is the inability of those who are receiving the depredation of being able to quickly and simply take care of their problems. The other problem I have is the depredation program in Utah is a good program but is always underfunded. It's hard to make up a truckload of sheep when you are missing a few hundred. Even though you are paid, you have a truck for a load of sheep and they are not there. It seems like we need to spend more time and effort on the compensation problems, the depredation compensation and making it simpler and easier for livestock owners and those depredated upon to be able to take care of a problem without the fear of being prosecuted. Those issues need to be addressed in the management plan. More so than whether there were 5 more lions in a unit killed or 5 less. The process we go through to get those numbers are flawed. The point was made that farmers and ranchers in this state are not successful and not profitable. They sell out their property. In my county and the area I live, there is some guy out there flying around like a buzzard and he is going to want to put 1,000 condos there by next Wednesday. I would like to encourage the board to open up this depredation, not only of lions, but of bears and coyotes to see if there is a way to help and allow the livestock owners to be able to

handle these issues quick and easy. I don't see that the numbers are a problem as much as how we are applying the management plan.

Bryce Thurgood: The compensation is set by the legislature. The division has not control over that do they?

Darren DeBloois: Right, that is allocated through the legislature. Right now, it is half sportsmen dollars off license sales and half general funds. That budget needs to be set by the legislature. Sportsmen may have a concern about adding more of their dollars to compensate livestock producers. I think they would rather see general fund money.

Kevin McLeod: What is the budget?

Darren DeBloois: It is \$180,000 a year right now. It has fluctuated. They have changed it from time to time. They have farm bureaus looking at that.

Kevin McLeod: Does that include all depredation of fruit crops and hay?

Darren DeBloois: That is just livestock. It has to be taken by a lion, bear or wolf. If there is money left over, we will pay some on eagle damage. Usually it is gone.

Kevin McLeod: I represent public at large and they are pretty uneducated as far as cougar management. We rely on those who are professionals to help us determine and make sense of what we are looking at as hunters and sportsmen. To look at this, from my perspective, the numbers are just the numbers. In the 4 years I have been on the RAC, this meeting has been the most controversial. Not with the furbearers or trapping but with the cougar management. I've seen one cougar in the wild in Salina and another when I was a patrolman in Bountiful at night. I have seen 2 in my entire life. I am going to make a motion.

Bryce Thurgood: Before you do, I just want to make sure everybody gets their chance to make a comment that hasn't got to yet.

Mike Laughter: That committee, the predator management plan committee, it wasn't taken lightly. There was representation from every walk of life on that committee. There were professionals brought in from everywhere. To Kristin, on the two gentleman you referenced, you used biology as a flag. They asked that no females be killed at all. That is their claim, that is what they wanted. That is not biological, you can't control population without killing females.

Darren DeBloois: Let me defend the plan a little bit. The metrics in the plan are based on a decade long study that was done. They looked specifically at the harvest indices that we get. If there were any they could tie to known population densities. That is where those numbers come from. It is definitely science based. Having said that, I don't want to create the impression that the division is not open to considering new data that comes in and there has been some recent data. That is why we are conducting additional study on it too. The reason we have been seeing increases in permits across the state is because we have had a growing mountain lion population. If we start seeing that population level off or decline, the plan is designed to account for that.

Mike Laughter: In regards to Raft Rivers, was a translocation area for urban deer. I think that is what you are seeing Aaron. They are dumping urban deer from Bountiful into that and that is why they increased the lion population because it falls under predator management.

Aaron Johnson: Raft River is not in predator management.

Mike Laughter: It's not?

Aaron Johnson: Box Elder desert is but not Raft River.

Mike Laughter: Thanks.

Darren DeBloois: It qualifies but is not managed under predator management plan. It has to fall within the parameters in order for them to increase.

Bryce Thurgood: I appreciate the agriculture side, the nonconsumptive side, the sportsman, division, etc. There is obviously social vs. social all the time and science vs. science. I like how passionate the houndsmen are. I like that they are always willing to compromise. There is things they brought out that I like. Hopefully, we can come up with a good conclusion to send back to the wildlife board.

Justin Oliver: I don't think there will ever be a scientific study that is going to answer everyone's questions.

Whatever comes of this as we vote, is not going to please everyone. As members, we are going to take our

experiences and our thoughts and use, to the best of our ability and understanding, and try to come up with a decision that is going to represent us in the room and us on the board most efficiently.

Motion – Aaron Johnson – Recommend that the East Canyon cougar management unit have a zero increase in tags and that it stays a limited entry unit.

Aaron Johnson: Just for that specific unit.

Mike Laughter: I think there are a couple we can do that with.

Aaron Johnson: The houndsmen proposed two units stay the same and one hunt strategy be changed. We can flush those out. I trust Ken Duncan, he should be on all the committees. He has experience and knows better than anyone. The specific motion is that we leave East Canyon unit alone. It stays limited entry and there is a zero tag increase. That fits within the parameters of the plan.

Bryce Thurgood: I would rather flush it out in a few motions than lump it together.

Second – Justin Oliver

Paul Chase: Can Darren explain why he was recommending an increase in that unit?

Darren DeBloois: I think I will have the regional biologist talk about that. He knows more details than I do.

Eric Anderson: East Canyon and Morgan South Rich unit biologist. Based on the management plan, we followed the protocol through that. The reason I increase the tags and wanted to go split with that is because 40% of the harvest was over 5 years of age. That fell within that parameter. Only 19% on a 3 year average was female harvest. That also led to the ability to increase tags. I have also heard from landowners in that area that they are seeing more lions in the area. One reason for the split was to help out the depredation areas and hope some of those areas that have limited entry. Most of this unit is private property which is a limiting factor in controlling this unit.

Aaron Johnson: My concern is the way the management plan is written, you kill a 12 year old lion, that is the oldest lion in the world. That increases the age percentage if you kill 10 kittens. It looks like your average age is 4.

Eric Anderson: The average is 5 years or older.

Aaron Johnson: Right, I get it but if you kill a lot of young ones, it will decrease the age class.

Eric Anderson: 40% of harvest of the age class was 5 years or older so it does not affect the age class.

Aaron Johnson: Right, I am trying to talk about the potential of that in any area for houndsmen to be selective and kill older age cats. That calls for this drastic increase in tags when maybe it doesn't need it because they are being more selective. I believe Ken Duncan has a better pulse on the lion population after living there for 50+ years and hunting it. That is why I make a motion. I'm not against the plan, I like the plan. There has to be some wiggle room and understanding the social part of it as well. The public property is a huge issue. They told us it was 86% private in northern Utah at the deer meeting. It is not a problem but we could say this about every unit. I know it looks like lions are increasing. So are trail cameras. How many people have seen a lion up there? How many people have seen them on trail cameras? That is why numbers are increasing is because they seem them on trail cameras.

Eric Anderson: I don't disagree. I was going off the plan and following the plan and that was my recommendation.

Aaron Johnson: Thank you for doing that.

Darren DeBloois: These metrics are based on a 3 year average. The reason we do that is to try and shorten the tails on distribution. Over three years, it is less of an impact.

Aaron Johnson: In a year where they take a bunch of young ones, it takes a long time to catch up as well.

Darren DeBloois: Right.

Aaron Johnson: That is what we are seeing across the state. Last year, we killed kittens.

Darren DeBloois: I understand what you are saying. Average age over time, I think we have a graph.

Bryce Thurgood: Ken said he only hunted a 14,000 acre ranch. he didn't hunt the whole unit. That would be a concern I have. I am just going off what you said.

Ken Duncan: [no mic] I hunted several areas.

Aaron Johnson: There is public Ken can hunt. He has a private land he can hunt. He has probably hunted it all over the years. As outfitting becomes more prevalent, he will get kicked out.

Bryce Thurgood: Whatever we decide to vote, if it stays the way it was last year, next year we could get a confirmation. Say, it stays at 10 and doesn't go to 15. Wildlife control and the feds coming in, I would like to see that number particular to this unit. I think those numbers next year would be helpful.

Aaron Johnson: Could you imagine being the wildlife service guy and being responsible for running around and solving these problems.

Bryce Thurgood: If we have 8 in one unit, then we have a problem. I am just trying to make a point.

Darren DeBloois: Wildlife Services will continue to address depredation. If we see a lot of Wildlife Service's take, we try and shift that over to sportsmen if we can.

Bryce Thurgood: We are all in favor of that.

Christopher Hoagstrom: Is that the case in this unit? The one that has a motion?

Darren DeBloois: It looks like Wildlife Service's did not take any last year.

Motion Passes - 7 in Favor, 5 Opposed

Motion – Kevin McLeod – Accept the proposal as presented by the Division with the addition that we add the GPS coordinate of the kill as part of the requirement. We also make a recommendation to the Wildlife Board to convene the Cougar Management Committee again prior to next year's RAC meetings to further discuss this. There is enough controversy and information on each side that it would be warranted.

Second – John Blazzard

Aaron Johnson: My heartburn is the two points from the sportsmen or houndsmen letter. Number 1 and number 4 are no brainers. Not moving the Bookcliffs back to a split unit hurts all of Utah sportsmen. It makes a lot of money for 2 Colorado outfitters. Other sportsmen groups and SFW are in favor of the Bookcliffs going split and the GPS coordinates. I can't understand why anyone would be opposed to number 2 and 4. Why should the Bookcliffs stay harvest objective and let non-residents kill our lions?

Bryce Thurgood: Do you have an opinion Darren on the split?

Darren DeBloois: In my mind, this is mostly social. Do you have heartburn with out of state hunters harvesting lions in Utah. The concern the region has is that they have a struggling deer herd on the Bookcliffs. They want to make sure they are getting their quota taken to address concerns they have with adult survival on mule deer. Whether those lions are taken by residents or non-residents is social and that is kind of the role. As far as the GPS stuff goes, I am fully in support of doing that. We plan on going there. I would really like to make sure this coyote app is going to work the way we think it is and then do something similar for bears and cougars. In terms of the motion, I don't have any heartburn with the board looking at that. Initially, we would have to change the rule and when we check a lion, require that. I would like to go with electronics. It is harder to cheat.

Aaron Johnson: On the sheet you fill out when you check out a lion. There is a line for the GPS coordinates.

Darren DeBloois: We already collect a lot of those. It is not required in rule.

Aaron Johnson: Should be required.

Bryce Thurgood: I support the GPS thing but the Bookcliffs thing, we are not talking about numbers. We are just talking about who is killing them right? We can change it so more residents are killing them.

Aaron Johnson: Yes, let's give Utah sportsmen the first opportunity. When it goes split, it will go harvest objective in March. If there are 10 tags left over, they can come in a wipe them out.

Bryce Thurgood:

Aaron Johnson:

Kevin McLeod: Why don't we beat them to it?

Aaron Johnson: It is the easiest area in the state of Utah to hunt lions. It is a huge social issue. There are outfitters paying big money if you find them a lion track they can run and they come in a wipe them out. I am not against non-resident hunting but let's give Utah the first choice and then come back in March and wipe them out with the outfitters if that is what we want to do.

Kevin McLeod: Can you explain to me why the harvest objective going to a split changes so that it would guaranteed the Utah hunters got the tags.

Aaron Johnson: When it is a split unit, it is a limited entry unit from December to March. The majority of tags are given to resident hunters. They are going to give 25 tags to residents and those are the only 25 that can kill a lion, plus the 3 residents. If you kill your lion and I don't, then when it becomes split, mine goes to the harvest objective pool and at that point, you will have the outfitters run there. The only sportsmen that were opposed at this point, are non-resident outfitters lining their pockets with Utah wildlife. It is just not right. That does not happen anywhere in the U.S. except here. that is why we want it to move to split.

Darren DeBloois: The other aspect is that Colorado does not allow the use of hounds. So, it is really close to Colorado.

Aaron Johnson: They do allow the use of hounds to kill cougars. Colorado still does.

Darren DeBloois: Really?

Aaron Johnson: They don't allow the use of hounds to kill bears.

Darren DeBloois: Okay.

Aaron Johnson: You could run bobcats and lion with hounds. These outfitters give you a hunter that can come and kill 2. One in Colorado and one in Utah.

Bryce Thurgood: We can either amend the motion if Kevin will allow or just vote on this one.

Motion Amended – Kevin McLeod – Include that the Book Cliff unit be left at a split rather than a harvest objective.

John Blazzard: [no mic] That's okay with my second.

Aaron Johnson: Does that mean it excludes the motion we voted for on East Canyon.

Bryce Thurgood: No.

Aaron Johnson: In addition to that, there is this motion?

Bryce Thurgood: Yes, that is already voted for and is being passed to the Wildlife Board. We are just voting on the balance of the presentation.

Motion Passes – 8 in Favor, 4 Opposed

Aaron Johnson: I really appreciate the motion and support it completely. Our Central and Southern Utah houndsmen asked for quality vs. quantity. I was hoping to make that motion that the houndsmen letter, number 2 and 3, would be voted on.

Matt Klar: According to the management plan, we do not have to increase the tags. I feel the constituency is not in agreement on the tag increase.

Darren Perry: I agree with you. I like the GPS and reconvening but don't want to increase the tags. From everything I have heard, I am not smart enough to know. From what people tell me, they never see them. All the biologist making decisions on increasing tags on animals we never see, until we get a better hand on it I can't support increasing the tags.

Item 8. R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments

- Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator Regional Presentations

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

No public questions.

RAC Questions

Kristin Purdy: If an ESA listed species is no longer listed in the sensitive species list, that means management efforts will only be confined legally dictated by the federal government. The voluntary ones we do for sensitive species will no longer be pursued for an ESA listed species?

Kimberly Hersey: I can't foresee many instances where the ESA is going to trump the state law. All the measures in place for endangered species would still be in place. And would likely be on the list as well.

Public Comments

No public comments.

RAC Comments

Mellissa Wood: There are a lot of little changes that were made here. I feel like we kind of breezed over a bunch of it. It says that with each proposed wildlife species of concern designation an analysis will be done or habitat assessment with needs and threats for species. Is that carried forward? We removed that language and I think it is important to identify what habitat constraints there might be to a species. Is that added anywhere else in here?

Kimberly Hersey: It is added in there. That particular section strikes out the specific things that were previously called for. It moved to more language addressing that you need to come with the best available science and data for species to support designations. The language has been changed a little bit.

Mellissa Wood: There is no requirement to have any of that information. It would just be whatever science is available.

Kimberly Hersey: Yes, as well as the assessment of potential economic impact.

Mellissa Wood: I didn't even read about that in there.

Mike Laughter: What portion of the funding that goes to help these species is sportsmen dollars?

Kimberly Hersey: No PR goes towards it.

Mike Laughter: I knew habitat council did because a portion of hunting licenses through big game hunting licenses is designated to sensitive species.

Kimberly Hersey: Habitat council, a small portion does go towards it.

Mike Laughter: I was just curious. Do you know how much that is?

Kimberly Hersey: It is a pretty small percentage. The vast majority comes through endangered species mitigation funds. They are matched by state wildlife grant funding.

Mellissa Wood: Can you talk a little more about wildlife habitat designations. It appears we are taking those out. Is there something that replaces those in the plan? It seems like there is a lot of important information the division was required to consider that is now being taken out.

Kimberly Hersey: The habitat designation was put in there mostly with the idea that somebody would bring forward a proposal for a development. Then, the division would bring forward what areas within that should be designated that way. There would be a back and forth there, from what I understand. As you read through this, it is sort of unclear. Nobody ever brought it forward and it was never used.

Mellissa Wood: It seems to me we are just taking it away instead of trying to make it better and something we would use.

Kimberly Hersey: A lot of that was sort of related to some of the game species. We are coming forward with more specific data and more information through these impact analysis of what areas animals are using. The information is still getting into these processes. It is just getting rid of this formal mechanism that was not used before.

Motion – Mellissa Wood – Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Second – Justin Oliver

Motion Passes – Unanimous

Item 9. Hardware Ranch Management Plan

- Brad Hunt, Hardware Ranch Manager

See RAC Packet

Kevin McLeod: Don't you have a time limit that squatters can camp?

Brad Hunt: 14 day limit. Sometimes it's hard for us to get a hold of them in the summer. We patrol camping best we can but are typically there during the week attending to WMA maintenance. We are not able to contact and talk to them. We have made a push for education and trying to contact them. We leave cards on their trailers or in their tents. If we can physically talk to them, it is best. Most people we have interacted with have been great. We have had to involve law enforcement a few times.

Kevin McLeod: On the dyer's woad, do they eventually spread it in their feces?

Brad Hunt: From what I have observed, I have noticed a noted decrease in the dyer's woad where they are grazing. I don't have sampling data.

Steve Sorensen: This is concerning, shutting Hardware down. How many acres is Hardware Ranch.

Brad Hunt: 14,332.

Steve Sorensen: It has been open since the division bought it?

Brad Hunt: When we first started in 1946, it was about 2,000 and has grown over that time.

Steve Sorensen: It has always been open?

Brad Hunt: As far as I know, yes.

Steve Sorensen: Year round right?

Brad Hunt: As far as I know, yes.

Aaron Johnson: One of my concerns is that on some of these wildlife management areas that the state owns or we own, it closes January 1st for wintering wildlife which I am for. For winter, it becomes closed. I have a concern about closing down public property because that is the only place I can hunt. I think that maybe there needs to be some education on winter hunting vs. an all out closure. I don't know why it has to be closed. If I kill a lion, aren't I helping the elk?

Brad Hunt: In the last 4-5 years, we have been seeing more increased activity. We are getting more people outside of Cache Valley.

Aaron Johnson: In Tabiona, they had a wildlife management area that would close but that region would give about 10 special permits to an individual that had a kill tag in that area. If you drew a lion tag in that area, you could go get the key. Maybe there should be an opportunity if they have a tag, that they are allowed access on public grounds to go harvest an animal.

Bryce Thurgood: Who makes the decision that it gets to close?

Brad Hunt: When we do our management plan, we convened an advisory committee that represented. We tried to get a selection of people that would represent various stakeholders that would have an interest in the property. We looked at what the old management plan had, goals and objectives. We talked about some concerns and changes we have seen since we had the old plan instituted. We came up with our goals and objectives and recommendations. We put the plan together and ran it through the review process.

Bryce Thurgood: Why don't we get to vote on it? Just like the cougar, they make recommendations and we vote on it and send it on. I kind of don't love the fact that a group of people gets to decide to close Hardware to hunting.

Aaron Johnson: That's not the only one.

Bryce Thurgood: I don't like the fact that a group get to decide to close parts or all 14,000 acres without our recommendation or the public recommendation.

Brad Hunt: Certain areas, the only public property is WMA's. When they close January 1st, it is private property hunting only.

Bryce Thurgood: I have concerns over that. I don't like it.

Brad Hunt: I don't know why it is not an action item. It is just an informational item.

Aaron Johnson: I think you are doing great. The presentation is awesome. All the kids stuff and educational outreach. Just have concerns about closing public property to the public.

Brad Hunt: I understand.

Aaron Johnson: 1/3 of the year, you can't even step on it.

Kevin McLeod: It's not only in Utah. Wyoming is the same way.

Bryce Thurgood: I think we should have input on what happens there.

Mellissa Wood: Can you talk more about the public process. Working for a federal agency, we have a lot of those public comments and other things. Was that part of this wildlife management plan?

Brad Hunt: We convened our advisory committee. WE looked at the old plan and addressed the concerns we are dealing with. We generated a draft of the plan, sent it to the committee and they reviewed it. We made adjustments based on suggestions. It goes through our regional staff. They offer suggestions and make sure we are compliant with code and in agreement with our other wildlife plans. It goes to our habitat council who represent sportsmen groups and habitat managers. We take their comments. From there, we send it to the RDCC through the governor's office to allow other agencies to comment on what we have come up with and make sure they don't have questions or concerns with what they are doing. We offer the county council an opportunity to hear it and that is a public forum. That is the first time it becomes public.

Mellissa Wood: Maybe it would benefit us to hear who was on your council and maybe how those council members are chosen?

Brad Hunt: I don't have the list in front of me.

Mike Laughter: Should be in the packet.

Aaron Johnson: Yeah, it is.

Brad Hunt: It is on the first page of the executive summary.

Bryce Thurgood: I don't see a lack of public at large support on there.

Kristin Purdy: Rocky Mountain Elk foundation.

Mike Laughter: They were invited.

John Blazzard: This information is really interesting. I understand there is a lot of work done. Why do we even need to hear this?

Bryce Thurgood: If we don't get a say on it.

John Blazzard: What difference does it make to us?

Justin Dolling: Because this is part of the public comment process. If the public has a comment, or the RAC has a comment, we take those under consideration. Ultimately, our director approves the plan. It is not approved by the Wildlife Board.

John Blazzard: Do we have to vote on a comment or position to tell the director?

Justin Dolling: It would be nice. I don't know that a formal vote is necessary. It would be nice to know how many people felt that way by show of hands or something.

John Blazzard: That is my question. There is no formal way for us to have input on this?

Justin Dolling: No, because it is an informational item.

Mellissa Wood: Mike, you were in these meetings?

Mike Laughter: Yes, ma'am.

Mellissa Wood: Will you talk about concerns the group brought up.

Mike Laughter: There were a lot. This was 2 years ago?

Brad Hunt: 18 months.

Mike Laughter: Almost 2 years ago. A lot of discussion was around camping issues. We spent a lot of time discussing that. We spent a lot of time of the continuation of feeding elk at Hardware Ranch. The economy and the division and everything. We discussed options of life after feeding elk at Hardware and variations. Most was to better the WMA for wildlife and viewing and the public. That was the intent in every discussion we had to make it safer, cleaner, nicer and more enjoyable. We talked about economic development to make it more user friendly with muzzleloader and archery shoots. This went on for months. It was not just one meeting, there were 6 or 7. One thing I don't remember was the closure of the ranch.

Brad Hunt: I know it was brought up but I don't think it got much time as far as discussion.

Mike Laughter: That caught me off guard because I did not recall that discussion.

Kevin McLeod: Sometimes I go fishing alone. We harass these animals for months. My understanding was that a big part of the closures was to let the animals relax. I think that is part of it.

Brad Hunt: That is the thought behind this. The winter is a critical time when they need to preserve those energy stores and reduce any excess pressure on them.

Mike Laughter: This is a big ranch and the elk are in the meadow for the most part. If someone fished and stayed out of the meadow, I don't think that would be a big impact.

Brad Hunt: They do react to them. I don't know how much of an impact it is.

John Blazzard: When this ranch was first instigated, it was to alleviate depredation problems on the elk in Cache Valley. That is not hardly mentioned at all as an issue. I don't think it has gone away but is no longer one of the reasons we have the ranch? They talked about not feeding them anymore right?

Brad Hunt: In looking at distribution of elk over the landscape and what that means in risk to them, we are in the opening stages of figuring out what is going to happen and where they are going to go. That may be a recommendation that comes out of this study. It is not something that is going to be ignored but we are looking at everything in between. We won't know what those recommendations are until we are done with the study.

John Blazzard: It looks to me like a prime example of everything going in full circle. Then we will have depredation problems and we will be killing the elk because they are in the farmers fields. How are we going to have our input into this program? Are we just listening to a bunch of good information?

Bryce Thurgood: I agree. I wouldn't mind passing along and get this information to the right person. I hate the fact that group of people can close the WMA for hunting. It was not talked about.

Paul Chase: Is there a specific action that is occurring that is driving this closure?

Brad Hunt: A lot of what we are seeing is snowmobiling in the winter and February. Our fences are getting taken down in areas that are closed to motorized traffic already which is where deer spend time in the winter.

Paul Chase: It seems like it is against the law already so maybe we need to enforce the law that already exists. I have been hunting chuckars up there. I have only seen a handful of people up there in that time. I know Blacksmith Fork is popular for cat hunters. If they turn loose on private or forest and they end up on state, are they going to be ticketed?

Bryce Thurgood: I think we know what we are up against. This is not very clear on what is proposed being closed, I guess. Can we be more clear on what you are proposing gets closed.

Brad Hunt: The proposal would be as we have it in the plan, is the lands. The roads are state roads and county roads. They are groomed for ATV's by state parks. As far as the roads, those would be left with access. It is just the lands themselves. Timeframe is January 1st to the second Saturday in April. Same as Millville face and other WMA's in the valley.

Aaron Johnson: All public land that gets shut down. This probably needs to be discussed elsewhere.

Steve Sorensen: It scares me that Mike was on that committee and does not know anything about this. 14,000 acres, 5 miles below the Hardware, 2 miles up Ant flats, 6-7 miles the other way and all surrounding lands closed. We really ought to look at this. I think I sat in on one of these meetings and I didn't hear about it either.

Mike Laughter: I am so sorry that I missed that comment. I have hung you out to dry and that was not intentional. I do not recall the closure.

Brad Hunt: I know it came up but did not get a whole lot of air time in our discussions. I'm not sure why. It was not brought up in any of our other opportunities for public comment which is part of the reason why I think we present them here so we can receive public comment.

Paul Chase: I was contacted by a number of sportsmen wondering what this was about. When they saw it was informational, they didn't think there was any point in coming and participating in this. They thought it was a done deal.

Bryce Thurgood: I would agree. Most of the issue is surrounding the hunting. I suggest we take a poll to decide who wants it open for hunting and who wants it closed for hunting. I don't love it.

Aaron Johnson: I brought this up 4-5 years ago. It prevents me from hunting and it go no traction so I am grateful that you want to do it. It does need to be addressed and I don't know how to do that.

Bryce Thurgood: I think we will look and see the best way to address this.

David Earl: I would like to defend the Hardware on one thing here. I spend a lot of time at Hardware and it is getting loved to death. There are hundreds and thousands of ATV's on a Saturday. There is a lot of pressure on the Hardware.

Bryce Thurgood: How do we tell people to stay off public land?

Justin Oliver: They are using it in the summer months. They are not using it in the months we are talking about.

David Earl: They need a rest some time.

Aaron Johnson: I get it and it is not going to get better.

David Earl: This is going to be a huge can of worms. We are loving it to death.

Aaron Johnson: I understand where he is coming from. I don't know the answer. It bothers me to spend my money to buy a hunting permit and then close a public area. Why not close the river where the fish are spawning?

Mellissa Wood: If it is BLM, there will be public comment about it.

Bryce Thurgood: Good point.

Christopher Hoagstrom: I was surprised to hear you are the only full-time employee out there. It does not sound like there is a lot of money spent to regulate. If you are going to enforce these rules, you need more than one person. This is a great

resource. Where is the money going to come from to allow some of these things to happen. I understand why you want to close because it is all you can do if you are one person.

Bryce Thurgood: Who is in favor of keeping hunting open on the WMA?

Mellissa Wood: Can we make it more broad? Maybe there are some things in this plan that needs to be included and name some things? I think what was just brought up about resources going in to Hardware is another issue that we may want to recommend be looked at again.

Bryce Thurgood: I guess we can decide who likes the plan and who does not like the plan as presented.

Kevin McLeod: I think that we need to feel like we have some input. We may make the same decision based on information given. There may be some common ground about certain activities during a period of time.

Bryce Thurgood: I agree, it is someone's right to go up there in the summer but he has just as much right to go up in January and go chuckar hunting.

Aaron Johnson: This is a non-voting item right? Is it possible, where you work for the division, you can say that out of the northern RAC these concerns came up. Can you address those concerns for us?

Justin Dolling: We take it to the habitat council who had comments about looking into charging access fees for camping. We took it to the county and got no comments. We take it to all these entities to gather comment.

Aaron Johnson: Including here.

Justin Dolling: Yes. So, we will take your thoughts under consideration and maybe that is a good compromise. If you have a permit or license, then you are allowed to hunt on the WMA during the closure. We do that on other WMA's. Middle Fork for example. When elk are over objective, we open middle fork to those who have an antlerless elk permit and they can hunt during that time.

Aaron Johnson: Great.

Bryce Thurgood: You have a whole list of comments you can sort through.

Item 10. Howard Slough WMA Habitat Management Plan

- Rich Hansen, Ogden Bay WMA Manager

See RAC Packet

David Earl: Are you gaining any ground on phragmites?

Rich Hansen: Yes, we are making huge strides. We have down the timing of it. Also, cattle grazing. They love the phragmites.

Christopher Hoagstrom: What are you doing on the carp?

Rich Hansen: We draw the units down in the winter time after the season and treat them. Last year, we killed tens of thousands of huge carp.

Christopher Hoagstrom: Any others?

Rich Hansen: There were a couple of catfish and a couple wipers.

Kristin Purdy: The stats you mentioned in the plan with phragmites control and carp eradication were really impressive. I think Howard Slough is the least appreciate wetland along the Wasatch front. I was in there a couple of times this past fall and I noticed significant level of muskrat damage on the dike roads. I am assuming I was there before road scraping.

Rich Hansen: I'm sure you were. It is annual now.

Kristin Purdy: I ran into Colton one day at Ogden Bay and he said that the trappers had removed 800 muskrats from Howard Slough. The dike road still look like they do. Is it true that the trappers who are involved in muskrat control, when they submit a bid to you. Does it work that way or is it permit holders. Do they submit a contract for muskrat control and they tell you how many they take out. Or is it people with permits.

Rich Hansen: We make a recommendation on how many muskrats we think are available. It is a public drawing.

Kristin Purdy: Ok, so recommend more next time. Is there a database that shows the 200 species documented on Howard Slough?

Rich Hansen: We combine the bird list with Ogden Bay.

Kristin Purdy: Your bird check list shows the area. It is the ones you manage.

Rich Hansen: Yes.

Kristin Purdy: Is Willard Bay upland game also thrown in there?

Rich Hansen: We manage that area as well.

Kristin Purdy: I would like to volunteer my organization to update your bird checklist.

Rich Hansen: I would love that.

Kristin Purdy: We normally make a first hack on the list and then he will route it to me and we will have something to work with. We may also like to tap into somebody with the GSL ecosystem project. Justin, for your sake, add my voice to Aarons thread about people who are unhappy about public lands that are not open to the public. My least favorite day of the year is the day after goose season when the WMA's close. I can't get back into them until the Thursday before the youth hunt. I understand they are close for production, particularly of waterfowl. By the first of August, I don't think waterfowl are doing much more production. I am looking for an opportunity to get in there because that eliminates both migration season for shore birds. The best thing that has happened in Weber County is the rehabilitation and improvement at the north end of Ogden Bay. There is so much acreage we can't get in to because public land is closed. 20% of my county is Great Salt Lake and I cannot get to it no matter what unless I risk a ticket for trespassing. This is a concern I have.

Rich Hansen: The closure for wildlife production is from March 1st-August 1st. You are welcome to walk in after August 1st.

Kristin Purdy: I'm glad to know that because I thought it was the Thursday before the youth duck hunt. If I enter the Howard Slough gate on 2425 south, is that gate open to the interior parking lot?

Rich Hansen: That is what opens. The gate opens for driving the Thursday before. You are welcome to park outside the gate and walk in.

Kristin Purdy: Still ok. Just the fact that I am permitted to go in there and how about Ogden Bay?

Rich Hansen: Absolutely, after August 1st.

Kristin Purdy: Lets work on the 1st of March through the 1st of August. I own that land, it is mine.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting Ends- 10:33 p.m.

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Sevier School District
180 E. 600 N. Richfield, UT
July 31, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Review & Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda

The following motion was made by Craig Laub, seconded by Riley Roberts and passed 7-2. Tammy Pearson & Verland King opposed

MOTION: I make the motion to accept the agenda and minutes.

1. R657-11-Furbearer Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Brian Johnson, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion to accept the Furbearer Rule amendments as presented, but change the trap registration requirement on private property from 600 feet from a building to 600 feet from property line.

2. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

The following motion was made by Brian Johnson, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make a motion that we accept as presented.

4. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

The following motion was made by Braydon Richmond, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed 9-1. Riley Roberts opposed.

MOTION: I make a motion to accept as presented, but create a Cougar sub unit on the Mineral Mountains.

The following amendment to the original motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Gene Boardman. Failed 3-7

AMENDED MOTION: to also adjust the following permit numbers, Beaver unit to 11 tags, and only add 2 permits on the Fillmore and Monroe units.

The following amendment to the original motion was made by Brian Johnson, seconded by Mike Worthen, and passed 6-4

AMENDED MOTION: to also make the Book Cliffs unit a split unit

5. R657-48 Sensitive Species Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Mike Worthen, seconded by Tammy Pearson, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion that we accept it as presented.

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Sevier School District Office
180 E. 600 N. Richfield, UT
July 31, 2018 7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dave Black Craig Laub Nick Jorgensen Verland King Brian Johnson Gene Boardman Tammy Pearson Wade Heaton Riley Roberts Brayden Richmond Mike Worthen	Phil Tuttle Johnny Neil Jason Nicholes Denise Gilgen Kyle Christensen Dave Smedley Teresa Griffin Josh Pollock Gary Bezzant Darrin DeBloois Gabe Patterson Vance Mumford	Donnie Hunter Steve Dalton	Rusty Aiken Sean Stewart Sean Kelly

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There were approximately 34 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.

Dave Black: Let's start down on my left, with Brian. If you guys want to introduce yourselves now please.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson from Enoch, Utah. I represent the non-consumptives.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond from Beaver, Utah, representing sportsmen.

Riley Roberts: Riley Roberts, sportsmen

Wade Heaton: At large.

Teresa Griffin: I'm Teresa Griffin sitting in for Kevin Bunnell, who is gone. I'm the Wildlife Manager for the Southern Region.

Nick Jorgensen: Nick Jorgensen from St. George, representing the non-consumptive.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub from Iron County, representing agriculture.

Verland King: Verland King from Bicknell agriculture.

Tammy Pearson: Tammy Pearson, Beaver County Commissioner.

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman, Hinckley, representing the public at large.

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

Dave Black: K. Thank you. In the back, we had a handout that talked about the RAC process and the procedures. I'm sure most of you have been to a RAC meeting before. As we go through the meeting today and as we get to an agenda action item, we'll have one of the DWR employees make a presentation for us. Then afterwards, there will be a minute to ask for any clarifications or questions and that'll come from the RAC members and also from the public, from the audience. Just remember at this time, this is not the comment portion; it's only a question or clarification portion. If anybody comes up to the mic we ask that you use this mic over on your left. We'd like to keep all conversations that we have in the room over the microphone. We want to make sure they're all recorded. If you come to the mic, please state your name, so that gets on the minutes as well. We'd ask that we keep all of our conversations at the mic. Following that, we'll have a comment portion. If you would like to comment, please fill out the comment cards. We'll allow three minutes for individuals and up to five minutes for a group. So again, if you're here to make a comment, please make sure you fill out a comment card, give it those to one of the DWR employees and they'll bring them up for us. The next agenda item is to approve the agenda and the minutes. If you guys are ready for that, I'll entertain a motion.

Tammy Pearson: I have a question.

Dave Black: Okay.

Tammy Pearson: Where do you find the minutes?

Dave Black: Those should have been emailed after the last RAC meeting.

Tammy Pearson: I never got anything.

Dave Black: K. We'll make sure we follow up on that.

Tammy Pearson: The only thing online was the audio.

Dave Black: K. If there is an issue after this, then let me know. Let's make sure we get a chance to look

at those before our next RAC. We'll follow up on that. Thank you.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

The following motion was made by Craig Laub, seconded by Riley Roberts and passed 7-2. Tammy Pearson & Verland King Opposed

MOTION: I make the motion to accept the agenda and minutes.

Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:

Dave Black: K. Item number three will be a Wildlife Board meeting update. That's myself. You recall the last meeting that we had was a pretty big agenda. I think we were in Beaver until midnight. There are a couple of things out of that that I just wanted to go over. The first one was on the coyote bounty program amendments. I know that Mike had a concern with the funding of that program, and that during the course of the year, if that funding was diminished; his concern was is that they wanted the full bounty paid out. Is that right, Mike? And we requested that there be an action log item. As soon as we brought that up to the board, it didn't take very long to realize that the DWR is very committed to that program, to make sure that the full bounty is there. A number of the sportsmen's groups stepped up. They're very concerned as well and made a commitment to make sure that that program is funded and that the full bounty would be available throughout the year. So I think we've got a pretty strong commitment there. The big item was the Mineral Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. There was a lot of discussion, a lot of comments, similar to those we have here, at the end. That plan passed, as presented, five in favor and one opposed. Everything else pretty much went through and passed as presented on the other action items, but those were the two main ones that I wanted to report back on. We have a regional update from Teresa.

Teresa Griffin: Alright, we don't have too much. We do have a lot of fires. So far in the region, we've had the West Valley Fire on the Pine Valley Unit; Cove Creek, just west of here on the Beaver Unit; Sand Ledges, on the Monroe, Wood Canyon on the Oak Creek, and we have been involved in the process to do rehab for all of them. Then, one real positive thing, they've got a horse gather that is planned to occur on the Southwest Desert. That does include our Indian Peaks wildlife management area. About the only other thing that I wanted to update you on, is that today there was a press release-- and I'll just read parts of it--on July 20, a biologist for Zion National Park saw a desert bighorn sheep and it was coughing. That was euthanized and it was tested and it did test positive for mycoplasma ova pneumonia, which is the bacteria associated with pneumonia in bighorn sheep. Since then, they have euthanized another sheep and it's been taken up to another lab to be tested. We're working closely with them and we're ramping up surveys outside the park to see what other sheep in the unit have been impacted. So, if you guys are out and about looking at sheep and you do see some that are coughing, let us know. It's going to be a hard one to contain, especially with the National Park involved. So, it's not the news we want to hear, but it is occurring. None have been documented that we have seen die yet, but they're symptomatic currently. That's about it.

Dave Black: Okay

Verland King: Question. Did you test any of the sheep that you just transplanted from there?

Teresa Griffin: Yes. We try to test different units every year. Last year before we did the transplant, we went to the North San Juan. I think we caught 20-25 inside the park where we caught those sheep, and all of those we're negative. So we've never had a positive on that unit before and we've done several rounds of testing both inside the park and outside the park. So they've never thrown up a positive before. They've always been negative.

Verland King: What's your theory on where it came from then?

Teresa Griffin: You know what? It's strange, because it's isolated right now inside the park in between the two tunnels and of course, that's where the majority of the people are seeing them. Today, we were kind of on the east end of the park and we saw a bunch of sheep and none of them were showing any signs of being sick. We've had some rogue goats that have been seen over by Hildale. I don't know if there's any backyard stuff in Springdale? We're not sure what's going on. So, we're just ramping up on the surveys.

Verland King: Okay, thanks

Mike Worthen: You answered the question and where it came from, but I'm wondering too, have you done any research or any studies on what---cause this population has not been allowed to be trapped or removed. None of the sheep have been allowed to be removed for a number of years, until just recently. Is it kind of like prairie dogs, when there get to be too many, the disease kicks in, and there's really nothing you can do about it?

Teresa Griffin: I think that the densities make it worse because then you've got sheep expanding and roaming and looking for new territories. That's why we tried to be aggressive since the population has grown big? What year did we start?

Jason Nicholes: 2013 was the first time.

Teresa Griffin: 2013 was the first time that we moved sheep outside of the unit, and we've tried to keep thinning it out the best that we can. But whether they wander, then have an exposure and then come back to the herd, or if there's a rogue goat or something, we're not really sure. But the density does push them to find some new territories, and that makes it worse. They do have to go out and have contact with that pathogen somewhere.

Tammy Pearson: Has there been studies done on stress related, you know?---where you have the density, but you also have stress induced, because any other animal wouldn't do that.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, and I'm not certain with bighorn sheep. I mean sometimes you'll get Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease or they occasionally will have contagious eczema or you know, some different things, but I don't know that this one isn't strictly density dependent, so I'm not completely certain.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. We'll move onto our first action item which is item #5 on the agenda. This is the R657-11 Furbearer Rule Amendments

UDWR WMA Habitat Management Plan Review Process
Gary Bezzant, Regional Habitat Manager

Gary Bezzant: Okay. My name is Gary Bezzant. I'm the Habitat Program Manager for the Southern Region. It's been a few years since we've done some of these, but you'll see us do one or two a year for the next coming years. All of our wildlife management areas are supposed to have a management plan and they all do. We're at the point now where it's time to revise them and update them because they've been around for awhile. The first one we worked on (and it's kind of based on a purchase that we made back in 2013) and I need to address some of the stuff associated with that purchase is the Fillmore Wildlife Management Area. So, for background, you see there on the slide, The Habitat Management Plan Review Process, there's a specific codified process we have to follow to update those plans and certain groups that we have to take that to. The RAC is one of those. You'll notice it doesn't even say optional; you guys are required to hear this, so I'm glad I get to be here and you guys get to hear from me. Further again, in that code it specifies what specifically needs to be in those plans. A lot of it is why do we own this property? What is the purpose we have there and how are going to manage that, moving forward to accomplish those purposes? So, specifically, let's jump right into the Fillmore Wildlife Management Area. This is a great, one of our best, wildlife management area units. We've got a lot of property up there. We could call it the Millard County Wildlife Management Area as well. It goes from Scipio Pass all the way down south to Kanosh and takes in a lot of country. You can jump into there with this map that kinda shows you what I was just highlighting, starting up there at Scipio Pass and running all the way down through there. What I think is amazing is that, with the history of this plan and the history of these properties, that there were people that had the foresight clear back in the 1950's to recognize we've got all that forest service property up there on the mountain and then down in the bottom, there was a need to preserve mule deer winter range to protect and preserve those herds and there was foresight out there to get enough properties out there that we can do that. So, the W. May takes in 16,812 acres. I mention this purposely as critical winter habitat for big game. Initially for mule deer, but since then, with the elk coming on, the elk use it really hard too, and it's a great piece of property. These properties were purchased with Pittman-Robertson funds, except for the last piece that we picked up, which was secured with a land trade with the school and institutional trust land administration as part of the Lee Kay Exchange that was done back in 2013. And so you can see there, going back to 1939 even, was when people started thinking about this, and making sure that we were securing the winter range for the mule deer. There's a lot of hunting that happens on this wildlife management area. A lot of mule deer, a lot of elk hunting, and in recent years, turkey hunting has become very popular there, as well. We get a little bit of grouse and dove hunting as well. Just kind of a view from up high, looking across some of the properties, with that much property, we have a lot of diversity out there. We have old fires that we can look at. We have habitat treatment we've been doing over the years, so there's a lot of diversity in the property. Part of the plan is to identify how this does benefit wildlife. The purpose is for mule deer winter range, but there's other wildlife that benefit. One of the big reasons that it has become really important, is that I-15 corridor severely diminishes the access to winter range and so having these properties there on the east side of I-15 has helped that a whole bunch. In addition, like I mentioned, we've got wild turkey, we've got cottontails, mourning dove, ruff grouse, and I hear you guys are going to talk about cougars a little later tonight. That should be exciting. Bobcats, raptors, and we've already identified nine state-sensitive species there. And then, we've got a couple of small creeks that run through a couple of the units and so we have some brown trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat, and cutthroat hybrids as well. The good news is that a lot of the property on the W. May is in really good condition. Our biggest concern up there is for some invasive plants. Cheat grass like a lot of our areas in the winter range is a big concern, but we see a lot of good success as we do habitat treatments and we're able to get other good species in there. And then, unique to the Fillmore W. May is bulbous bluegrass which is a native grass, but it is very invasive and spreads almost through disturbance. It's a tuber. The bulbs spread and it goes crazy. It's taking over a lot of country up there

and it's challenging to work with and find ways to replace that with more valuable grass. Again, kept common to mule deer winter range across the state, pinion and juniper encroachment is a big deal, but we've been very active up on the Fillmore W. May and we do all we can to work on that. Another picture there... you can kind of see the condition of some of that. We need juniper encroachment, but we've got a lot of great grouse species, we've got a lot of cliff rose up there actually, which the mule deer absolutely love and it's a great winter range plant for them as well. One of things that did happen with that 2013, we had a road that they had that was very well improved up to our property boundary. Let me just jump to the map and show you. You can see the two pieces, the Pioneer unit and the original Circus Hollow unit were pieces that we owned and then the 2013 edition had a road that was a great road all through the civil session and then it hit our piece of property and it turned into a terrible road. People really wanted that road to connect to the Pioneer unit and the really good Pioneer road up there. So we had to make some decisions. It was a road that was previously classified as seasonally closed. When we picked up that piece in 2013, the county had been maintaining it, and so forth, and there was a strong local interest to make that a year round road. It would look really silly to put up a "closed seasonally" sign, with this beautiful road behind it that's in really good condition. So, we've worked with the county. This is the section that across our property and so the condition. People really wanted to use it in the winter and we talked with Dave Smedley, with our local law enforcement guys, and we've had a lot of issues with the ability to enforce the seasonal closure up there anyway. So, what we proposed is to re-route the road, make it a little shorter, get them back to the main roads quicker, and what you can't see in that, is that it creates a loop that people love to drive and without the loop, they're having to back track miles and miles both directions to then hit the frontage road, go up, and then hit the other road. So, in reality, providing this loop, we're reducing miles traveled through winter range, since that was the decision we did make and the plan was to go ahead and open that year round, as opposed to keeping it closed seasonally. A lot of recreational opportunities on the W. May. It's an exciting one, one that a lot of hunting does happen on it and it can be both the winter range as the deer move into it early enough that the deer are able to be hunted there as well, so it's a lot of fun. Year-long wildlife viewing opportunities as well. You can go see elk on the winter range. It's a great place to go. Camping is allowed. It's not something we promote. We don't have any improved campgrounds or anything, but it is something that is permissible to do up there. Right there, behind the town of Fillmore, there's a community gun range that we have managed cooperatively with Millard County for a number of years, and we continue to do that and it's a great resource for the community there. I mentioned earlier, habitat improvement activities. We have been very active doing habitat improvement projects, bull-hogs, chaining, hat fire rehabilitation, when fires hit those and we keep moving forward on that. So, I think that moving forward into the future, a lot of it will be monitoring and maintaining those and making sure that they maintain the value that they have. Just again, a picture of an example of a habitat treatment that we did-- a lop and scatter on the Kanosh unit. You can see the way that the habitat responds when you remove the pinion, juniper encroachment and make the water available to the sagebrush and the other browse species that are there. This is a chaining we did up on the Youngs Field unit, again the same type of thing, a great thing. We're able to improve forage significantly and improve the browse for the wintering deer and elk on the unit. We also have grazing that we use quite intensely with that much property. It's kind of a cool thing. We've improved a lot of our properties with grazing. Managing it at the right time, that some of the ways we can confront those challenges of the cheat grass and the bulbous bluegrass that come on a little earlier than a lot of the other grasses, so we get on there early, we can hit those early and then enable the other species to do well. The other thing we've done with the Fillmore WMA units is that we make sure they're all available as a grass bank. So this isn't all of our units; we have about ten units and we're only actively grazing about five of them. We have elk and deer use that's high enough on the other units to warrant or to keep it in the condition we're looking for anyway. You'll see if you'll look at the Circus Hollow unit, going from 27 out 45 AUMs on there to

0 in 2018. That was a unit where we did a wildlife project on a piece of private property and one of arrangements we made was that we were able to provide a spot for them to go for the two years while their property was maturing and the seeding that we did. We protected our investment and now we're able to move them back onto their property and it worked out as a good thing. We've also done, in recent years, with fires that affected producers; we're able to move them back onto the WMA's in the fall. Several of our guys that go on in the spring had come back in the fall, because the Forest Service has had to move them off because of fires and with having as much property as we've had up there, it's been a good resource for the State of Utah to provide that benefit to some of those grazers temporarily and not create a harm to the wildlife either. Moving forward, the property management needs. Annually, we go out and maintain all the fences and signage where we do after grazing. Those grazers participate in the fence maintenance with us as well. When this plan is approved, we'll need to continue to work with Millard County to do that re-routing of that road that he mentioned. Kendall Bagley, the habitat biologist up there, is always working on improving water systems and making water widely available on all the units and it's distributing the use across them. With that, I'll take any questions.

Dave Black: Any questions? Verland?

Verland King: That grazing is cattle or sheep?

Gary Bezzant: It's all cattle.

Verland King: Okay.

Gene Boardman: In looking at this, this is quite a scattered WMA. Is it in that way different from all the other WMA's in the state?

Gary Bezzant: Yes, this plan was a little harder to write than some in that we have the ten separate units and so in some ways, it's like there's ten little plans within one big plan. So, the plans that I bring to you in the future...this one's sixty-plus pages. Hopefully, it will be 20-25 pages for the other units. We do have the Beaver complex. There are five or six properties. On the Parowan front, it's broken up into four or five properties, but this is the biggest complex we have of them like that.

Gene Boardman: Um, so it's hard for sportsmen to know whether they're on a WMA or not. Are your rules for the WMA basically what their rules for public land are?

Gary Bezzant: Yes, they are, and they're signed really well. Our crew does a really good job. If you go drive along the Fillmore winter range, I would hope that you would know when you're on a WMA.

Dave Black: K Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: Okay, we're just full of all kinds of questions. So are these all fenced, individually fenced?

Gary Bezzant: The majority of them are. There are a couple of small parcels that are addressed in the plan. We call them disposal pieces. They're right along the I-15 corridor. They're five to ten acres and so we don't really highlight them. They're pieces that were picked up with the large parcels; they're not fenced, in the event that at some point in the future, we would likely dispose of those.

Tammy Pearson: Okay, so my next question is as far as grazing, who are your neighbors? Is it BLM or Forest Service?

Gary Bezzant: Uphill we have Forest Service and downhill, it's mostly private property.

Tammy Pearson: So with the grazers, do you coordinate with Forest Service or the BLM?

Gary Bezzant: We coordinate with the Forest Service quite a bit. Most of our dates, we start them as early as we can and their off date is coordinated with their uphill permit. Most of our permittees have the uphill permit from the property, moving right onto the forest from us.

Tammy Pearson: So it's kind of a transition area?

Gary Bezzant: Yeah.

Tammy Pearson: Okay, thanks.

Dave Black: Okay. Thank you.

Gary Bezzant: Procedurally, if you guys have any comments, or things you'd like me to address, I guess you just do that by email. If I didn't put a period in the right place, I'm happy to move it, so let me know.

Dave Black: Thank you. Now we're ready for Item #5.

R657-11 Furbearer Rule Amendments (action)

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

Darren DeBloois: Good evening everybody. It's a pleasure to be here. We've got three things tonight. I wanted to start off tonight with some recommendations and changes to our Furbearer Rule. As many of you may remember, we talked quite about this last year. We had some proposed changes to the rule and the concern we had at the time is that we wanted to make sure that if people were setting coyote or raccoon sets in the field and they caught something they didn't intend to catch, there would be an opportunity for them to release that protected wildlife unharmed. So, we made some suggested changes. One of the oversights during that process, which I'm sure you all remember, is that we really didn't have a good representation during that process from private land owners, agricultural community. And that became very clear to the RAC process as well as the Board. So, the Board made most of the suggested changes, but they directed us to put a committee together to address those specific concerns. We did that within a month of the Board meeting last year. We were able to put a committee together to try to address some of the concerns that producers specifically had with those rule changes last year. Here's a list of groups that were invited to attend that committee. Specific, we wanted to make sure rural growers were there, the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food was part of that committee and so we tried to get a good cross section and have a good discussion and see if we could find some solutions. The committee agreed on a few objectives; some things that we wanted to get out of the process and make sure the rule addressed and these are them. First of all, we wanted to make sure we address the concerns livestock producers might have with the rule and how that pertains specifically to coyotes, but raccoons to some extent as well. The second thing we wanted to make sure that we did in the rule was to allow live release that protected species caught in coyote and raccoon traps. The third is

to encourage public support of trapping. We took a little bit of time. It was actually a study that was done in 2016 in Connecticut, Illinois, and Wisconsin, that showed that support for trapping is high in those states, and that translates here, too, in the west. One thing that came out of that study is that the general public is supporting of the practice, if they feel like its well regulated, that non-target species can be released if they're accidentally caught. There are a few factors like that, so we want to make sure that we maintain high public support for trapping through the process and through the rule. And finally, we wanted to make sure we provided legal protection for trappers who accidentally catch protected wildlife in those sets, and so we wanted to hold people harmless who are playing by the rules that accidentally catch something they didn't intend to catch and not be cited in those instances. We had a really good discussion, went through quite a few issues, but the longer we were there, it became apparent that there was really one primary thing that if we could fix it, people at the meeting felt like it would address their concerns and that is in this recommendation here, so the following is what we're proposing, to make compliance with the rule easier: 1) Allow the owner to trap. 2) Designate another person to check or move wildlife from their traps, provided these things—a) the traps are appropriately marked with the owner's trap registration number—b) the person has required licenses that are working with furbearers, so if they're trying to catch something besides coyotes and raccoons, they have to have all the proper permits to do that---c) the person does not have a denied or suspended trap registration license. This is just so that somebody who is on suspension can't go trap for someone else and get around that suspension---and finally, d) that owner assumes criminal liability and civil responsibility for the designated person and what we're trying to do there is make sure if you're authorizing someone to go check your traps that they're aware of what the rules are and there is some liability on you to make sure that they understand while they're doing that activity. So that was the main thing that came out of that committee. When we finished the meeting, all the groups went back and talked to their various constituencies, and we did some follow-up through email, phone calls, just to make sure everybody was okay with that and everybody was. So, a couple of other changes we're proposing. First of all, we wanted to clarify in the rule that coyotes and raccoons are regulated by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. They are not regulated by the Division of Wildlife Resources and so they are not protected species and the Division is not trying to exert any kind of authority of management for those two species. And, secondly, anytime we refer to coyote or raccoon traps, we're just referring to the type of set, again just trying to identify a trap type, not trying assert any kind of authority over management for those species. That was important to Ag. They wanted to make sure that was clear in our rule, that they had management authority, not the Division. These changes we're recommending didn't come directly from that committee. The first one here is something that our legal team wanted to clarify in the rule that was not clear. It just clarifies who may legally euthanize a bobcat caught in a trapping device. The bottom line is here, that if you're in the field trapping bobcats, the person that shoots the bobcat has to put their tag on it. You can't shoot it and then put someone else's tag on the cat. Finally, this was a little bit of an oversight in the rule, but the way the rule read before was that it authorized two or three types of people to disturb or remove traps from the field, and included in that list was owners of domestic pets. That was not the intent and essentially what the rule allowed the person to do was if they saw a trap in the field as they were walking their dog, they could take it and that is not the intent of the rule. So, if your pet gets caught in a trap, you are authorized to disturb the trap, in order to remove your pet, but you can't take that person's trap and take it home or break it, or throw it in the weeds, or something like that. And that's it.

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay. Thank you. Do we have questions from the RAC?

Mike Worthen: First off, I appreciate the Division backing up on this and taking another look at it. But I still have a few concerns. In that paragraph you put together saying that the coyotes and raccoons, or the management of them, are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. I still see in there that the Division is regulating the devices by which they are taken with and that concerns me because the legislature was very clear on whom that management authority of coyotes and raccoons should be. I don't think even the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture can give that or sign that over to the DNR without legislative blessing because legislature gave it to them. And so, when I see that paragraph mention the use of the regulation concerning coyotes and raccoons are intended solely to minimize, take of non-protected wildlife, that's still the Division putting management responsibilities on coyotes and raccoons. That's the Department of Ag's and it's not too much of a problem for me, other than if somebody gets pinched, you know darn well they're going to look at that and say hey, I'm going to beat this thing because the Division has no means of saying that I'm not doing what I can do. Right? I guess where I'm coming from is if you're trying to do what you say and make it so that it's more non-target friendly or able to remove protective species from them, get with the Division and help them write a rule to be passed. And up to now, that hasn't been done, and so, we've got a lot of going back and forth, who has what, who can do what, and claiming responsibilities, so that's my suggestion to do that. The other thing that I guess the Division is...the 600 feet within a building, or a resident, or whatever, you can trap, but you get outside of that and they're what for coyotes and raccoons? Can they trap anytime? Or just when there's a problem with livestock confrontations or predators to livestock or?

Darren DeBloois: They can trap anytime. What the rule basically says is if you're going to put a trap in the field that has a potential of catching a species we regulate, we require you to identify the trap with the trap registration number, and it has to be checked. If it's a live set, every 48 hours, if it's a snare, a lethal set, every 96.

Mike Worthen: And then what would it be if it was a coyote or a raccoon?

Darren DeBloois: Same thing. If you put a trap out that could catch a protected species, even if you're intending to catch coyotes, about a quarter of a time with a coyote set, you'll catch something else, and that you didn't intend to catch. Since we have management authority over those animals, and since we want people to feel like that they are able to release non-target species, and we want people to release non-target species. We just need to keep track of whose traps those are and be able to identify that through a number.

Mike Worthen: And I can understand that, but still again, to me, it appears that you're tromping on the UDAF's authority by managing coyotes to take, telling them you can't go trap coyotes over here unless you have a license or whatever and UDAF doesn't require a license to trap coyotes. My suggestion is to take it back to UDAF and they'll develop some rules that make sense to make this thing work, because I see a no-win situation for the Division if somebody gets pinched doing this. And that's my major concern.

Darren DeBloois: Okay.

Dave Black: Okay, are there any questions?

Brian Johnson: Okay, sorry, I have a question. So I've got a trap out, and all I ever catch is a coyote. It

doesn't matter. I'm totally... I can put a trap out and catch a non-regulated species, and you guys can't touch me if I don't put a tag on it. But the second a targeted species goes into it, I'm in trouble because I just poached a targeted species.

Darren DeBloois: The problem we had, and I don't know if there's anyone here from law enforcement tonight that might be able to speak to this? The problem is, we had people that were trying to catch other things and they didn't have their traps marked, they're trapping over bait, they weren't following the rules at all and then, when an officer would find that trap, they'd say, "Well, I'm just trapping coyotes," and they had a get out of jail free card on that. So that's part of the concern.

Brian Johnson: Okay, so I'm good with that. I say the second that a protected species steps in that trap, we throw the book at them. I mean, I'm with you, Mike. If you're trapping coyotes, let them trap coyotes, but they get to be big boys about it too. So, if they're going to be big boys and say hey I'm trapping coyotes, the second you trap something you're not supposed to, you get the book thrown at you. So is that kind of what you're getting at?

Darrin DeBloois: Right. What the rule does right now, Brian, is if you're trapping coyotes and you've got a number on your trap, and you're coming around and checking it, and you catch a bobcat or a badger, or whatever and it dies, the rule says we're not going to charge you with anything.

Brian Johnson: And that's a great rule, and I agree with that rule. But I'm saying if someone chooses not to follow that rule, then they get to take personal responsibility because when people don't take responsibility for their actions, it's frustrating.

Mike Worthen: Work with the Division to shore that up.

Darrin DeBloois: Right.

Brian Johnson: And that's a great rule

Darrin DeBloois: And I see what you're saying.

Brian Johnson: We're having a conversation about taking responsibility.

Dave Black: Any other questions? We do have some comment cards from the audience next.

Questions from the Public:

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: We have one from Ron Holt.

Ron Holt: It's the next portion.

Dave Black: Okay, great. No comments from the audience. Any more comments from the RAC?

RAC discussion and vote:

Wade Heaton: I live in the same camp that Mike does. I wake up thinking the same way Mike does I think a little bit on this stuff. I want all of the gloves off. I want people to be able to catch coyotes and do whatever they want unrestricted and if the Department of Ag is in charge of this, I want them to be in charge of it, but I just don't see it that simple with this. I really feel like...I trap a little bit. I'm decent. I'm not a great trapper, but I've trapped enough to know that you set out a trap, you cannot with 100% certainty, decide what's going to get caught in that trap or not. And so, if the Division regulates things that could step in the trap with some likelihood, I think there's got to be some legal room. I think there's got to be some legal room. There's got to be some compromise on this. I love the amendments they made in 2017 and I thought we came a long ways. I thought we restored a lot of rights and made this thing a lot easier. I struggle to think we can take that additional step to say that; all anyone has to say is, "I'm trapping coyotes." I understand what Brian is saying, but the only ones you catch are the ones you actually find with a bobcat. I mean how many people are sneaking bobcats home in the middle of the night, that were just trapping coyotes but they happened to get home without getting caught? The vast majority. There's not a lot of traffic out on the road during trapping season, as opposed to deer season. I think there's got to be a little compromise here. I actually kind of like where we're at on this.

Dave Black: Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: I still think that there's an issue on private property and it's not just trapping season. Its varmints and whatever you've got that's getting into your calf crop, your lamb crops, whatever. In Beaver County we've got a huge variety. We've got raccoon, fox, badgers; we've got everything that is just mutilating all kinds of things, and depending on what kind of trap you're talking about. Over in Sevier County, we've got those ground squirrels, pounds of ground squirrels. So, I just wonder at what point does that stop? Does that limitation stop?

Dave Black: Is there a question?

Darrin DeBloois: Maybe I should clarify. We want livestock producers to be able to take care of their problems. We're just trying to address a problem that we saw with the law part. So, again, when the group got together we felt like... you can have your herder go check. This is just complying with that check line. So, you can send a herder out. You can send your grandkid out. You can send your cowboy out. You can send anybody that you want to and all they need to do is make the rounds and can take care of whatever is in there. So we're hoping, and that just means that the person has to put a number on the trap and go carry on business as usual. Those trap licenses are free for the last year. That was the other thing the Board instructed us to do. We had, I can't remember the exact number, like 2300 people came and bought those, which was quite an influx, so we think a lot of people just went in and got those and this would allow them then to authorize somebody else. That's solution we came up with in the committee, but hopefully, people still can take care of those problems. Because it's important. I agree. They need to be able to do what they need to do to protect their livestock.

Gene Boardman: Well, I think all you people that trap animals, that do trapping, I take my hat off to you. I think that it's a wonderful sport. When I grew up, everyone could find traps, either they had them or they could borrow them, and if someone said, "Trapping rules," we'd say, "What trapping rules?" There are rules to trapping? And then I read through the packet that I got and saw all of those

rules, and I thought if I was a young person thinking about going into trapping and looked at that set of rules, I'd say, "Maybe I ought to go fishing instead!" (Laughing)

Brian Johnson: Don't look at those rules! Don't Look at those! (Laughing)

Gene Boardman: I don't know, I guess as populations grow and situations change, we need rules, but the fewer rules and the more freedom you can give to these trappers, I think the better we are.

Dave Black: Thank you. Any comments down this way?

Tammy Pearson: I agree with Gene. I think we've regulated this to death. On the back side of this, we're hurting the trappers. I've got family that's done this for years, and a lot of them would just give it up. They say it's not worth it anymore. I do have one more question. Sorry. Doesn't the state have a Predator Board and the rules that apply to that?

Darrin DeBloois: There is. Ag has a Board that meets once a year to look at livestock predation and look at those numbers and we go present to that Board.

Tammy Pearson: So that is under the Department of Agriculture?

Darrin DeBloois: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Okay. Thank you.

Dave Black: Yes, did you have a comment? Yes, we do have a card from you. Please come forward.

Al Robb: I'm Al Robb; I represent the Utah Trappers Association. I'm concerned about property rights, even though I'm not a landowner or a livestock person. But I would like to personally see the wording changed from 600 feet out from a building to 600 feet from their boundary or their land boundaries inside, so that would allow a private person more leeway in checking traps and running traps for coyotes and so forth. Also, Darrin pointed out or it was talked about, by the gentleman with the cap, I couldn't see his name, Kevin Bunnell? (Laughing from others) about trappers in the middle of the night taking bobcats. I don't think that this kind of regulation personally is going to make any difference in those kinds of people. We, as an association, try to teach ethics, especially to young people, and tell them the importance of following the guidebooks and stuff like that, recommend that they get one every year, read it through, and know what they can and cannot do. I don't think that this type of regulation on making them have their coyote trappers...if the CO's haven't been able to catch 'em for 30-40 years, what difference is that going to make, unless they have the number on there which most of them, if it's illegal, aren't going to do that anyway. I'm just concerned about those two things and primarily the property owner's rights being stepped on. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. I guess I'd just like to echo Wade's comments too. I know last year we spent a lot of time, a lot of discussion at the Wildlife Board meeting. I take my hat off to them if they did send this back and form a committee. I think the committee has done an excellent job. That's why we had the committee and I commend them. It looks like they have some very good recommendations that take care of both of their concerns. They would have my support.

Riley Roberts: I would echo that same thing. There was a lot of thought that went into this. There were a lot of people that were involved. There was a lot of discussion last year. It went up. It came back.

You've got representation from all of these different groups that have done this and is it perfect? No. Rarely are the things we discuss at these meetings, perfect. It is progress and I would hate to see that progress taken away, because there are still a few things that we need to work out. I would say that we take those other recommendations and we look at those and we try to make it better if we can, but what they have done is good. There's a lot of time and effort that went into that and I think we need to look at that and move forward with that progress.

Dave Black: K. Thank you. Anybody else? Verland?

Verland King: So is this committee an ongoing committee or is it just formed for this issue?

Darren DeBloois: It was formed just for this specific issue at the direction of the Wildlife Board.

Verland King: So it's dissolved now then?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, but that doesn't mean we couldn't get the group together again.

Dave Black: Okay. I think we're ready to entertain a motion. Brian?

Brian: I make a motion that we pass as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second?

Mike Worthen: I don't second it.

Dave Black: Okay, you can comment in just a minute. We have a second from Wade. Now, any comments. Mike?

Mike Worthen: Can I amend this motion to include a few things, sir?

Dave Black: If we get a second.

Mike Worthen: Okay, if we get a second that's fine. Okay, but I hear what the Trappers Association is talking about, private land. That concerns me and I would like to see the committee look at rule conflicts or lack of rules from the UDA that allows a get out of jail free card that's hanging out right there. Regardless of whether we like the recommendations or not, the legislature hasn't given that approval to the Division to regulate coyotes period. So it's still hanging out there whether we like it or not. So my motion would be to have that committee revisit and make it joint.

Dave Black: Okay, we are going to give you just a second so we can be precise and give you the minutes.

Mike Worthen: Okay the first part of that amendment is to look at the 600 feet boundary on private land and rather than have the 600 feet, bring it out till the landowner's boundary and 600 feet within.

Dave Black: Okay, is that pretty much what you're looking for, Al?

Mike Worthen: And then, the other one would be to have UDA and DNR get together to make sure that

whatever rule they pass is sufficient. Because right now, I think it's not.

Dave Black: Okay, do I have a second? K, I have a second from Tammy. Do I have any discussion on the amendment?

Tammy Pearson: I'll second that.

Brayden Richmond: I have a concern with that because we can't make a motion that would require UDA to do anything.

Mike Worthen: No, a recommendation we can.

Brayden Richmond: No, that wasn't what you said.

Mike Worthen: Well, then a motion with a recommendation, that they get that group back together, sure enough, the regulations that are on the books and this new regulation as presented.

Dave Black: Okay. Does that go with your second as well? K. Further comment, Wade?

Wade Heaton: So Mike, I like where you're going with that, I really do. I fear the second half of that might kill the whole thing. We will need a motion to make a recommendation. What if you include the first part as part of your amendment and then after we get done voting, we make another motion to recommend something? Is that cleaner? It feels like it to me.

Brian Johnson: As far as my motion goes, I personally don't care if we let the private landowners trap all the way to the edge of their property or 600 feet from a building, so I'd let that in to my original motion.

Mike Worthen: Okay, then all we're left with is a recommendation at the end.

Dave Black: So is that okay with the second? Okay. So, the original motion as presented with the 600 ft addition to the property line. Okay and we have a second. Do we have any further discussion on the main motion? All those in favor. Okay, it's unanimous. Okay, now Mike.

Mike Worthen: Now the other motion or recommendation that I would make is that we suggest the DNR and the UDAF get together and work out those authority conflicts.

Wade Heaton: We've got to make a motion.

Dave Black: Okay, we're going to make a motion that we recommend that. Do we have a second of that motion?

Wade Heaton: Second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second. Do we have a discussion? All those in favor. Unanimous. Thank you for your help.

The following motion was made by Brian Johnson, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion to accept the Furbearer rule amendments as presented but change the trap registration requirement on private property from 600 feet from a building to 600 feet from property line.

**Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019 (action)
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator**

Dave Black: Okay that is item #5. Now we're going to Item #6. The Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019.

Darrin DeBloois: Okay, while I'm getting this presentation up, just to clarify what you just recommended, was that on private property, trapping rules for coyotes... you can trap if you don't have to mark your traps, right? Okay. So now that we've tackled the rule, the next presentation we'll make some specific recommendations for next year for bobcat and furbearer take. So just quickly, to remind everybody how we manage bobcats in the state of Utah. Bobcats are managed according to the Bobcat Management Plan that was developed through a similar process to the last item we talked about. There was a committee that was put together, looked at all the latest science that was available, talked through issues and came up with some recommendations and so the way that we managed bobcats is by three criteria. We look at those criteria. If two of those criteria are outside of our management perimeters in a way that would negatively affect bobcat populations, we will recommend changes either in season length or the number of bobcat tags that a person can get. If two or more are within, then we recommend no changes, so you can have six bobcat permits per individual. No cap on permits. So let's go through each of these. So the first criteria are the number of juveniles in harvest. We want that to be between 43 and 56 percent. That would indicate a stable or growing bobcat population. So if it's higher than 56 percent, that just means there's more reproduction going on, and that's okay according to plan. If it's lower than 42 percent, that would be one that would be negatively affecting populations potentially and one that we'd want to take a look at. So here's the data on that. This is from 1999 through last season. The percent of juveniles in the harvest, the management targets are there in the dotted red lines and you can kind of see how that's gone---we're right in that spot, just a little bit over 50 percent. This year and the last five years we've been at or above. Again, above is okay. The second criteria are adult survival, so in order to maintain or grow a bobcat population, you have to have a sufficient number of adults survive from year to year in order to reproduce and add to the population. So we want to see that target be between 65 and 72 percent. Again, higher is okay. That just means you've got higher adult survival and you should see a stable increasing bobcat population and it can sustain harvests. If it gets lower than that, we may be seeing a decline in that population and want to do some things to mitigate that.

So here's the data on adult survival. Again, the red dotted lines are the management target. The dark line is the data. You can see that last year, we were actually right on the line at 65 and this year, we're below at just over 55 percent. So this one is outside of our management targets in a negative way. Third criteria are the percent of females in the harvest. If you can maintain a certain acceptable percentage of females in the population, you should expect to see reproduction in a growing population. So in this case, we want that to be lower, well within those management perimeters. So between 41-45. If it's lower than that it means we're not taking a lot of females and they should still be in the population reproducing. If it gets higher than that, we might be having an impact and we might want to take a look at that. So, here's the data on that. Again, red dotted lines, that's the management perimeter and the

dark line is the data. We're right on the upper bounds on this one, so we're within the management criteria, but we are on the upper bound. So just to summarize, here's what the last three years have looked like, with the management range on the right hand side. On this case, we're actually out on one on the adult survival, but the other two are within management objective. So according to plan, we're not recommending any changes this year. There will still be six tags available per individual person. These are the season dates adjusted for the calendar and no cap on the number of permits. And so, other furbearing species: We're recommending the following seasons. These are just the same seasons as last year, adjusted for the calendars, so no change there. That's it.

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC?

Gene Boardman: How do you determine adult survival?

Darrin DeBloois: It's an analysis that's based on the probability of seeing an age distribution at random. There's a lot of statistics. It's called a chi square analysis, but we look at what you'd expect just at random and compare that to the data that we see. Everybody has to check in those cats and we age those using teeth. Through that analysis, you can determine about how many of your adults are surviving year to year and there is some error but it's fairly accurate. So that's how we do it, per say, without having a lecture on statistics, that's kind of how it goes.

Gene Boardman: Sounds like a swag to me. (Laughing)

Darrin DeBloois: Science. (Laughing)

Dave Black: Mike?

Mike Worthen: Have you done any comparison on how fur market impacts take?

Darrin DeBloois: Yeah, generally what drives take is the price of the pelts. But we think with the lower adult survival rate, is a decline in prey. We've seen rabbit populations decline over the last couple of years, and that's driving the decline more than anything else. So we'll have to keep an eye on that. If we see that great base continue to decline with drought and based on the trends we're seeing here, we may see some adjustments in the next year or the year after. It's kind of headed that way.

Dave Black: Okay, anyone else? Do we have any questions in the audience?

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move to the comments section.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, Al, followed by Ron Holt.

Al Robb: Utah Trapper's Association. The primary thing I want to talk about tonight is short and

sweet. On other furbearer season dates. Beaver and mink, marten, badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail spotted skunk and weasel. The start date is September 22, 2018. I would like to see that moved back to October 22, primarily because of primeness of the fur. Granted that a lot of people that understand primeness aren't going to go out there and trap, but there are trappers that will, inexperienced or what have you, that will go out and try to catch those species and it's a waste of a resource because their fur is not prime, a fur buyer won't take them and neither will a taxidermist. So, I'd like to see that start date changed to October 22 for those reasons. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, Ron Holt, followed by JJ Brewer.

Ron Holt: Ron Holt, Utah Trappers. All the states around us have no limits to bobcats. We are limited to six. I would like to see that change that we are unlimited too. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you, JJ?

JJ Brewer: JJ Brewer, Monroe Utah, representing myself. However, I am not a trapper. Never have, probably never will. However, I do have hound dogs, so my thought, comment, or recommendation would be would it ever be possible for a hounds men to purchase a recommended hunter not using traps, purchase a hounds men, a non-trapping tag for bobcats to allow me to pursue to get bobcats with my hound dogs, without taking the trapping course? That's my comment.

Dave Black: Planting the seed sounds like. Okay, do we have any other comment cards on that side? Any comments from the RAC? Mike?

RAC discussion and vote:

Mike Worthen: Now when does the bobcat plan expire or when do you have to do a new one?

Darren DeBloois: Mike, I think that's on a five-year rotation and I believe that was looked at again in 2015, so we'd be up on 2020 to do that again. I'll double check, but I think that's where we're at.

Dave Black: Okay, any other comments from the RAC?

Nick Jorgensen: I've got a question. I guess this is a follow up question to wildlife? What do you perceive the impact would be if you remove the limit from six to unlimited? How would that affect the population?

Darrin DeBloois: I think it depends upon what the dynamics are. I think we'd want to keep the perimeters in place. We would need to have a mechanism in order to limit take. I think when they wrote the plan, the concern wasn't that there is plenty. The concern was on the low end. During that time frame, according to those graphs, we're seeing kind of low numbers on cats and so, I don't know that they thought about it we can get to that point, and do we want to open the gates a little bit more? I would suggest that I think bobcat populations could sustain that if they were in a growth phase and we'd certainly look at that. We'd have to change the plan to do that.

Tammy Pearson: Question while you're standing there---So if we did ask that you change the date that you back it up. Because like I said, I have family that trap, so I understand the benefit of backing that date up. Is that something that has to be with a plan change or is that deadline something that....?

Darrin DeBloois: No, season dates aren't in the plan. I think what they wanted to try and do with the September date was allow people to not necessarily trap for fur to sell, but to maybe do some control work, cause that's the only time you could do some pre-emptive control on some of those species if you had concerns. Biologically, fur wise, Al's 100% right. Those furs aren't prime until later on. It wouldn't worry me from a population standpoint.

Dave Black: Any other questions?

Brayden Richmond: I do have one. Is the license this gentleman was asking, getting bobcat licenses to shoot them with hounds? Is that a furbearer license, not a trapping license, right?

Darrin DeBloois: It is a furbearer license and managed under that.

Dave Black: Okay, do we need to summarize before we make a motion? Do you want to summarize for us, Teresa.

Teresa Griffin: So, we've had suggestions to move the start date back to October 22 for prime fur. Other surrounding states don't limit bobcat take. We should consider being unlimited and then look into can houndsmen chase bobcats without having the requirement of taking a furbearer course and going through that process.

Dave Black: Okay, perfect. Ready for a motion? Brian?

Brian Jones: I make a motion that we pass the recommendation as presented by the Division.

Mike Worthen: Nothing on backing the date?

Dave Black: Now do we have a second on the motion?

Wade Heaton: Yes.

Dave Black: That was by Wade Heaton. Now any discussion or amendments we can address. Mike?

Mike Worthen: I'll make the amendment that we move the start-up date for trapping bobcats to October 22.

Dave Black: K, do we have a second. We have a second by Verland. Any discussion on the amendment?

Wade Heaton: I like the theory, I like where we are going with that, but it's a little bit like me making a motion that we only shoot 180 bucks. In case you need anything below 180 inches, it promotes the resource, makes sure there's more deer, better deer next year, and I actually love that idea, I'd love to make that motion, but at the end of the day, we trounce on the guys that want to shoot a little something for meat, the guys that want to go do it for fun. I'm just struggling with that idea.

Dave Black: Okay, Brayden

Brayden Richmond: I have the same y want thoughts along Wade's thinking too. I don't hear that

we're having a biological impact. I don't see that it's impacting the resources any. It's almost like it's a social issue and if it's a social issue, I really agree with Wade. Why would we limit people on being outdoorsmen, recreating, and enjoying what they want to enjoy, based on our preconceived ideas with what's right and wrong.

Dave Black: Mike?

Mike Worthen: One thing I don't think you're taking into consideration is the condition of the fur at that time. You're wasting a resource. Yes, you are, Brian. And have you ever taken a fur and sold it?

Brian Johnson: Not everyone that traps sells their furs.

Mike Worthen: But who's going to keep a non-prime fur to hang on their wall?

Brian Johnson: Who's going to hang a two-point deer on the wall?

Mike Worthen: You're apples and oranges, Brian.

Brian Johnson: That's my point, Mike, is just because I want to enjoy the outdoors a certain way, and doesn't mean I gotta force that on everybody else.

Mike Worthen: No, and I'm not saying you can't enjoy the outdoors, but the reason bobcats are trapped, is for the fur. 99.9 percent of trapping down that bobcat is sold, whether you agree with it or not, it is! And if it isn't, it's probably spoiled.

Riley Roberts: I'd just like a clarification. We're not talking about bobcats. I believe we're talking about marten, badger, gray fox, etc.

Mike Worthen: I don't think so. The start-up date for the bobcat tracking is.....

Riley Roberts: Hold on. Let me finish. I know what your amendment was, but the recommendation was on the other furbearer dates moving back. Just FYI

Mike Worthen: I don't think so.

Brayden Richmond: Mike I just have one more comment there, too. I agree with you. 99.9 percent of bobcats are trapped for fur and 99.9 percent of trappers aren't trapping until October 21. Why are we regulating the .04?

Mike Worthen: You may have some inexperienced trappers that want to get out there and catch that slim bobcat margin.

Brayden Richmond: I hear what you're saying, and I'm not saying you're wrong, but it's a minimal impact for the resource, we just have different opinions.

Mike Worthen: Well, that's fine. And it also doesn't have the impact on the population.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, that's my thought.

Dave Black: Brian, did you have a comment?

Brian Johnson: If they're trapping for money and they can't sell the fur, it's called personal responsibility, they'll figure it out. I mean, I agree with you Mike, I just don't know why we've got to regulate it. Let 'em figure it out.

Mike Worthen: Then, why do we even have a September date?

Dave Black: Okay, we have an amendment and a second. Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

Riley Roberts: I'd just like a clarification for the minutes and for me... on what exactly are we talking about? The dates for the bobcats are already set for November. The other dates were September 22. Those are the ones we were talking about moving to October. I would please like some clarification before we try to move the bobcat from November to September? October?

Darrin DeBloois: So these are the dates you're talking about. There's the bobcat.

Brayden Richmond: I changed my mind, I support Mike's motion. If I've got to get up, you've got to get up Al.

Dave Black: Please come to the mic, Al.

Al Robb: You mentioned about maybe doing control work on some of these species. Doesn't that fall under depredation or something like that?

Darrin DeBloois: Yes, if there's an active situation, you're authorized to do that. So what I was thinking about is if you don't have an animal actively into your chickens, but you want to try and lower the population, you'd be able to start a little bit earlier, but that's really the only reason. The reason it's not earlier than that is because you've got the young of the year that we're concerned about over thinning and we want to make sure people aren't....

Al Robb: The point I wanted to make is if someone is having problems with those animals killing their chickens or whatever, they contact the Division to get a depredation permit or something like that, isn't that correct?

Darrin DeBloois: They can get a permit or they can just take it in, but they have to take it in within 48 hours.

Al Robb: Okay. But we're concerned with the resource right? Thank you,

Darrin DeBloois: I understand.

Dave Black: Okay. Any further discussion?

Brayden Richmond: I guess I've got some questions. We have the amendment on the table, but the amendment now will be moving the date forward, so I'm wondering can we withdraw it? Would you

want to withdraw it just to clean this up? Or do we need to vote on the amendment?

Mike Worthen: Well, I'm still stuck on the impacts of the resource because you're taking more bobcats at that time when it's good trapping weather. When the winter comes, you're limited by freezing traps, and therefore, I think a lot of unnecessary bobcats are going to be trapped and then it may impact how many you're going to trap the next year.

Brayden Richmond: But your amendment is to move the dates earlier in the year? Currently, the date is November 14 and you're asking for it to be October 22?

Mike Worthen: Okay, I misunderstood. I thought we were talking about September 22. Okay, then I stand corrected. I withdraw.

Dave Black: Okay, now we have a motion to pass as presented. Is that correct? All those in favor. Thank you.

Darrin DeBlois: Mike, I checked the bobcat plan. It was reviewed in 2016 and it's on a 10 year cycle, so it wouldn't be up in the plan until 2026, but the Board can direct us to do that anytime and we're always looking at the latest data trying to make things better and the Division could initiate a review of that as well. But that's the schedule.

Dave Black: Thank you. Item #7 is Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019.

The following motion was made by Brian Johnson seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make a motion that we accept as presented

**Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019 (action)
- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator**

Dave Black: Okay, now we've moved through the controversial stuff

Darrin DeBlois: Well good, now that we've moved on to something a little less contentious. So here are 2019 Mountain Lion Recommendations. Just quickly, I just want to remind everybody how we manage cougars in the state of Utah. They are managed according to the Utah Management Plan. That plan was enacted in 2015. This is the plan that's on the five year. I was confusing the two. So, every five years it's up for review and it runs through 2025. That plan was put together by the Cougar Advisory Group. It had a broad cross section of interest groups including houndsmen, mule deer enthusiasts, and sportsmen for fish and wildlife, non-consumptive, scientists. A big group. They met multiple times. They reviewed all the latest science that was available at the time and came up with these recommended management perimeters and a goal. So, the statewide goal for cougar management in Utah is to maintain a healthy cougar population within their current distribution, while at the same time, considering human safety, economic concerns, other wildlife species, and maintaining a hunting tradition in the state. It defines a healthy cougar population as one that has a reasonable proportion of older age animals, breeding females, healthy individuals that are in balance with its natural prey and has genetic variability through the population and throughout the state. So how does that get implemented?

Similar to bobcats, we have management perimeters. For lions, there are two. First Perimeter: We want to maintain a percent of females in the harvest below 40 percent over the three years proceeding the recommendation cycle. We pool three years worth of data and look at that and the reason we do that is to try to avoid a lot of herky-jerky management decisions year to year. We average those data over three years and that smoothes out the curve a little bit. We're not quite jumping all over the place like we might if something weird happens in one given year. The second perimeter is to maintain in a harvest over the last three years, a percent of adults over five years between 15 and 20 percent. The first perimeter is to maintain the reproducing section of the population. The second objective is to maintain older age class individuals that tend to establish larger territories and also are able to breed. Now, we do this on a unit by unit basis and so the recommendations you'll see tonight on a statewide level when you sum all of those numbers up, is just the sum of each individual units recommendation. So, each district biologist is making a recommendation based on what their concern is, what their analysis is on an individual unit. The other thing that is important to point out is that the plan allows for adjustments to recommendations on units where prey populations are under objective when we feel like lions are contributing to that. The other thing that we look at is livestock. If we've got livestock problems we can recommend outside of these perimeters in order to address those problems, in addition to other tools that we have. So how do we hunt? There are three hunt strategies that you'll see in the recommendations. The first is a pure limited entry season. That's just like you'd see for big game. There are a set number of permits; you have to draw a permit. That's all the people that get to hunt there. When the season's over, it's over. If everybody's not successful, whoever is successful takes home the lion and the other folks go home empty-handed. The second strategy is a split unit. On this unit, it's limited entry to begin with, but any lions that haven't been harvested, say there's ten permits, and there's four left over, those then become a quota after the limited entry portion of the season ends and then there would be a harvest objective portion for anyone who had a harvest objective permit, the state could hunt there until that quota is filled. Once they take the additional four lions, the hunt would shut down. The final strategy is just pure harvest objective. This is a straight quota. We set a set number of lions we want taken from a unit. It's open to anybody that wants to purchase a harvest objective over the counter. They can go hunt there until the quota is filled and then the unit shuts down. And then there's a pursuit opportunity as well, which is an opportunity to track lions with hounds, but not to kill the lion once it's treed. So getting along to some data... This graph shows historic hunter harvest since 1990. The light blue line there is overall harvest, that's just the number of male and female mountain lions combined, that are taken in the state. The darker blue line is males. The salmon colored line are females. So you can kind of see what those trends look like in the mid to late nineties. That's been the highest lion take recently; it dropped off quite a bit, but over the last four or five years, it's been increasing. For the most part among the male side, mostly males, have accounted for that increase. Females have been fairly stable, but a little bit of a bump last year in the number of females taken in the state. This graphic just shows the proportion of males and females in the harvest and so that first perimeter, we're trying for 40 percent or less. This is statewide, so this is everything put together. Again, we look at this on a unit by unit basis and make recommendations based on that, but when you pull everything and put it together, this is where we've been. So, the bottom part is the proportion of females in the harvest and the top blue part is the proportion of the males. The red dotted line is the management perimeter. We want to be under that, according to the plan. The next graph depicts the number of livestock depredation incidences and the number of cougars that have been removed as a result of those incidences. So, if you're a livestock producer and you go out and find some dead livestock, you'd initiate a report with Wildlife Services, typically. Wildlife Services comes out, verifies what the cause is so they will officially verify to us that it's a lion kill and then regardless of the number of animals taken, whether it's one or two or ten, that's an incident, and so we track that trend over time; the number of times Wildlife Services gets called out because a lion's depredating. You can see that was in decline since about 2012, until 2016, and we've

seen an increase the last three years on that, about five incidences a year over the last couple of years. And then, as a result of those incidences, Wildlife Services will try and take the lion that is causing the damage and that's what that red line below indicates how that has trended. You can see that trend is up a little bit as well. One other thing before we move into unit by unit recommendations. So we have these management perimeters, but we also do some other things behind the scenes to try to look at what we think is going on with mountain lions, and one of those things is a population reconstruction. I think I've talked about this. We did a training up in Salt Lake about this and so I won't get too far in the weeds, but it's basically trying to generate a minimum population based on the lions we see harvested. So, if you take a lion, you've got to turn it in to us. We have our hands on that lion. We know the sex, we know the age from teeth. If you know that last year you harvested ten four year olds on a statewide basis, (it's more than that, but let's just use ten because the math is easy) you know that you had at least ten three year olds the year before in order for them to be four year olds and harvested the following year. You can do that. You just back calculate and you add at each level. What you can do there is go back in time and figure out in order to harvest these lions and see them show up in our offices, how many lions do we have to have in order to sustain that harvest? What that would generate, and what's more important than a number, (because that's a minimum), we know there's more lions than what we see killed, it gives you a trend. So, we're able to then calculate what's going on with the lion population, based on that population reconstruction. And that has shown us over the last decade or so, we've been growing mountain lions in the state as a whole. The trend has been up. We see that we're seeing a leveling off in the trend numbers in the last couple of years. If you lay that trend on top of the mule deer numbers, the population of mule deer growth, they almost mirror each other, except that over the last couple of years, we've seen a decline in mule deer. This is typical predator-prey stuff. You see the lions continue to grow and lag behind, and now we're possibly seeing some leveling, but that's based on one year of data, so I want to be cautious, but I just wanted to inform the RAC of how things look.

So based on all of that, here are unit by unit recommendations. What I'll do in the interest of time, I'm just going to point out changes from last year. Obviously, if you're interested in particular units, we can come back to it. So first of all, for the northern region, their recommending increasing permits. Let me just explain this a little bit. So in this column here, one of the things in the plan I mentioned, is that we can take into account, prey populations and manage cougar populations accordingly. And so, if a unit qualifies for predator management, because we have species of concern, it will be in this column here. DHS bighorn sheep and we'll see some for here as well. If it doesn't qualify; in other words the prey base seems to be doing fine, the lions are probably not exerting any kind of top down pressure, then it will say no and will be managed according to the plan. This was the harvest strategy and if this has changed in portends? It will be what it was last year and this is what we're recommending it be changed to. For Box Elder Desert, we're recommending an increase of five permits and changing it from a split unit to a harvest objective unit. On the Raft Rivers we're recommending an increase of two permits. On the Box Elder Desert, we've got some depredation concerns out there. The Raft Rivers is just within the actual perimeters, so we're recommending more opportunity. East Canyon- we're recommending an increase of five permits and switching it from limited entry to split. This is another one where we've seen a lot of depredation concerns on that unit. It's mostly private and Wildlife Services has been taking some lions. It's also within the perimeters. The access is the bottleneck on these kinds of units with private land and so it looks like there are two things going on, there's opportunity to be had. In addition, what going to a split would do is once that limited entry season stops, landowners can go get a permit over the counter and try to take a lion that may still be impacting them. During the winter time, obviously the depredation is taking place at a different time. They could go and try and preemptively take some out. We always like to see sportsmen have an opportunity to take these Wildlife Services if

we can do it. Morgan, South Rich, similar strategy. On the Ogden unit, we're actually below objective. On females in the harvest are up because above would be more appropriate. They're above 40 percent, so they're recommending two changes. One is reduce it by one permit and switching from a harvest objective to split. The idea here is that if we go to split, people might be a little more selective and we may see a drop in that percent of females in the harvest and then one less permit could help with that so we can monitor that. So, we're moving on to the northeastern region, no recommended changes on these units. On the south slope Bonanza Diamond Mountain Vernal, recommending an increase of four permits. On the Wasatch Mountains of -----Wildcat, an increase of five. On the Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek north, an increase of three. Central Mountains, Nebo west face, increase of three. Central Mountains northwest Manti from nine to eleven. Central Mountain, southwest Manti increase from twelve to eighteen. Ochre Stansbury, an increase from twelve to fourteen and changing that from limited entry to split. On the Wasatch Mountain Cascades and Wasatch Mountains Timpanogos, both of those are over objective on their females in the harvest so they're recommending a decrease in permits on those units. On the west desert Tintic Vernon, an increase from nine to twelve. Southern region. On the Beaver, increasing from nine to thirteen. On the Fillmore Pahvant, an increase from fourteen to nineteen. Just quickly, on unlimited units, there's a few of these in the state. In order to qualify as an unlimited unit, this is a unit that's typically remote. It has a bighorn sheep population and very little alternative prey, so if mountain lions can get into those populations, they can have a quick impact on the sheep population that we're either transplanting or trying to grow and they're hard to hunt and there aren't that many lions and so we can be Unlimited. We usually we take one or two a year. I think the idea is that someone is out there doing something else, they can have a lion tag in their pocket, and if they see one, they can take it. On the Monroe, recommending increase from nine to fifteen. On the Panguitch Lake, an increase from ten to twelve. On the Pahnsaugunt, we're recommending that we keep the numbers the same, but we switch from harvest objective unit to a split and we're also recommending a season change that I'll get to here in a minute at the end. How many years, Teresa, have you had ten? Or Josh...three or four years at ten in quota on the Pahns?

Josh Pollock: Yes.

Darrin DeBloois: We just don't fill that quota. We just don't hit it. So, we're trying to get a little bit creative. The thinking here is that if we go to a split, then ten people will draw a permit and they can only hunt the Pahnsaugunt and with the season dates, I'll show you how that works into our strategy in a minute here. Pine Valley north increase of two. Plateau Boulder and increase of two. On the Zion an increase of three. On the Plateau Thousand Lakes change from harvest objective to split. Moving onto the southeastern region, Central Mountains northeast Manti, they're recommending an increase of three. Central Mountains southeast Manti, increase of four. No changes on these units. That's all the unit by unit stuff. Just a little informational graphic here on how the breakdown between harvest objective units and split or limited entry units has gone since 2015 when the plan was redone, we've trended towards harvest objective and this year we're about 51 percent limited entry or split and 49 percent harvest objective. Season dates, limited entry, we're just recommending adjusting for the calendar year, so no change there. On splits, again for all the split units except the Pahnsaugunt, we're recommending the same season as last year. What we're going to recommend on the Pahnsaugunt is that open the same as the harvest objective on the rest of the state that remains open throughout the rest of the year. The idea here is for a lot of these units, that harvest objective season will close. They'll fill their quota usually by February or March and this would leave the Pahnsaugunt open through the summer if someone had a harvest objective tag and they wanted to go there, they could go there and hunt. This is an effort to try and see if we can get closer to that quota. I know all the issues about hunting lions in the summer and the Pahnsaugunt is particularly difficult. You just don't get the conditions that you often do in other

parts of the state. We want to try and see if we can get a little bit, or a better harvest on the Pahnsaugunt and we only want to have the Pahnsaugunt do this just so that it's the only game in town, so to speak. Slight change. Harvest objective and Unlimited used to have different seasons. Unlimited basically ran year round. Harvest objective had a three day window between the time it closed and opened for the next year. We're just recommending that both seasons run year round. Obviously, on harvest objective, if they meet the quota, they close and then the pursuit season again, just adjust it for the calendar. A couple of informational items just so the RAC is aware. Many of you remember, with the big game recommendations last fall, we passed; the Board passed some changes to the archery equipment requirements, so poundage, and stuff like that. So we're just changing that language in the rule as for the direction of the Wildlife Board, so that archery equipment is the same over across all of our rules and finally uh, a couple of things. Actually one with local interest, but we're beginning a five year PhD study with USU to look at mountain lion female survival, kitten survival, predator/prey relationships, and cougar and bear interactions in three units in the state, the Cache, the Book Cliffs, and probably the Manti. We're still working that out. But, in addition to that, we're really curious-looking at how mountain lions interact with migration quarters on the Pahnsaugunt with the deer. BYU is interested in collaring some lions down there and we are going to work with the region to get some lions on the air and see how lions react to some of those deer movements that we see that are pretty unique in the state. And that's it.

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, um, I have a question for you before you turn it over to the rest of the RAC. If you have a cougar that has a collar on it, is there a restriction?

Darrin DeBloois: We aren't going to recommend any restrictions at this time.

Dave Black: Okay.

Darrin DeBloois: But it would be taken. And we are interested in looking at survival, so we'd want to capture that, although we would easily identify it as a female. Some folks may pass, but it won't be illegal to take one with a collar.

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

Brayden Richmond: My first question-well-let me ask the question and then I'll tell you why I'm asking it. As I'm looking at this, the female harvest is relatively static. The female percentage of harvest is actually trending downwards over a long term trend. So, percentage is actually trending downward. Now, the only thing I see here is that maybe is a little concerning is age class has dropped the last three years, but overall it is actually fairly static also. So, in the interest of me getting some clarity and maybe with questions that I see coming up, what we're really discussing here is not a biological impact in cougars by raising the permits. What we are really discussing is trophy quality.

Darrin DeBloois: Right, that's how age would play into it, sure. And when you look at those two parameters, the one that is the most important is females in the harvest for marinating a population state wide. And age is somewhat secondary, but it's mainly to do with the size of the animals that are on the landscape.

Brayden Richmond: So, biologically we're fine. What we're really talking about is---? Now, my second question that goes along with that. Do we have any units identified as trophy cougar units, where we're managing for an age class, similar to what we do with deer or elk?

Darrin DeBloois: No.

Brayden Richmond: So currently we don't have trophy cougar units?

Darrin DeBloois: Right.

Dave Black: Verland?

Verland King: I'm curious; do you have any data on the last depredation? Such as how old the lion was that was taken-that was causing a problem. Are they young, are they old, and are they male, female?

Darrin DeBloois: I don't think there's a trend there. It seems like we do have ages on that, but I haven't got any- you might think that young ones are doing this because they are less experienced and they take the easy prey, but I think that it just varies by incident. It just depends on the animal involved.

Verland King: Yeah, alright. I called a couple of government trappers for the state, but I couldn't get a hold of any to find out what their stance was on that, but that's something that I was curious about.

Darrin DeBloois: That's something I can pull together, Verland, for you. We have those ages, but, again, looking at it, I never had anything pop out at me as "Oh look, these are all young cats" It just seems like- some of the sheep guys that I have up north will say that it is actually the females with kittens that hit them pretty hard. But, I don't know if that's supporting the data or not. I just don't know.

Verland King: Alright. So it looks like last year the incidents reported were around 65 and the number removed was 24. So, we're not removing enough.

Darrin DeBloois: Yeah, it's not for the lack of trying. But, yeah, they don't just- sometimes they just can't catch them. So, ideally, you would want to get the lion that did the killing, but we aren't always able to do that. So, secondarily, when we make our unit by unit RAC accommodations, we may recommend, just in general, so when you look at these, if it's a 5 permit increase, with probably a depredation incident on that or a grey concern. If it's 2 or 3, that's usually just opportunity.

Verland King: Okay, just another question is we received a bunch of emails from all over the world. Are they quoting some study that's been done somewhere that you are aware of?

Darrin DeBloois: There are a couple of things that have come out lately that I see over and over again in those emails and when I sit down with those groups. One is a study out of Colorado that was done by Ken Logan on the plateau where he saw that from collaring lions that if you harvest more than 10 to 15 percent of the independent adults, that you'd see a decline in populations. A couple of things on that; one is that if that's true- and I have no reason to doubt that, because he had a lot of lions on the year, and he had a pretty good idea of how many lions he had- we would have seen a decline in our population if we were harvesting that many. And we didn't, so I just don't think that we're there. We may be starting to get there. The second study that comes up a lot was a study that ??? Did where they looked at the number of incidents of livestock depredation and compared that to the trend in the harvest of the lions. I

think that it was in Montana. It could have been Wyoming. They are correlated, and ours are correlated. We see an increase in harvest and we see an increase in livestock depredation. Be real careful about confusing correlation with causation. The next question is what would cause that? It could be a lot of different things and that paper doesn't address causes, it suggests that it's sort of the young social structure aspect of things, but the study didn't examine- there's no data on that portion.

Verland King: Alright, if you could can you email me those studies, because a lot of times, you need to look at it hard to see whether the study was done right, or who was doing it, because a lot of times they extrapolate data from it that shouldn't be there and it isn't repeatable.

Darrin DeBloois: Yeah, the correlation is based on real data. And again, we see a similar thing in Utah. The next step would be to look at the ages of cougars involved and see if it is young cougars or not. Again, I don't think that we are seeing that here, I don't know about there. That was something that they didn't look at.

Verland King: Okay, thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: My question was similar on the livestock depredation, that there was a big number. Are there pockets of that? And then you also said that incidents could be anywhere from one animal to how many?

Darrin DeBloois: Yeah, just depends on the- I can look and see what the max was, but the one that I'm thinking of was a bear incident and it was kind of a weird one. It can be one to ten, one to fifteen, somewhere in that range, usually I would say. And if it comes back-they add to that all the time- it may not be one night, it killed ten, but it may come back multiple times.

Tammy Pearson: So there wasn't any particular unit that was a huge problem?

Darrin DeBloois: So there were a couple that stood out if you look at it by county. Morgan and Summit counties we hit the most, at about 13 each. I should look, Tammy, because I think that Beaver had 5 or something like that. I've got that-let me look.

Tammy Pearson: I know we've had some neighbors that have had some big issues.

Darrin DeBloois: One of the things on livestock side that is important to mention is that we pay compensation on verified kills, but that is capped. You may hear from some of your producers tonight that last year, we paid 83 cents on the dollar because we had to pro rate because we out stripped the budget and this year we had to pay 76 cents on the dollar. As those increase, and this includes bear, everything is thrown into the same pool. That's concerning to us. Our objective would to be- we don't necessarily need more money, but we need to make sure that the money we have can pay for the damage that occurs. We need to manage to try and keep the damages below that cap.

Brayden Richmond: Refresh my memory, what makes a predator management unit, particularly with bighorn sheep?

Darrin DeBloois: Um, I think all of our bighorn sheep technically qualify if they are below 90% of the

population objective.

Brayden Richmond: That was my understanding. If that's accurate, I guess the question that I have is in the last board meeting, it was authorized to transplant sheep onto the Mineral Mountains. Have we looked at making that a separate unit so that we can do predator management?

Darrin DeBloois: That would be up to the region. I think that we want to do that prior to- so we'll leave that up to Teresa and her biologists. Typically, Brayden, we do that.

Brayden Richmond: I'll save my comment, but I want to come back and comment on this during the comment period, because that's part of the strategy that we discussed with the cattlemen there, that this would be some help to them also.

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the audience? We will be moving into the comment portion next, but if you have any questions or clarifications? Make sure to state your name.

Questions from the Public:

Mike Hansen: Michael Hansen. On the incidents, how many incidents did you say there was?

Darrin DeBloois: Seventy this year, sixty five last year, and fifty five the year before.

Mike Hansen: Okay, but that's only on your confirmed?

Darrin DeBloois: Right. Those were times that wildlife services got called out and confirmed that a lion was the culprit.

Mike Hansen: So those are skewed numbers then. My other question that really irked me when I saw your unlimited hunt; how come you get to protect your sheep, but we don't get to protect our sheep from your animal? And as far as the compensation money, yes, you need to up it because you owe me six thousand on what you limit it down to. Just saying, and that's just on verified.

Dave Black: Any further questions?

Jared Higgins: My question would be those depredations; do they count towards your quarter numbers?

Darrin DeBloois: They do not factor in to the management numbers, but we do look at that. When a biologist sees, one that I can think of this year was Morgan's south ridge where they took four lions; wildlife services took an additional four and then there was some other depredation and then one got hit by a car. So, we want to look at that. In that case, it's still with management parameters. As a biologist, you may want to adjust your permits the following year based on that.

Jared Higgins: What about automobile mortality?

Darrin DeBloois: We look at all of that when it comes in. The numbers on the spread sheet don't include that.

Dave Black: Okay. Let's go to the comment section. We were given a number of comment cards. Please limit your comments to three minutes apiece.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: The first one is Greg Jensen, followed by Paul.

Greg Jensen: Greg Jensen from Richfield. I was blessed to have a grandfather purchase four sections on top of the Monroe Mountain. We have family cabins and have just grown up there. It's just been my backyard. I've seen the highs and lows from deer and elk to the absolute low of deer. I did a quick little Google search today at between 7000 and 8000 foot and made a lap around the Monroe Mountain. The reason I did it at that elevation is our family has cameras that we've had up there for years and if you do that lap quick around the Monroe, you end up with about 105 miles. The highway is going to be a little bit longer because you can get a little bigger border. In our little section of cameras, on that elevation over the last four years, the number increase of cougar sightings has just been dramatic. In 2015, we had three different cats and four of the sixteen cameras had a picture of a cat and we saw one animal in view. In 2016, we figured we saw five different lions. Four of the sixteen cameras had pictures of different lions. Again, many pictures of lions, but we figured there were just four lions, but we saw two lions. In 2017, nine of the sixteen cameras had pictures of cats and we figured we were at eight different lions. This year, 2018, twelve of the sixteen cameras have pictures of lions. We figure we're at ten. We've seen three this year, and saw five last year so far. In view of just being out and about, I was lucky enough this winter, so I went ice fishing on top of the Monroe every Saturday and a lion hunter that I witnessed three Saturdays in a row, had a lion treed. One day was two and the one Saturday on three canyons just north of this, had three lions treed at the same time. If you look at it from our north camera to our south camera, is a five mile stretch. I figure there's really close to ten lions and the very north of that, he had three lions caught. If you do the math, of that 105 mile stretch and that number of lions, there are 210 lions on the Monroe, but to go from nine to fifteen, doesn't put a dent in the population. In speaking to the wildlife biologist, the minimum number of depredation on deer he figures is 25 percent and this is from GPS collared does that they were doing the study on for fawns. Recruitment in deer is not 25 percent, and if we're killing 25 percent each and every year, our deer population right now is horrible and it's just going downhill extremely fast.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll have to cut you off.

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Niemeyer, representing SFW. Our first recommendation is for all the cougar recommendations by the DWR. Secondly, we want to support some recommendations by the houndsmen, making the Book Cliffs unit a split cougar unit, which should give Utah residents a little more hunting opportunity. We'd also support the option of reporting cougar harvest with GPS reporting, just like we're doing with coyotes. Those are the three issues that we've got. Thank you.

Dave Black: Next will be Stanton Gleave. Followed by J.C. Wolstenhulme.

Stanton Gleave: Hello I'm Stanton Gleave, I'm President of the Piute County Ranchers Association, but I'm mostly here representing myself tonight. You probably all heard me before. I'd given up on you. I wasn't going to come back to another RAC meeting. I've about decided they don't do any good. If you had ten ranchers on that Board, I think you'd see a whole new situation. As I look around tonight, there aren't too many people that are much older than me. I got a comment that this gentleman right here, he's telling the truth when he said in our younger days there was no law on our trapping. Good heck, we

all trapped and we took care of those predators. And the predators, I don't care which one it is, they're so far out of control that, my heck, go take care of them. If you take care of those cougars and those coyotes, you could raise deer, and in Piute County that's what we want. We'd like to see a deer herd back and we'd like to see them out of the fields. Because of those two animals, what few deer we have is right in the fields there. You know, I heard a comment when I came in here tonight about all the fires burning. While the reason those fires are burning, is because of forty years of mismanagement by a Forest Service bunch of people, and that's the only reason they're burning. If you don't log it or you don't graze it, you burn it. This Fish and Game bunch right here is no different. Forty years of mismanagement, you have no deer! When you have no deer and you have no sage hens, no pheasants, my hell, take care of the predators! I guess it must be you two that do it, because I go to the state, and I say hey, I pay predator control. What does predator control mean? Does that mean I just watch my shepherd get eaten up? Or does that mean that somebody pays me for it? They don't pay me for it; they say go to the RAC Board. Well, here I am to the RAC Board. That little small amount of fifteen cougars on Mt. Dutton won't even touch them. Maybe if you took a hundred, maybe you might start putting a dent in 'em. Last year, I lost 800 lambs after they were docked—800! I was up there the other day, up in West Hunt Creek and there was a nice big lamb bit right in two by coyotes. And just up the creek a ways, a fawn deer chewed to pieces and before long here comes two Fish and Game officers by me. They said, "Do you know these coyotes are killing your deer?" They don't care! You guys all get paid. If your deer herds are wiped out, you still get your money. When my sheep herd is gone, it comes out of my pocket. The Constitution of the United States says that private property will be protected in this country and if we have to I guess a sheriff will have to take over and protect our property,

Dave Black: We're going to have you wrap it up.

Stanton Gleave: I don't know, but it's up to you people to take care of them animals right there...those cougars and those coyotes! Thank you.

Dave Black: J.C. followed by Jared Higgins.

Stanton Gleave: I want to say one more thing, when you take care of them animals, you'll have your bobcats back and these houndsmen can chase bobcats like we did when we were kids.

J.C. Wolstenhulme: I'm J.C. Wolstenhulme and I'm supporting the Utah Houndsmen Association proposal. These are the guys that spend the time and money out there and work hard to find a lion to chase. I'm not saying yeah, you have your days when you can catch more than one or two, but these are the guys that spend the time looking for that too. Because that's what we enjoy, instead of the deer, the elk, and that stuff. That's not our hobby. We enjoy chasing lions and we should have the same amount of right to go out there, because we spend a lot of time and money just looking for one to chase to take a picture of, so I support their propositions.

Dave Black: Thank you. And Jared followed by Jeff.

Jared Higgins: Jared Higgins representing The Utah Houndsman's Association. Do you all have a copy of that recommendation? Okay. You've probably all read it, so I'm just going to skim over it. The Utah Houndsmen Association has reviewed and discussed the DWR's 2018 Cougar Recommendations for the upcoming year. The Utah Houndsmen Association cannot support such a drastic increase of the tags as this is not sound management. The Houndsmen Association recognizes that the proposed increases do fall within the management plan. The DWR has increased cougar permits drastically over

the last two to three years. The Houndsmen Association does not feel that the cougar population is increasing and believes that in very few areas it is stable or stabilizing. An increase in tag allocations across the state is not warranted and is not the best management practice for cougars. We make the following recommendations: 1) that the Book Cliffs East cougar unit be moved from a harvest objective to a split. Last year, it was nearly an 80 percent cougar killed by a non-resident; 2) The Monroe cougar unit have a zero increase; they're proposing a 67 percent increase on that unit; 3) That the Central Mountains, southwest Manti, have a zero increase; they're increasing it 35 percent on that and last year they raised them by three. They've also moved it to a split from a harvest objective and with those, it went to almost a 200 percent tag increase, and 4) The GPS coordinates. We'd like to see GPS coordinates of all the cougar kills when they're checked in. That wraps that up. So separately, I'd just like to say, the gentleman that has the trail cameras, the reason why you're seeing a lot more lions in a lot more smaller place, is that there's no more adult lions to run those lions off, to disperse them. Cougar dispersement works that way. When they reach 18 months old, the adults run 'em off or eat 'em. When you don't have adult lions, you have packs of lions now staying together, hunting smaller areas. Also, to these units that they're having a problem even meeting a harvest on, they're opening them wide open and no cougars are getting killed on, but they're increasing the tags on Monroe, Beaver, Dutton. Why are you going to go down and hunt on the Pahnsaugunt when you can hunt on the Monroe? You're not going to do it. But if you limit those tags a little bit, an outfitter like myself, I've got clients coming in, I'm going to go down and hunt what's open and some of these start filling up, it's going to push us out onto some of those units that you guys want lions killed on. All in all, the quality of lions we're seeing out there, they're young. They're two year old lions, at best, that we're finding most everywhere.

You know, I spend forty to ninety days in a field every year and I've watched it. I got into the hounds because I was a disgruntled deer hunter. Monroe Mountain...never missed a deer hunt since I was six years old out there. I wreaked havoc on the lions out there, legally, and everybody that had a tag, I took 'em and I cleaned house. Guess what? It didn't help the deer a bit. They went down, so all this is garbage. It's a tiny drop in a bucket, compared to what's getting hit by cars, what's getting poached, what's getting over harvested, like doe permits. You know, it always comes back to the cougars, the cougars, the cougars! It's a small drop in the bucket. (bell rings)

Dave Black: Jeff Brewer followed by Michael Hansen

Jeff Brewer: Hello, I'm Jeff Brewer, just representing myself. I've been coming to these meetings and been chasing hounds for 36 years now. Here's my recommendations based off my observations. I'll start with the Beaver unit. We're willing to support a small increase. One of the problems we have with the DWR, sorry guys, is they swing hard one way too fast. They don't move in small increments, so the Beaver unit we would support an increase from 9-11. The reason being is that unit is within its recommended amounts. It's below the female harvest. It shows some adult males. We're okay with a couple there, but swinging clear up, just doesn't make biological sense. On the Fillmore unit, which gets its ?? pounded to death, we would recommend no increase. It's got 14 tags, it gets hunted super hard. If you look at the data again, the Fillmore unit has a very low percentage of cats with any age—20 percent. Females are still under the quota, but they're young cats. The other interesting thing I want to point out on the deer in the Beaver unit is in 2015, we gave 3000 deer tags and in 2016, we gave 3150 deer tags, in 2017 we gave 3350 deer tags. So deer is not an issue because we're increasing the tags. Correct? Okay. Fillmore, same thing. In 2015, we gave 2100 tags, in 2016, we gave 2,200 tags; in 2017 we gave 2400 tags, and proposed for 2018, is 2500 tags, so not a big deal. Jump to Monroe unit. The Monroe unit increase from 9 to 15 is out there. I hunt the Monroe hard. I've seen Greg on the Monroe a whole bunch of times. I chase lions on the Monroe. Last year's harvest on them. Here's the

ages, actual true ages of lions: 3, 4, 4, 2, 3, 1, 2 years old. Not one lion over 5 years old on the Monroe. Not one. Same thing with the Monroe on tags: 1500 in 2015, 1550 in 2016, and 1550 in 2017. Anyway, we'd recommend and we'd be willing to work with the DWR and do eleven tags on the Monroe. The Fish Lake we sustain and we agree with the DWR, we'll stay at 16. The Pahnsaugunt, I'll let Hunter give that recommendation, I don't know what to do with that recommendation. I do notice that your female harvest is over their criteria. So by your management plan, you should decrease the Pahnsaugunt, according to your management plan, its 48 percent females; Anyway, I'm not saying you'd do that. I'm just saying that there are things that need to be looked at. (bell rings)

Dave Black: Sorry.

Jeff Brewer: Okay, thank you.

Dave Black: So Michael followed by Dan Riddle.

Michael Hansen: I only meant to ask about the path? But I was still reeling about the unlimited numbers. I definitely support increasing the numbers across the board. I think that is fabulous, but I'm still not impressed that they can protect their livestock and we can't with Unlimited numbers.

Dave Black: Thank you. Dan and then following will be Hunter Mecham.

Dan Riddle: Dan Riddle from Central Valley, I just want to say I support the Utah Houndsmen Association's recommendations. We've got a big group of Houndsmen that are out there through the winter, seeing these numbers and these lions and they know those numbers are there. These proposed numbers are a detriment to the lion population. Now, from a personal perspective, I'd like to talk just for a minute. I have two sons, a 14 and a 15 year old, and they love the sport and they're into the sport, and in essence, they're the future tools, to maintain a generation of population control. That's a primary population tool; they're control for cougar population. The concern I have is with limiting and lowering these numbers, there's a reason why there's such an outcry from the Hounds men's Association, because they see those lion's numbers every day, and they know that's a detriment to the sport as well. So leaving that aside, I want to talk about future tools. I take my boys out and there's not a lion track to chase or pursuit and they lose interest quick. If we've got game or something to pursue, they're gung-ho. So by eliminating or lowering these numbers, you're also lowering and hurting yourself in generations in that predator control and I truly believe that with these younger boys that are losing this interest that's there and so, with that being said, and I don't think those numbers are there. You know, I read an article from our state mammal coordinator, through the Associated Press last year that estimated the cougar numbers for Utah between 1900 and 4000. That's a huge contrast. I mean really, 1900 to 4000 is crazy and that's an article that was written in the U.S. News and you're cited with those numbers. Is that correct? (Some mumbled discussion in background) I don't want to lose my time, but that's a true statement. Okay, but that's what's being put out through the Associated Press and the public, so you put those numbers out and there's a persona that's out there. I mean, if you propose 653 lion tags this year and you've only got 1900 cougars that are cited by our coordinator, I mean you've disseminated that population, and these guys see that number and that amount and so there's a reason for that outcry. I think there's a fine balance in between, but these numbers are ridiculous. I love to hunt these local mountain ranges and those increases will swing that pendulum to where there's no sport and there's no predators. Thank you.

Dave Black: So Hunter will be followed by Dustin Clark.

Hunter Mecham: I'm Hunter Mecham and I'm representing myself. Just a couple of things. Jeff Brewer and Jared Higgins knocked it dead on the head, and me as an outfitter, have taken quite a few hunters and the problem we're seeing is age numbers. It's hard to kill a three year old tom anymore. And I think a lot of that is guys are getting pretty good at strictly killing toms, but also the number of tag increases. Also two units, the Pahnsaugunt's one. There hasn't been many lions harvested, but it's over the 40 percent female quota and also the Book Cliffs. That's pretty much all I have. Thank you.

Dave Black: So Dustin will be followed by Cannon.

Dustin Clark: I'm Dustin Clark from Cedar City. I represent myself. First of all, I support everything that the Utah Houndsmen Association has put forth. I think they have put together the work and the time and they know these recommendations, they know the cougar plan, they spend lots and lots of time going through that. Secondly, I would like to support and second everything that Jeff Brewer had to say as far as these units around here. He knows them, he hunts them. I hunt the same units. We see these numbers, and I agree with everything he said. One thing I think that should be an issue that's addressed, is the 48 hour rule on turning in your cougar harvest. Time and time again, that rule gets put into place, and units get over harvested every time. You know, we almost had an issue with the Monroe this year. Luckily, some houndsmen stepped forth, put the numbers straight, and stopped it from being over harvested. I mean, not that it's anything to do with the Southern Region, but the cache has been over harvested the last few years. You know, there are units in that state and I think that 48 hour rule should be addressed. I think that depredation lions should count towards the quota as well. I don't think that they should be just put into the numbers. I think they should be set in stone with the numbers. That if we go kill a lion on that unit, it should count towards that unit. As far as these ranchers go, I want to say, I feel your problem. I have family that's ranchers. I was born into it. I have extended family that still ranch, but the problem is that every rancher that sees a dead sheep, if there's a lion track within a half a mile of it, they assume that the lion killed it, whether it was coyotes, whether it was an animal that died and got fed on by coyotes, or a lion actually killed it. I also think that these ranchers ought to have a list of numbers because it's hard for the DWR to get straight to these ranchers when they find a dead sheep or dead calf. The Houndsmen Association would be more than willing to help. They have numbers of houndsmen in every corner of this state that if you have a depredated animal, call us. Many of us will leave work, do whatever we can to come help you, because if you have a lion that's killing sheep, let's get that son of bitch out of the population. I'm great with that. I have no problem with that, but why not let us help, instead of relying solely on the DWR. They're strapped as it is. Second, I have a question for the Fish and Game. Was there not a study that got shut down, but was there not a study about lions being collared around these main depredated areas to help with the numbers as far as what's going on, but it got shut down by the DWR?

Darrin DeBlois: Not that I'm aware of.

Dustin Clark: Last I had heard, they had tried to push a study through.

Darrin DeBlois: How long ago?

Dustin Clark: Not very long ago. They had tried to push a study through towards putting collars on animals around these high depredation areas to help with the data as far as depredate the animals itself. I'd like to recommend that something like that be put into motion to help these depredated ranchers.

Dave Black: Okay, Thank you. Darrin, while you are at the mic, would you like to clarify that?

Darrin DeBlois: I'd like the Houndsmen to know I appreciate everything they do and the observations they bring to us. The other thing I'd recommend is if you're not getting with your local biologist's on those units, reach out and get with them, because that's where those recommendations start is at the local level. It would help them to know what you're seeing out there. Just a quick clarification on the population numbers. I remember the article and I think they may have quoted me, but I think they got that number out of a plan, but based on that population reconstruction I mentioned before, that would suggest that at a minimum, the population of adult animals two years old and older, probably somewhere around 2000 in the state. That doesn't include yearlings and kittens. I just want to clarify that. (Some talking in background) Right. I don't blame you for that. One thing I've learned in dealing with reporters, is that they, not necessarily on purpose, haha--they sometimes get it wrong. (more background talk) Yeah, I agree. So just back to the point I made before, in order to have a growing population, and this is statewide and individual units will vary. The other thing is that, remember we're making recommendations based on a three year pooling of these numbers and so, if we had a lot of young lions last year, that's still has two more years that's factored in. The idea in the plan is we can look at trends, but the plan is designed so we don't make drastic changes, based on a single year of data, so that's built into the process, right, wrong or indifferent.

Dave Black: Thank you. So, Cannon followed by JJ Brewer.

Cannon Fuellenbach: Cannon Fuellenbach from Central Valley. I've just got one thing to say. So, everyone kinda sides with deer hunters on this. Everyone just kind of sees it from their point of view. I'd kind of like to see the houndsmen have a standing point in the future, you know what I mean? Like I say, if you could kind of see it from our point of view, you'd maybe see things a little bit different.

Dave Black: JJ followed by Scott Stubbs.

JJ Brewer: JJ Brewer representing myself from Monroe, Utah. I'm representing myself and my two sons, a five and two year old, who love to go with me already at their young ages. I've been hunting hounds for 25 years and I absolutely love it. I also have a dedicated deer tag. I love to hunt deer and elk. That's my thing. My comments aren't to argue with anybody, not to prove my points, but here's the data that I've collected, hunting the past year. I hunted the Monroe 20 plus days for mountain lions, which I will do again this year. Specifically, for mountain lion, obviously, I was able to catch seven lions total, is what I caught on that mountain. There were two females, three young sub adults, and one tom, which we did harvest, which was one of the four year old toms. We spent a lot of time to do that. If you look through the study that Clint Mecham did on the Monroe, specifically, we've talked a lot about the Monroe. The Monroe actually has and always has had a high mortality rate on lions, especially young lions. If you add all the combined lions that were killed this last year, it was an average age of 2.7 years old. So you combine that on the Monroe, specifically with the high mortality rate, you're asking for trouble for the future for your lion population. I understand it's hard to make everybody happy and I wished as ranchers, houndsmen, outdoorsmen, we need to stand together because the adversary really is out there, pushing to where there's no hunting at all. So we've got to try to find a better, easier middle ground. I would like no increase on the Monroe. However, I would be able to allow for a few increases on the Monroe to help satisfy maybe 9 to 11, at most. I spend a lot of time. Same thing with Pahvant, Fillmore. I spend a ton of time up there. Twenty-plus days, caught five total cats, three of them females, two were toms. Both toms were harvested and we've talked about the deer numbers. One more thing I think we need to talk about is, I think we need to propose or discuss as one

of the issues, that this past year, our Division was unable to have enough time to actually look and see how many tags or lions had been harvested between the limited entry and the harvest objective, not giving us a true number. So I would propose that we need to extend that from four days to at least a week minimum so we wouldn't begin the hunt until March 2, giving our biologist and Division more time to collect that data, so we have a correct number on what's actually been harvested. I'm all for what Dustin said. I'd love to help these ranchers. I'd love to help everybody. That's what we do. I'm a phone call away. I love to chase lions, so you're getting houndsmen than we've ever had. Guys that can catch in the dirt, that can catch on the Pahnsaugunt. We can help. I think we need to come together and really try to see each other's point of views. I really think that's important. Thank you.

Dave Black: So, following Scott will be Brett Behling.

Scott Stubbs: Scott Stubbs representing myself. I support having a healthy huntible lion population. I have houndsmen in my family. At the same time, I would like to see some of these livestock losses factored into the numbers. We're losing lots and lots of money. Yes, it's to us personally, but it's also to our communities and our economies, and we can't keep taking this. So, I really appreciate those that have offered to come, catch killing lions. I, personally, would like to have the help, if they kill my sheep, but I do want you to know that I can tell the difference between a coyote kill, a lion kill, an arrow through one, I can tell what it is. So verifying it probably needs to be by a government trapper with some authority. If it's just good by the common person, I can tell the difference. Anyway, I appreciate it. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Scott. Brett will be followed by Will Talbot.

Brett Behling: I'd like to comment briefly on the livestock depredation numbers throughout the state. We've talked to ranchers and we recognize that you can only report statistics on what's reported as far as confirmed kills, but we think, in talking with a lot of the ranchers, there's probably two issues. One, they're not getting the kills confirmed for a number of reasons and we need to address those reasons to get those confirmed so we have accurate data. We think that it's probably closer around 25 percent of the kills are being reported actually, and if you look at the ranchers and their losses, we really need to help them anyway we can with depredation. We really appreciate the houndsmen if they are willing to chase down some lions that are problem lions, we sure appreciate that. We also need help from Wildlife Services, in confirming kills and if there were ways that we could have ranchers have smart phones and some other DWR employees confirm kills instead of just government trappers, that would really help us in that problem. And then finally, what we recommend is that if we could come up with a multiplier effect like they're doing in Wyoming and other states, where if you have a confirmed kill, you compensate the rancher for three or four, or a different number, so that you actually compensate the rancher for their losses. In this way, we can have a healthy cougar population, and we can keep our ranchers in business because we're really concerned about our sheep men and our economy in the state of Utah, and we want to do everything that we can to help them and so, we support the recommended increases and we thank you for your help in helping us address these issues and keep our ranchers in business. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Brett. Will?

Will Talbot: Will Talbot, Wayne County Commissioner, sheep rancher. Just a few little numbers that we put together between Piute and Wayne County's stands/losses. Our losses of about 750 head a year ago. If you add those two together that's \$1500. If you do the math on what those lambs were worth a

year ago, that's about a \$275,000 loss in Piute and Wayne Counties. We can't take that loss no more. Twenty one years ago when I bought that permit on Monroe Mountain, I lost two sheep. I haven't run there for two years. I lost 250 the last time I was there. Lions there are a huge problem. There's no money in our economy for mountain lions. We need these ranchers to survive and stay in our towns so we can survive. I've lived on Monroe Mountain my whole life. I was a houndsman until fifteen years ago. We hunted them and found plenty of them and we had a lot of dry streaks too. I can see both points, but the ranchers are the ones that have got to stay. I support the increase for the Monroe Mountain and all the statewide increases that the DWR has put forth. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. We'll close the comment section now and we'll see if we have any comments from the RAC.

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson: I don't think we have any.

Tammy Pearson: That would be refreshing. Ha-ha. One thing for the houndsmen. Have you guys got cards? Pass some cards out with some phone numbers, 'because I know a bunch of guys that'll be calling you.

Brian Johnson: You can't just go kill them. Ha-ha.

Craig Laub: I talked to a few houndsmen in my neck of the woods which is southwest Utah and they say that there are plenty of cats out there. They can find a cat track anytime the conditions are good and it's a lot easier now to find a cat than it was a few years ago, so I think there are plenty of cats. Young cats kill as many sheep and deer as the older adult cats do, so as far as maturity, I don't know how you get there, because the young cats are there, you just got to grow 'em. That probably relates back to this chasing, treeing, and letting them go thing. You educate the old ones so they don't tree nearly as easy.

Dave Black. Okay thanks Craig. Verland?

Verland King: I've always thought when we have a bear kill or a lion kill, why can't we go get the local houndsmen and go get it done right now? But it was alluded to here that there's some legalities and different things that have to be done; you got to go through the steps. And when you go through those steps, they probably won't let any houndsmen chase em. I don't know if they would, but you guys are part of the problem. I've heard listed, "Well, we've treed seven lions and we had one male that was over four so we killed it, treed five, three females, two toms, we killed the two toms." Maybe we need to look at this deal like we do in some units where we're hunting deer, where we're doing a management hunts and take the young ones out so you can get your trophies. If those big cats aren't killing and eating the young ones and then we've got too many young ones and maybe you guys need to start thinning those young ones down. I mean, it looks to me like you guys are hunting trophies, and that's DWR raises, what they want the state of Utah to be, whether it's elk or deer, bighorn sheep, or lion. There's a problem there. You're kind of between a rock and a hard spot, raising trophies and not having too many on the landscape for the resource. Well when that resource gets short, whether it's because it's an inexperienced cat or the prey's not there, then they'll spill over into the livestock and it's not always just that with lion and predator. They'll kill for fun if they've got a chance to get into a herd of sheep, so there's some major problems here and I don't know how we're going to work them out, but in my mind, that's what the DWR needs to be looking at is how we're going to manage for 1) older cats and 2) to

decrease the population so we don't have as much depredation on the livestock. Thank you

Dave Black: Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: I have a couple comments. Before I get to that, I guess I just want to thank everyone for coming. This is the most well attended cougar meeting I've seen. It's good to have both opinions here too. It's really good. One thing that I do want comment and ask is that I'd love to see some of you guys up at the board meeting here in the next little while. You are going to see a whole different crowd up here. They don't like any of you, so you know, they were all down here, but now we need some of you up there. A couple comments that I have, I don't know that I know how to figure out the balance honestly, it's a tough balance to figure out and I'm not sure how to figure that out, but I have a couple other things that I want to bring up. Actually, a question to Teresa maybe, they indicated that you may be the one on the Minerals unit, what would it take to get a Minerals unit with the sheep depredation?

Teresa Griffin: I'm trying to think what we did on the Oak Creek; I think we just turned it....

Brayden Richmond: It was already a unit.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, we'd have to split it into a Beaver West unit, and do an unlimited harvest objective. I think that that's what we did for a couple of years on the Oak Creek.

Brayden Richmond: Would that be a motion that we would need to make? Is that something that you handle? How do we move forward on that?

Teresa Griffin: That would be a preemptive action, which we often have to do prior to moving in bighorn sheep. I always want the district biologists to have input on it, but that's the way we could go, is splitting it in to a Beaver West and it would fall under bighorn sheep removal, so an unlimited harvest objective, I believe.

Brayden Richmond: And we'd make a motion here?

Teresa Griffin: It would probably best be made right here to take forward to the wildlife board.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, I'll do that. The next comment I had and somewhat similar to what Verland was saying down there is, I really would love to figure out a way where we could do both, where we can help everybody. I asked the question earlier, do we have any trophy cougar units? I'd love to see a trophy cougar unit. I don't know how you go about doing that. I guess you ask the cougar hunters what deer tags they have and then out a trophy on there and that makes it about as fair as you could do. I say that a little tongue and cheek, but I don't know how you go into somebody's backyard and say "we want to increase cougars" on this. I do like the idea of a trophy cougar unit, I really do. We have that on all of the other species, so, I'd love to see that. I think that it would make a lot of people happy. I don't know the solution there, however.

Dave Black: Tammy, oh Mike.

Mike Worthen: I know several times that it has been brought up that no one would be down there to hunt them on the Pahnsaugunt or whatever. I've seen that tried in Idaho where they went to safari's to

make a list of huntsman that could leave at the call because it's very important to get down to where the kill is within a couple of days, or that lion is going to be gone for two weeks. Trying to guess when he's going to come back in there is a shot in the dark. One of the biggest obstacles that I've seen to come out of that was, most of you guys have supporting jobs during the week to where you can't leave right on the spot. It is kind of difficult, especially if you're going to travel from Richfield or Salt Lake clear down to Kanab and down in that country, and spend three to four days, you have to have the time to do it. It's great if you are right here on the Monroe and you're living right here and you can get the time off. Anyway, that's just some problems I see, and it can be worked out. I'm sure you probably have houndsmen down in all parts of the country, but maybe create a list and just try it out.

Dave Black: Riley.

Riley Roberts: I'd like to thank the houndsmen that came out tonight. You guys are very well represented. I also appreciate the representation from the livestock guys as well as I appreciate the division. You guys have worked hard and you've put a good plan together. There's been a lot of data tonight that has been presented, and not just personal opinion, which personally I appreciate. Often times this becomes just a social thing and it doesn't have anything to do with the data and the numbers and all of that and you guys have pulled a lot of data together, which has been interesting for me to see. The houndsmen are a sportsman, that's who I represent. Listening to you guys, I'm definitely willing to find some common ground on some of these numbers and stuff. I don't know what that means. I'm a big sportsman, and I hate seeing swings one way or the other with deer and elk numbers and permits. I don't know what that means, because I don't know some of these units like you guys do. Some of the ones that you've talked about in particular with the Monroe, I have no issue if that increases and what is recommended by the division, if it needs to be less than that. Some of the items that you have mentioned in particular, however I do think that the division does their job pretty well and they do go off of these trends and that there is science to back that data up as well. I can appreciate that. I don't think that you can throw any of this information completely out the window and say that we have to scrap it all or that we have to kill them all. That doesn't solve anything. There is always some common ground somewhere, so I appreciate those of you that said "You know what, we don't agree with it, but we know that we have to find some common ground." With that being said, I would need some help from some of the other RAC members and maybe even from some here and I don't know exactly what that process is, but I would like to get some more definite numbers before a motion is made on specific units, on those particular increases.

Brian Johnson: Go ahead Wade.

Wade Heaton: Can I go? I just wanted to echo what Riley said, we appreciate you guys being here. We really do. All of you. We need input and it takes a lot of effort to come here and it isn't a lot of fun to stand up at the mic so thank you for being here and sharing. A couple of points I want to make. The confirmed livestock damages. It's a bit of a travesty to me that we're not paying a dollar on the dollar, and I recognize it is not the Division's fault. We need to figure out a way, whether it's through the legislature, whether it's through landowner associations, or whatever it is through. These guys need to be compensated because I agree that the confirmed damages are a fraction of actual damages. I really think we need to address that problem. That really is unfair to me. Many of us are benefitting from wildlife, elk tags, deer tags, selling for all time highs. Some of that money could be earmarked and additional monies could be channeled back into this fund that is capped, which boggles my mind. How do you cap a fund? Go out and quit telling cats to quit killing stuff. We can't cap a thing like that. We pay on what is damaged and again, this is not criticism at the Division because I know this is not their

fault. But to me, that's something we've got to fix. That's going to be a process, I understand. I'm not going to be dumb enough to make a motion on that tonight, but that's something we need to address. Third is I don't want to nit-pick, but I'm going to. So, many have stood up to the mic tonight and said, "The Division's deer, or their sheep are getting compensated for, their sheep are getting protected," and I confirmed this with Teresa. The Division does not own any of these. Teresa said not one of those bighorn sheep is hers and I believe her. Guys lets be real here for a minute. Wildlife is owned by the citizens of Utah and that is every one of us, it is NOT the Division. Let's place blame where it belongs. It is NOT on the back of the Division. They are carrying out decisions made by the Wildlife Board, get used to it, get over it, and quit blaming the Division! It's not THEIR wildlife... they don't own them! Lastly, I agree with a couple of gentlemen that stood up and said that they wanted the houndsmen voices to be counted and I agree. Every voice of a sportsman should be counted and that is absolutely fair, but in the spirit of fairness, I think you guys also need to consider that your vote should count as one. Every deer hunter's vote should count as one and I hope you all do recognize the fact that you're a little outnumbered. And so, consider that. There's got to be a give and take and fairness in all this. This is a complicated issue and that's why it takes us so long to muddle through it.

Dave Black: I just want to add on to that. Briefly, Brayden alluded to it. When we go to the Wildlife Board meeting, there's another group in the room. All of the emails that we've received in the last few weeks have been from that group. We've had very few from out here in the audience or sportsmen. We've had, a year or two ago, there were file boxes in a little tote that were probably 5 or 6 file boxes high that were petitions not to kill any cougars in the state of Utah. So there's another group out there that just complicates this whole process and they're not here tonight, but they will be at the Wildlife Board meeting and probably outnumber you guys in the room. So that's just another complication. The DWR has to balance all this stuff. They want to be fair to everybody, they want to manage their resource, and they want to protect livestock. Personally, after looking through the presentation, as they looked at each unit by unit, it all made sense, and it all had thought. They were doing the best to meet the objectives of everybody here in the room and from a personal level, I would support the recommendations as presented, with the exception that I think there's been enough conversations about the mandatory GPS reporting and that wasn't presented, but I think that's a very good idea, personally. And that's my comments, even though I may not have the vote tonight. Brian, I know you're dying to say something.

Brian Johnson: I've been trying to be good down here. I think we're there, but I get it. It's a tough deal. I think that this making the Book Cliffs unit a split cougar unit, it's good. It gives Utah hunters a chance to kill more of these lions if that's what they want to do. It doesn't make it turn into an out-of-state season. At the end of the day, you guys with dogs are going to decide how many lions we kill and you talk about the future and everything else. I don't think there's any less houndsmen now than there was 10 years ago. I'd probably say there's more because that's what I hear, is there's more houndsmen, so I don't think that the future generations are going to be a problem because every time someone sells their dogs, somebody else buys them and you see another houndsmen. Every truck has a dog box in it, so I just don't think that the number of houndsmen is going to be a problem or is a problem. I think there are plenty of you and that's great. It's a great sport and you guys love it and that's fantastic, but I don't think that's what we should make recommendations on based on that. You guys have made the comment down here that these houndsmen have lives, and they've got jobs and they can't just leave to go shoot a lion, and I'm here to tell you right now, my plumber will leave my job to go shoot a lion, won't you Dustin? He doesn't even care. He'll tell me to go blow it out my rear end and just leave and go shoot a lion any day of the week, if somebody calls him. These houndsmen do it. They're nuts! They like to go chase lions and that's what they do. Ha-ha. That's okay. Everybody gets to enjoy the

outdoors a little bit differently and that was the point I was trying to make earlier and if you want to go shoot a one year old lion, go shoot a one year old lion. If you want to shoot a two point deer, shoot a two point deer. The important thing is that you get out and enjoy it. All I know is, when I finally get to draw a lion tag, I'll have probably ten to twelve points wrapped into it because there's very little opportunity. The less the opportunity is, the more points it takes to draw a tag, the more points I've got wrapped up into it, I'll be damned if I'm not going to shoot one! And so, when we lower the numbers, are we saving lions? I mean I know a guy that drew a Beaver tag and had nine points wrapped up in it, that would never stepped foot on the unit if he didn't have nine points wrapped up into it, came down and shot a lion. Only cause he had nine points. And so, we cut these tags. I don't know that we're saving any lions lives here, I really don't, but as a non-consumptive, I guess I want to see less people consuming lions, and lions consuming less livestock. Ha-ha. I mean, I don't know. How are you supposed to call this one? Ha-ha, I thought that was kinda funny. Ha-ha. I've been practicing all week. Alright, I'll stop. Now, my plumber is going to punch me! (talking in background) I get it! In some of these units, the biologists have picked these numbers for a reason and I don't know the reason. The biologist for the Monroe here, everybody talks about it. Is he...I know we're not supposed to ask questions, because everybody's brought this Monroe unit up like it's a mythical creature...so why are we tripling the numbers? 67 percent?

Vance Mumford: Vance Mumford, Biologist for the Monroe unit. Good question. I'm glad you asked that. We're going from 9 to 15 tags. If you look at it historically, Monroe cougar tags have been a little conservative for quite a few years. What we've found with our radio collar studies, that one of the people already mentioned that we had, we had 25 percent mortality on our adult does last year and the majority of that was lion depredation. What we've found, there we go. Up there on the board, you'll see Monroe there. The orange color is for all does, for all collared deer, including the six month old fawns. That's roughly 50 percent of the total mortality was caused by cougar depredation. If you look at just the adult does, it's even a higher percentage. I think what we've found, we had a good pulse and our deer really increased several years ago on Monroe, the cougar population has followed that, and yes, so we've got a lot of lions up there and now our deer population is coming down and I want to make sure that when Mother Nature gives us that opportunity to bounce back, that our cougar population isn't hindering that. I want everybody to know that it's a pretty big increase as far as cougar management goes, typical cougar management, but this can be changed next year or the year after that. So, if we find that we are over harvesting, then I will make that recommendation to reduce cougar tags in the upcoming years.

Dave Black: Thank you, very well. Brayden, you have a comment.

Brayden Richmond: That's a good chart, I'm glad we got to see that. That's a really good chart and helped get a few things in my head, not even just concerning lions, but that's a good chart. The question I had is, and I believe it's going to come up as a motion of some sort, is this GPS idea, and everything is not...so when I first heard that, I thought, "that sounds like a great idea and super easy." Everything costs money and everything has results of quick decisions, so I guess is what I'd like to understand from the Division is two questions. 1) What that would entail and how difficult that would be to manage and 2) I'd like to understand from the houndsmen and maybe you could speak to it? I'm assuming you've dealt with this, but what are we trying to accomplish? Because if we're trying to accomplish bad guys not doing bad things, that doesn't do it. Bad guys do bad things. If we're trying to accomplish getting better data and areas...great. But, if we're trying to stop bad guys from doing bad things as was alluded to in the houndsmen letter, I can't support that.

Darrin DeBlois: I, yeah, sorry I had this in there because I figured Monroe would come up. I probably should just have included it in the presentation, but this shows all of our deer collar units and costs specific to mortality and so it's pretty interesting to look at and there are two stand outs—Monroe and South Manti. Going to GPS, I think it's a good idea. I think it could really help management. We'd see where animals are actually being taken and maybe adjust hunt units based on that and try to force more pressure in other places. I can envision going to a coyote bounty app similar for cougars and bears, they would also eliminate the lag time between kill and it would be almost real time. Having said that, I'd like to make sure this coyote app is going to work right before we start doing a bunch of extra stuff and so we're supportive and we'd like to move that direction if the RAC would give us an opportunity to get our ducks in a row. These things do take some time to build, but we definitely want to go that direction. If the RAC wants to start sooner than that, I think the solution would be to just ask for that location when they check in a lion and that's up to the lion to give us the right location on that. Anything else, Brayden?

Brayden Richmond: No. Thank you.

Dave Black: Any other comments?

Brayden Richmond: Actually, I chickened out. I was about ready to make a motion, but well...I'm going to make a motion. There's no winning on this one, right? So before I make a motion, maybe I'd echo kind of what you said Dave because I really do have a lot of faith in the Division. At one point in time I didn't, but I do now. I think the Division does a great job. I think they do a really good job. They have these boundaries and side rails and I put a lot of faith in them. I think they do a lot of work to come to their numbers, so with that said, I'm going to make a motion to accept as presented with one additional, that we create a sub unit for the Mineral Mountains, so that we can do a predator management area there.

Dave Black: Okay. That's pretty clear. Do we have a second? One second from Wade. Any discussion? Verland?

Verland King: Well, my discussion will be pertaining to the Mineral Mountains. From what I understood, DWR said that before they would plant bighorn there, they would try to go through and kill all the cougars out anyway, so I don't see why you'd need to include that in any motion. That's common practice from what I understand.

Dave Black: Teresa, do you have a comment on that?

Brayden Richmond: Not if they aren't directed too.

Teresa Griffin: And typically the way we do that is through sport harvest to get our hunters in there to give them the opportunity to do that for us. We can also ask Wildlife Services to do some removal for us, but if there's an opportunity to get our sportsmen to do it, it's better than our staff just going out there. We're not near as effective. I don't know that any of our staff owns dogs, you know, hound dogs. Sport harvest with those guys is pretty effective.

Dave Black: So it's okay if we leave it in the motion? It's not a duplicated effort or anything like that?

Teresa Griffin: Sure.

Brayden Richmond: Just maybe a little clarification on that. Currently a big unit with Beaver West and Beaver East strapped into one unit. Beaver east is much easier to hunt than the Minerals, so by making it a sub unit, you could target that and put tags on that unit. Push people there. If you just increase tags on the Beaver unit, they aren't going to go over to the Minerals. You need to make it a sub unit so you push people onto it.

Dave Black: Okay. Any other comments?

Gene Boardman: I like Brayden's idea there that if we go with that, it will give sportsmen an opportunity instead of having Wildlife Services take out the cats and give sportsmen the opportunity to do that. The Division recommendation isn't enough killing for the livestock, but it's too much killing for the houndsmen. I think we're probably about right where it will have to be. It won't satisfy anybody, but it's a medium in between. I think they've done a good job in figuring this out.

Dave Black: Okay, Riley.

Brian Johnson: I guess I'm just looking at this and not necessarily discussing this motion, but I'd like to make an amendment to it before we go on.

Dave Black: Let's here from Riley's comment and then we'll entertain your amendment.

Riley Roberts: I actually want to make an amendment too, and it's probably going to be something with a comment though. I've known Darrin for awhile now and he does a bang-up job and I echo everything that's been said about the work that's been put in. That being said, I believe in this process and these boys have shown up and part of that amendment is going to have to be to change some of these numbers. And for you boys that are still here, I don't know that the numbers that I've got written down are what you're looking for, but I would make a motion for an amendment to increase the Beaver only to 11, Fillmore Pahvant by 2 and the Monroe by 2. Now that is the exceptions. Those are the ones that were discussed. That would be the...if we don't reward these guys for showing up, why should they even come?

Dave Black: Okay. Do I have a second? A second by Gene. Any further discussion on the amendment? Okay. Tammy.

Tammy Pearson: Yes, if you do that. So a point of clarification. If you're going to add another unit on the Beaver and then you're going to decrease the tags, I don't see that working.

Teresa Griffin: We did increase it.

Tammy Pearson: Yeah, that was his amendment. What your recommendation was is he's taking some off of your recommendation.

Teresa Griffin: The Beaver East was my understanding. Correct me if I'm wrong, but the first amendment was to make a sub unit which would be the Beaver West. That's separate than the Beaver East, so I think that what he is talking about would be Beaver West would be Unlimited harvest objective; it's over here by itself and Beaver East is going to go to 11, which I think is less than what he recommended.

Tammy Pearson: Yeah, that's my point. Okay, so Beaver West will be Unlimited?

Teresa Griffin: Yes, if that passed. That's typically how we do preemptive bighorn sheep control.

Tammy Pearson: I hate to be snide or sarcastic, but if you'll appreciate what the houndsmen are doing, but it's also hilarious to me, that you guys are thanked by the sportsmen for being here and showing up and so we need to make allowances for you because there doesn't seem to be many allowances on the agricultural livestock side, so I agree with the sub unit, don't have a problem with that. Maybe that will finally give the Mineral Mountain livestock a break on that one.

Dave Black: Okay. Thanks.

Brayden Richmond: Tammy, I just want to point out that it's the sportsmen's rep that recommended giving livestock people on the Mineral a break. Ha-ha.

Dave Black: Let's vote on the amendment only. Can you read it to us, Teresa?

Teresa Griffin: So, because I don't have the numbers in front of me, Riley I'm going by the numbers that came out of your mouth which was to move the Beaver to 11, increase the Fillmore Pahvant only by 2 and increase the Monroe by 2.

Dave Black: Okay sorry, I wrote it down wrong. All those in favor of the amendment? Three. All those opposed? Seven. Motion fails. So now we're back to the main motion.

Brian Johnson: Oh, I have another amendment to the motion, making the Book Cliff's unit a split cougar unit.

Dave Black: Do I have a second? I have a motion to second. Any discussion? Wade.

Wade Heaton: Just a tiny bit. I just wanted to ask Darrin. I get the reasoning behind this. I'm all for it. I hate ?????? ??? is popular, I don't know, but what would the difference (and this may be an impossible question) what would the difference in harvest be?

Darrin DeBlois: It's a moving target. That unit has been harvested objective and then split and then harvest objective again. Back when it was harvest objective the first time, success was probably somewhere in the 65 percent. When it switched to split, it looked like the success rates were climbing, but they weren't hitting the total quota. Two of the last three years, they've got 100 percent and the year they didn't, I think they got 80 percent. It could be a function of a growing cougar population over that time span. What we would need to do if we go to a split, we may need to recommend more permits to make sure they're taking a certain number of lions and so we'd have to adjust permits based on where they needed to be management wise. But other than that, it's purely social. It's just how you feel about non-residents and their opportunity.

Dave Black: Darrin will you explain that to me a little bit. I don't know why it's a non-resident term?

Darrin DeBlois: Yes, so I put this together. This goes back to 2009. The green line is the number of lions killed by residents and the red line is the number of lions killed by non-residents. That unit went

from a split into harvest objective in 2013, so they flip-flopped and they seem to be diverging. That's a social question and this is a perfect body to look at that and decide is that something that from a biological standpoint, I don't think it matters who kills them, as long as we're taking the quota that needs to be taken. But yeah, does that help clarify things a little bit?

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay. So we have a motion and a second. 6 in favor. 4 opposed. The amendment carries. Okay any further discussions on the main motion?

Tammy Pearson: Let me ask one more question though. On your lines, on your non-residents are they hiring your outfitters, or the local guides or?

Darrin DeBlois: Yes, most guys that don't have their own dogs are hiring guides and I don't have the number off the top of my head, Tammy, but the majority is guided out there.

Tammy Pearson: Okay.

Dave Black: We are ready to vote on the motion as amended. That is to accept as presented. We've included the Book Cliffs split and we've included the separation of the Beaver unit. All those in favor? All those opposed?

The following motion was made by Braydon Richmond, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed 9-1
Riley Roberts opposed

MOTION: I make a motion to accept as presented but create a Cougar sub unit on the Mineral Mountains.

The following amendment to the original motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Gene Boardman. And failed 3-7

AMENDED MOTION: to also adjust the following permit numbers, Beaver unit to 11 tags, and only add 2 permits on the Fillmore and Monroe units.

The following amendment to the original motion was made Brian Johnson, seconded by Mike Worthen and passed 6-4

AMENDED MOTION: to also make the Book Cliffs unit a split unit

Dave Black: Okay, we're going to #8 which is Sensitive Species Rule Amendments.

R657-48 Sensitive Species Rule Amendments (action)
-Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator

Teresa Griffin: Hello, I'm Teresa Griffin. So Kim Hersey was supposed to present this. Her son is in the hospital. He's had some metabolic problems. He'll be fine, but this is the first time that I have looked through this presentation. She talked me through a few things on the phone, so I think we're just going to go through it the first time. So we've had the Sensitive Species Rule, but there are some amendments. So the Sensitive Species Rule. The goals are to reduce the likelihood of the endangered species act listing, to guide management practices, to conserve the diversity of wildlife, and it also

identifies species in need of conservation attention in wildlife management, habitat restoration, reduction of impacts, and it also helps to direct funding for certain species. Things that this rule is not: It's not regulatory. Sensitive species designations are not going to be used by governmental entities as a basis to involuntarily restrict the private property rights of landowners, or leasees, or their permittees. So which species? It's for native wildlife species or sub species. Species that have substantial declines in population size or distribution and species that we have cooperative management plans with or if there is mitigation threats. Currently, we've got 19 mammals, 21 birds, 12 reptiles, 4 amphibians, 23 fishes, and 25 mollusks. I didn't even know we had that many. So the designation process. The DWR will submit backed by our data. We assess the potential impacts and then DNR has a committee that meets and reviews, so that would include our executive director of DNR, Clifco, our DWR staff, UDOGM, UDRE, and any other department or division hands that are involved, and then any other interested people that can provide input. So, like if we had an expert on pygmy rabbits or whatever. The executive director, Mike Styler, will bring that proposal to the Wildlife Board and they will make final decisions on species that go on and off of the Sensitive Species list. So the proposed changes that she has in the rule were just simplifying and cleaning up the rule. The prior rule automatically added endangered species and conservation agreement species. This won't anymore. This also removes wildlife habitat designations because it was never used anyway. We have had some conservation successes, when we give attention to some of the species on our Sensitive Species list. Many have been petitioned for Endangered Species Act listing, but we've found that there's a list of species that were not found warranted. There were three new birds that were listed, but we also had two birds delisted and there are seven in progress for delisting or down listing, so proactive conservation works if you give some of these species some attention and work to keep them off of the endangered species list. That's our goal. That's all she's got and I really don't know anymore about it.

Questions from the RAC:

Brayden Richmond: I want to make one quick comment. I do think this is important to say and I think these are easily overlooked and none of us really want to deal with it. It's vitally important that the Division is doing this, because what we don't want is federal managing these things and the Division is doing a fantastic job of being proactive and I want to acknowledge that and say thank you.

Teresa Griffin: Thank you, Brayden.

Dave Black: Comment or motion.

Tammy Pearson: Brayden I will second that. (laughing)

Dave Black: We've still got a ways to go, Brian. Wade

Wade Heaton: I want to second Brayden. I do think it's super important that the worst thing that can happen to any of this is that ESA gets involved and that hurts all of us. I don't know a lot about this program, but it is important that we back it and make this thing work.

Dave Black: Sure. Mike

Mike Worthen: I noticed in there that she said that habitats will no longer be designated for the Sensitive Species. Is that right?

Teresa Griffin: Yes. It does remove wildlife habitat designations because in this list we never used it anyway.

Mike Worthen: It also gives ammunition to those that are petitioning for ESA.

Teresa Griffin: Yes it does.

Dave Black: Mike do you want to make a motion.

Mike Worthen: I move that we accept the recommendations as proposed.

Dave Black: Do we have a second.

Tammy Pearson: I second.

Dave Black: Okay, any further discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. No further business. We call the meeting adjourned. Thank you everybody.

Questions from the Public:

Comments from the Public:

RAC discussion and vote:

The following motion was made by Mike Worthen, seconded by Tammy Pearson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion that we accept it as presented.

Other Business

-Dave Black, Chairman

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

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

Aug. 1, 2018

Motion Summary

Approval of agenda and minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written

Passed unanimously

R657-11 – Furbearer Rule Amendments

MOTION: To request that the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work together to discuss what areas of concern the DNR has with coyote and raccoon trapping as it relates to protected wildlife, and if the UDAF agrees, the Predator Management Board can write the rule pertaining to livestock protection

Passed 5-3

MOTION: To accept the remaining Furbearer Rule Amendments as presented

Passed unanimously

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

MOTION: To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019 as presented

Passed unanimously

Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

MOTION: To request that cougar hunters be required to submit the GPS coordinates of their harvest to the Division of Wildlife Resources

Passed unanimously

MOTION: To change the Book Cliffs East cougar unit from a harvest objective strategy to a split strategy and to leave the number of allocated permits unchanged from the 2017-18 season

Passed unanimously

MOTION: To request the Wildlife Board to consider the feasibility of allowing leg-hold traps as a legal method of take for cougars

Passed 5-3

MOTION: To increase the number of permits on both the Central Mountains,

Southeast Manti and the Central Mountains, Southwest Manti cougar units by two permits from the 2017-18 season

Passed 6-2

MOTION: To accept the remaining Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019 as presented

Passed 7-1

R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments

MOTION: To accept the Sensitive Species Rule Amendments as presented

Passed unanimously

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

Aug. 1, 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

9

Others in attendance

Kevin Albrecht, Wildlife Board member
DWR personnel: 8

1) Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure

- Trisha Hedin, RAC chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: OK, we are going to get started. Thank you so much. If you have come to be a part of this process, we really appreciate it. If you've not come in the past and you want to be involved in making comments, please make sure, there are comment cards in the back, that you fill them out and you bring them up to either Chris or Morgan so that we can process those as we move along. Other than that, we're going to get started.

2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Trisha Hedin: First of all, we're going to do approval of the last minutes and agenda. So do I have a motion on that?

Kent Johnson: So moved.

Darrel Mecham: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so all in favor. And that is unanimous, so it is passed.

VOTING

**Kent Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Darrel Mecham
Motion passed unanimously**

3) Wildlife Board Update - Trisha Hedin, RAC Chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: So I want to state I was slightly unprepared for this. I didn't do my job today, and that's why we were joking that Mercury is in retrograde, and that's the explanation for it. So I'm going to give you an update on the Wildlife Board, and I just wanted to go over a couple of things that we had discussed a little bit, and one was on, I know we had a little bit of a discussion on the wild turkey recommendations, and one was that we wanted to exclude rimfire. That was my memory of that. And we also had a recommendation by Kent for them to consider dual species and overlapping that. And they just approved the recommendations as proposed. So that included rimfire. Was that your memory of that? And the big thing was the Mineral Mountain sheep transplant, and that went on for quite a long time. Quite a few hours. Quite a bit of opposition from the woolgrowers in that area. They went ahead and decided to approve that transplant. There was a discussion of putting together an MOU that would involve the state and the woolgrowers. That transplant would not be contingent upon that MOU, but they would attempt to put an MOU together. But that transplant is going to take place. And other than that, there was just a lot of small things. There was nothing else that stood out to me. Are there questions, anything that you guys had? The coyote bounty program passed. Do you guys have anything else that you were ... sorry, again, I didn't do my homework.

Darrel Mecham: That's alright. I just had one comment here. You tickled my brain with the bighorn thing. One of my guys was watching three ewes behind the house at Nash the other day. There's bighorn sheep in Nash. Thought you might be interested in that.

Chris Wood: Thank you for that information.

Jeff Christensen: Is that out of their boundary, then?

Darrel Mecham: It's where they were clearing them out because of the disease. They

were behind the ranch house there by the gate in the canyon.

Jeff Christensen: That's where Bears run their sheep?

Darrel Mecham: Yeah, they're right there.

Jeff Christensen: So what will you do there, Brad? Just curious.

Brad Crompton: What we typically do is we don't want to overlap with domestic sheep, and we'll have a hunter go harvest those.

Chris Wood: We'll have hunters harvest any rams and the Division will remove—no I think we have the ability now for hunters to also harvest the ewes. Yeah. OK.

Darrel Mecham: Sorry, it just came to my mind.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we're going to move on if you guys don't have any questions about that. So we have the regional update from Chris.

4) Regional Update

- Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood: Good evening. Welcome. I'm glad you're all here, we have a quorum, that's great. We've had a busy, hot summer, so our biologists and our seasonal employees we have for the summer are doing some really good things. Our Aquatics Section, they've been at Scofield doing electrofishing surveys, and they've found lots of healthy rainbows that we've stocked and the cutthroat trout are also looking really good. So that's an indication that our management plan there that was passed about a year ago or so is working. So that was good news. We're going to do a second rotenone treatment in the Ferron Creek drainage area in September. We've been working in that area for several years now. We usually do two rounds of rotenone treatment to ensure that the stream is, all the non-native fish are removed before we stock it with native cutthroat. They're also looking at Huntington Creek and looking at some restoration potential there. And then we have some big rotenone treatments happening in the Southern Region that our staff is going to be going down to help on.

Our Habitat Section, so the fall is the busiest time of the year for the Habitat section. So at this point, they know which projects were funded and they're putting out requisitions, which means they're putting out job descriptions for contractors to bid on. And so contractors are going into our statewide system and looking at various projects that are being proposed, and they're bidding on jobs. So that's going on now and will continue to go on throughout the fall. And that'll be, you know, lop-and-scatter crews or aerial seeding or bull hogging work, a variety of work. This week, our seasonals went to the Dugway area to trap chukars. I believe those chukars are going to the Southern Region. We're also part of the BEAR team for the Trail Mountain Fire, so we're trying to work with the Forest Service and give our recommendations on seeding and what areas should be seeded and provide resources there. And then we've been busy all summer

planting crops at our Gordon Creek Wildlife Management Area. Most of that property is just rangeland, but we do have an area that we have water rights for that we cultivate and try to get some crops growing for the deer, elk and turkeys that come down.

Our Law Enforcement has been very busy. They provided security for the Trail Mountain Fire and provided thousands of hours, cumulatively, of work securing roads and helping with that effort. That was busy the whole month of June, consumed a lot of our guys' time. We do have two new hires in our region. The guy on the left, he is Evan Bulla, and he is our new aquatic invasive species interdiction specialist. So he's the guy at Bullfrog who will supervise the crew down there that talks to boaters as they're coming off the boat ramp. He also oversees the seasonals and the work that's done on the other lakes in the region, too. But we're excited to have him on. He actually lives in Monticello, when he's not living in Bullfrog. His wife works for the BLM there in Monticello. So we're glad he's accepted a position with us, and he has a lot of AIS experience, and he's doing a good job. We also have a new officer in our Emery County District. James Thomas went to Utah County, he transferred over there, left an opening. We opened it up to all the officers in the state, and a guy by the name of Chuck Lawrence said, "I want to come to Emery County." He came from Panguitch. And so it was good and refreshing seeing someone wanting to come to this part of the state, because sometimes, for whatever reason, people want to stay on the Wasatch Front. So it's always good to get someone to come to Castle Dale. But they've been busy checking anglers and preparing for the upcoming hunting seasons, which started today for some hunts.

Our Outreach Section has been busy, too. This is the time of year when Dedicated Hunters want to get their projects done before the archery season opens. So the last several weeks and in the upcoming weeks will be very busy for Walt and Morgan trying to approve Dedicated Hunter projects and getting those tags to those dedicated hunters. They helped with a MULEY event in Moab. That's with the Mule Deer Foundation. It's a kids youth event. That was a success. We do have a Bat Night in Moab. It's an RSVP. Is there still openings? There's no openings. The event is full, but all of you know someone, so we can get you into that event if you're interested. And they have the nets up tonight and they're trying to catch bats just over by the Crystal Geysers. So if you're interested, they'll be there until 1 a.m. After the RAC meeting, if you still have a lot of energy left in you, let me know and I'll give you directions exactly where that is. I think I'm going to go for a few minutes and then head home. We have a Waterfowl Clinic on Sept. 8, and then we have a Fly Fishing Clinic in September.

Our Wildlife Section is busy, too. I mentioned bat surveys, those have been going on for a few weeks now. We'll continue them tonight. They've been banding doves at Desert Lake and at Gordon Creek, and they've been doing classifications on antelope, bison and elk, and also been doing cottontail rabbit surveys, and they've been putting GPS backpacks on sage-grouse to help with that research. With that, I'll take any questions, if you have any.

Jeff Christensen: How's your fish project in Range Creek handling the drought?

Chris Wood: I've heard nothing but wonderful things about the Range Creek project, and I haven't heard any concerns about the drought. That's probably something to mention since our last RAC. We restored Range Creek with native cutthroat trout, both on BLM lands, state land and private lands, TN Ranch and Preston Nutter Ranch properties, with over 5,000 cutthroat trout. It was a great project. Morgan's putting together a video on

that that's almost finished. Once that gets done, I'll send it out to you guys. It's a great, 7-minute video that highlights that effort. Good question.

Trisha Hedin: Do you know how many people were in attendance at that MULEY event in Moab?

Chris Wood: Attendance was down this year. I think it was 50 or 60 kids? Last year, it was like 130. So for whatever reason, it was down a little bit. But it was still a lot for Moab. There was different stations, there was an archery station, a wildlife identification station, and a shooting station? OK, just archery.

Trisha Hedin: So next we have a presentation by Darren DeBloois.

5) **R657-11 – Furbearer Rule Amendments**

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. OK, so let's start with questions from the RAC.

Jeff Christensen: You said that UDAF was involved. Is the Predator Board? Has this been brought forth to them at all?

Darren DeBloois: No, not formally. But commissioner Adams was part of the committee, and so she was part of the discussion. Farm Bureau was there.

Jeff Christensen: I guess the tough thing is I know you guys have the right to regulate everything on the furbearer end, but on livestock protection and everything, all of that has to go through the Predator Board, from my understanding. Unless I'm wrong there.

Darren DeBloois: No, that's right. So what we're saying is that since traps are indiscriminate in terms of what they capture, a person has a reasonable expectation that when they put a trap in the field, they may catch something that's regulated by us, by the authority of the Wildlife Board.

Jeff Christensen: And I understand that. I'm just a little concerned that this hasn't gone through the Predator Board.

Darren DeBloois: No, not as far as I know, it hasn't.

Jeff Christensen: They're the ones that are tasked by the governor, doing all the rules and policies for livestock protection.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, as far as I know, Jeff, it hasn't on that end. We do present to that board every year, but not part of this specific rule.

Dana Truman: I just had a clarification question. Can you only designate one other representative, or could you designate multiple?

Darren DeBloois: It could be multiple. Yeah.

Trisha Hedin: Other questions? So do we have any questions from the audience?

Questions from the audience

Jerry Swasey: What about the state trappers doing that same work? Can they continue doing that?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, we have a memorandum of understanding with Wildlife Services, and they work with us under that. That gives them some exemptions. So yeah, they'd still continue to do what they do.

Jerry Swasey: And then also, if I ran an animal control service, then I would be in that place to continue doing that particular work?

Darren DeBloois: Right. There's still that 600-foot buffer, so if you're doing residential kind of stuff, in most cases that I can think of, you wouldn't be—

Jerry Swasey: But if I was out protecting a herd of sheep or something, if I was setting with a particular herder, then this would—

Darren DeBloois: That would apply. So you could either have your own traps with your own number, or you could be authorized by the landowner if they were his traps to do that for him.

Trisha Hedin: Any more questions from the audience? So comments from the audience. And Jerry, is this when you wanted to make your comment, or is it on the next agenda item? Do you want to do it now? OK, so Jerry Swasey.

Comments from the audience

Jerry Swasey: OK, a little bit off topic here. But for this past year, trapping down in Moab along the Klondike Bluff area, the trail mixes came in there and made a lot of bicycle trails in that given area that used to run trap line through, and they closed it off to four-wheeler UTVs and then rerouted us out to the old road that skirts the outer perimeter of that. So a lot of dogs out there running on all these trails and stuff that they have. Grand County has a leash law, but since there's no marking of it on any of the kiosks that they have for the maps and stuff that they use, so it looks to me like they need to put that ordinance in there to say that dogs must be on a leash, because if we're being forced out of the area that we're trapping on, and being forced outer perimeters of that particular area or wherever you're out, and you've got the bicycles going through there with dogs running loose, then 30 or 40 feet off the trail, that dog's going to be in your trap. Because

otherwise being on a leash, then you have a little barrier there that you could set traps without getting dogs in there for the people that are riding the bikes. So that's the thing that I see, and there's some incidents down there this past winter. If a dog had been on a leash, it probably wouldn't have gotten caught in a trap and killed. And so that's always something that needed to be thought about, if the general public doesn't know or is not aware of.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. Any other comments from the audience? OK, so let's take comments from the RAC.

RAC discussion

Trisha Hedin: I guess pertaining to Jerry's statement, I don't know if the Division works with, for example, Trail Mix, on making recommendations. And I was thinking about they have a kiosk up outside of Warner Lake that delineates, it's an elk calving area. I know they push, they made them move that trail originally because it was an elk calving area, and I don't know if the Division worked with them to produce that kiosk, like if it's feasible to be working with them to make recommendations?

Chris Wood: We have a biologist, our impact analysis biologist, who actually reviews all federal actions and state actions and can make recommendations and comments to make their actions more wildlife friendly. And we do that quite often from oil and gas drilling, to trail making, to roads, all kinds of potential impacts. So we'll continue to do that. As far as marking the trail, I work with the county commissioners and some of the county folks, I can pass that recommendation along. I think it's a good one. We as an agency wouldn't take on that responsibility ourselves, but I think it relates to us, and it's something we can encourage them to do.

Jeff Christensen: Darren, is there any way to split this up between livestock protection and furbearer harvest?

Darren DeBloois: It's tough. These are all things we talked about. And we went through exempting private property and there's some issues there with statute. We really did discuss it and try to figure out ways to split the two.

Jeff Christensen: What was the negative of exempting private property?

Darren DeBloois: It essentially, the reason that we're concerned about that is because it sets a precedent that on private property, protected species of wildlife don't get protected.

Jeff Christensen: What about an agricultural exemption?

Darren DeBloois: Again, I don't know that we talked about an agricultural exemption. I think the feeling in the room was that the burden of—you know, we had the licenses were free, we had about 2,300 people come in and get their trap registration licenses for free. And that's really all you need to do is just put a number on those traps. And now, if this passes, you can have anybody you want go around and check those. And I don't know if

that 48 hours is still something that's a no-go, but that's where everything kind of jailed, and we felt that was a reasonable ask in the committee. Again, we don't want to limit someone's ability to control coyotes, and I think what this would do, one thing you've got to do is add a number to your trap, but it also gives you an exemption. So if you accidentally catch a bobcat, you're not going to get cited for that, and in the past, you'd be taking that risk. And usually in terms of liability, and I may have to call on Ben but I'll see if I can take a stab at it because I'm not a law guy, but in terms of liability, the courts want to establish whether you were criminally negligent or not. And the argument would be that if you put a trap in the field, you have a reasonable expectation of catching protected wildlife, even if your intent was to catch a coyote. And one analogy, and this may be a dumb one, but if you're in the field and you see a couple of coyotes chasing a yearling deer around, and you think, "I'm going to be a good Samaritan, I'm going to take those dogs out," and you shoot and hit the deer by accident, you're going to get a ticket. Again, you're responsible to make sure your shot goes where it needs to go. It's sort of the same concept: If you put a trap in the field with a reasonable expectation of catching protected wildlife, what we're saying is, register the trap, we'll give you an exemption as long as you're following the rules, if you accidentally catch something you didn't intend. That's what the rule says. I don't know if that settles your mind or makes it feel better or not. But that's kind of where we're going.

Jeff Christensen: I guess I don't know how you go forward to fix it any better. I wish we could split it, and in fact, I'll make a motion, I wrote it down earlier, that the UDAF and UDNR work together to discuss what areas of concern the DNR has with coyote and raccoon trapping as it relates to trapping protected wildlife, and if the UDAF agrees, the Predator Management Board can write the rule as allowed to livestock protection. The Predator Board is put there for a reason. In my opinion, they're the ones there setting the rules and the policies for livestock protection, and I don't really see why we're undermining that board.

Darren DeBlois: I have no objection with getting with Ag and having that conversation.

Jeff Christensen: I think this needs to run through the Predator Board.

Darren DeBlois: Now the Predator Board doesn't have authority over method of take. At least that's my understanding. Now UDAF could pass their own rules through the Predator Board that essentially says you have to follow Division of Wildlife's rules. But I think Marty was—Marty's our attorney, he was here last time—this came up, but didn't get to the step of the Predator Board. But we did have discussions about what's the easiest way to do. And we did ask UDAF—

Jeff Christensen: You're over furharvesting, you're over livestock protection. They're basically two different deals and we just lumped together.

Darren DeBlois: It's a weird artifact of how we manage or don't manage—

Jeff Christensen: I know the guys on the Predator Board are very concerned about it. I talked to the guys on there and they're not real happy about it, because they weren't involved in it.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, I can talk to ag, and again, your motion is duly noted.

Jeff Christensen: Is it so jumbled you need to read it?

Trisha Hedin: It's a bit jumbled. So let's have you read it.

Jeff Christensen: That the UDAF and the UDNR get together and discuss what areas of concern the DNR has with coyote and raccoon trapping as it regulates to the trapping protected wildlife, and if UDAF agrees, the predator management board can write the rules as it pertains to livestock protection.

Trisha Hedin: So do we have a second on that motion? So it's basically just a motion to prompt a discussion.

Eric Luke: I have a question on the motion. And I don't know what the responsibilities of the Predator Board are. That's why I'm asking this. To address that, correct me if I'm wrong, Darren, and anybody, but does the Predator Management Board have any say or regulation over wildlife, and if they don't, which I believe that's correct, does that kind of contradict? Because if they just give the cattleman just open range on that, is that a conflict with the protected wildlife?

Jeff Christensen: Well don't quote me, but I actually think they do, because I think their official title is the Agriculture and Wildlife Damage Board, and the way Mike Linnell and Mike Bodenchuk, who are ex-trapping directors, they were in charge of all this, they were in charge of where the chopper goes to fly for that before it all got jumped.

Eric Luke: Darren, do you have any further information on that?

Darren DeBloois: I've presented to that board, and usually what we're presenting is numbers of coyotes taken and some of the data you'll see tonight on livestock damage. I'm not as familiar with Ag's rules and what the powers of that board are and what the intent of that board is. I think you're right, I think they oversee predator management in this state. Wildlife Services is a federal agency that sort of heads up the on-the-ground work, but the trappers themselves work for Ag, work for the state. And I guess, like I said, I'm perfectly willing to go talk. I think the first part of your motion, we did. We got with Ag, we explained our concerns, we had a discussion, we proposed some changes to the rule to try to address the concerns that the producers in the meeting had. And everybody was OK with it, and I sent emails out and followed up. I followed up about a month ago and said, "Hey, we're about ready to hit the RACs, if you've got any heartburn, please let us know," and everybody was fine. But we didn't do the next step. And to be frank, I'm going to have to go back and check with our director's office and see what, I don't know what our role is in all that. It seems to me like Ag would need to approach their board. I think you're right though, I don't think that that board has authority over, well I know it doesn't have authority over protected species of wildlife and regulating them.

Jeff Christensen: But they are tasked with livestock protection.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, they are. And so, maybe to the extent that this hinders a person's ability, this rule hinders a person's ability to trap coyotes, certainly they, it seems like, would be interested in weighing in. I don't know what conversations that the commissioner has had. I just don't know. So I don't know if they're aware of it. Sounds like you've talked to some of them, I don't know how aware they are, and it seems to me like they probably have talked to commissioner Adams. That feedback hasn't gotten to me, so I don't know what those conversations may or may not have been. So I'm just at a loss. But again, I'm always willing to talk. Our only interest, and where we think our authority lies, is with those protected species.

Jeff Christensen: And I understand where you're headed and what you're trying to do, and I just think we need to put livestock protection over here to the side and let that board make those decisions and rules over us. As far as your furbearer goes, I understand that, do whatever we need to do to protect it. I've had plenty of dogs caught on federal land on traps. I understand it. Private property deal issues worry me, and the livestock protection deal worries me.

Darren DeBloois: I'm not sure when that board meets. It seems like they meet once a year.

Jeff Christensen: Usually right in December, right after the—

Darren DeBloois: That sounds about right. We'll be presenting to them, so maybe that's a good time to have that conversation.

Jeff Christensen: Like I say, I've had conversations with those guys on the board and they're very interested in why this wasn't brought to them. Because they feel that it was something they needed to see. Maybe that was the fault in UDAF, not taking it to their board, or whoever it was, it did not get to the guys.

Darren DeBloois: I think that's their role, that's their board, and whether they let them know or not, I just don't know. Sounds like what they're telling you is that they weren't aware. These surrounding western states treat coyotes and raccoons differently. They're all under their wildlife division, and their rules are pretty similar to what we've got here. If you put a trap out, you've got to have it tagged. But we're not interested in limiting the number of coyotes a guy can, or a gal can take. I shouldn't say gal. It's a little bit patronizing. A woman or a man can take. It's been a long week already. Sorry about that, Jeff. So let me reach out to them. Obviously, you've got a motion on the table.

Trisha Hedin: Do we have a second on that motion? Or do we have more comments?

Jace Guymon: Quick comment. Jeff, where we're over wildlife, that's what we're discussing, the wildlife side of it, if we move forward with it, and as a RAC, from the wildlife side, we support the DWR with their objectives that way and the way we've worded it with the contingency that they run it through the Predator Board and have that conversation, so that we can pass it here as a RAC from our side, but then it has to go through them before it's official.

Jeff Christensen: I guess I'm missing your question. Sorry.

Trisha Hedin: You're more so making a motion.

Jace Guymon: Yeah, a motion to pass as presented by the DWR with the contingency that they have to run it through the Predator Board before it's official.

Trisha Hedin: So let's back up. What do you think about that amendment? Are you accepting of that amendment?

Jeff Christensen: No. I'd rather run it the way we've asked to have it run. This is how it went through in the Southern Region yesterday, and it'll have more teeth if more than one RAC go through with the same motion.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so let's go back to Jeff's first motion. Do we have a second on that motion?

Darrel Mecham: I just have a question. Can I do that?

Trisha Hedin: Yes. Sure.

Darrel Mecham: Just the end language of it where it's the rule or how it goes, do they have the authority to do that, Chris? Can they do that? The second half of his motion?

Jeff Christensen: So if the first half's already been done, let's just take that out.

Darrel Mecham: I'm just asking about the second half. If we make this motion, can that happen? Can it work? Is it there? I don't know where the procedure—

Chris Wood: Can what happen? I'm not following?

Darrel Mecham: Read the second half of his motion about the board.

Chris Wood: I'm not sure where that authority splits and where it goes from us to—

Darrel Mecham: That's what I'm asking you.

Chris Wood: I do know that everything that we present today goes through our two different attorneys that work for the state and are assigned to our agency, and they've approved everything that we're presenting today. There's some legal confidence that we had that we feel we have the ability what will pass what we're presenting today.

Jeff Christensen: Well I know the ex-trapping guys says that it's not legal. They're putting restrictions on livestock protection and it is not legal. Because it is not in their jurisdiction do that.

Darren DeBloois: The position of our attorney, I talked to Marty today, is that we have authority by, and I explained it before, I hope I'm not flogging a dead horse, but what

we're saying here is the Wildlife Board has authority to regulate those mechanisms. If you put a trap in the field because you can trap potentially and likely trap protected wildlife, we can regulate that trap. That's the position of our attorney and the Wildlife Board. I'm not familiar enough with Ag's rule to know how that overlaps. I guess our position is that we're not making, and it says it right there in the rule, we are not making an effort through this rule to limit the take of unprotected species in any way, but we are regulating a device that can take protected wildlife. Again, that's the position. Beyond that, what I think I need to do with your motion is talk to our director's office, and ultimately I think it's up to the board whether they feel like they have the authority to do this without Ag's Agriculture and Livestock Protection Board or not. That's something that's above my pay grade.

Chris Wood: And our attorneys quite often are at Wildlife Board meetings and asked to come to the pulpit and explain things and discuss things and they do that frequently. Something we don't take lightly. We study these things and it's their legal opinion that we have this ability to make this amendment.

Eric Luke: So Jeff, clarify for me, is your motion to initiate a meeting between the two agencies, or is it to not go with—

Jeff Christensen: Any rules that apply to the livestock protection have to go through the Predator Board. And in our opinion, this is limiting our ability to protect our livestock, especially on our own private property. I don't understand how the private property thing doesn't raise a flag to anybody.

Eric Luke: So your motion is to not accept this rule amendment?

Jeff Christensen: I'm trying to look at, see how we can tweak it to make it more—

Kirk Player: And how does it limit? Just mostly checking it every 48 hours?

Jeff Christensen: I still think we need to follow the rules. It's just that flat out, they don't have the jurisdiction to regulate me protecting my livestock.

Kent Johnson: I have a question. I may not be seeing this completely, but I don't see where anybody is being restricted from protecting their livestock. I don't see that.

Dana Truman: Yeah, what is that?

Kirk Player: That's my question.

Kent Johnson: You're not required to pay a fee. All you got to do is get a registration number for your traps. That's free of charge. You go in and get the number, you apply it to any trap you put in the field. That's where the Division's coming from, and having trapped for a number of years, coyotes are the most difficult thing in the world to catch. If you start trapping, you're going to catch a lot of foxes and a lot of bobcats long before you ever catch a coyote. It's just a learning process. They're pretty intelligent. They adapt well. They're difficult to catch, and I think that's where the Division is coming from is

we just want to know whose trap it is if something non-target is caught in it.

Dana Truman: Is that a correct interpretation?

Kent Johnson: They're not telling you you can't do it.

Jeff Christensen: No, I understand that. I guess it's just the fact that this is coming through a different channel for me than it should. It should be coming through the Predator Board channel.

Darrel Mecham: Let me take a shot at this, and tell me if I'm wrong, Jeff. This is mainly stemming from the private property and the rancher's ability to get rid of the coyotes and raccoons there that are not regulated by fish and game. Am I there?

Jeff Christensen: Yep.

Darrel Mecham: And I think there's always been a disconnect there between DWR and ADC, having kind of watched both sides of it, and I have no heartburn. I think they should be in conjunction. I really think you should be talking to them when it comes to this piece. I really do. The only thing I know about them is I don't know if they can do what you're saying at the end. I support your motion. I think we do this, get it done, they ought to go sit down with them, they ought to talk about it and hammer it out. Get both sides. But as far as the legality at the end of it, I don't know. That's what I'm saying, if we make the motion, it goes, they'll sort that out, Chris?

Chris Wood: Yeah. Who has the authority over this will definitely be a topic at the Wildlife Board. Especially, I didn't know it was at the Southern RAC. But if it's at several RACs, it'll get brought up, and Trish will represent the RAC and say, "This is the discussion we had," and the Wildlife Board does a very good job of going through every region's motions.

Darrel Mecham: OK.

Jeff Christensen: I don't have any problems with any of the recommendation, other than the channel that this, for livestock protection, needs to come through the Predator Board. For me to go out and protect my cows and my sheep or whatever I have needs to come through the Predator Board.

Eric Luke: That makes it a lot easier, knowing the legality. Because that's where I was hung up with is—

Jeff Christensen: Well apparently their attorneys have sealed the deal on it.

Chris Wood: Our attorneys have already studied this issue and it is their legal opinion that we have the authority to propose this amendment. And I think you'll hear that again at the Wildlife Board. But that doesn't mean you can't make any motion you want and vote on it.

Darren DeBloois: I just want to clarify, that license was free for a year. Beginning July 1, we started charging for that again. But it's \$10, one time, just to make sure that everybody's on the same page on that. And just talking's always good. We meet frequently with Wildlife Services and with Ag, and talk these things out. So that won't stop either.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so do we have a second on Jeff's motion to move this forward? We have a second by Darrel Mecham. All in favor. So we have five in favor. And those opposed. We have three opposed, and that would be Kirk Player, Jace Guymon and Dana Truman. How did I do on that, Morgan?

So do we have a motion on the remainder of the proposal?

Jace Guymon: I'd motion that we accept it, the proposal, as put forth by the Division.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Jace Guymon to accept the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented. Do I have a second on that?

Todd Thorne: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: OK, a second by Todd Thorne. All in favor. And it is unanimous. OK. So on to furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations.

VOTING

Jeff Christensen made a motion to request that the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work together to discuss what areas of concern the DNR has with coyote and raccoon trapping as it relates to protected wildlife, and if the UDAF agrees, the Predator Management Board can write the rule pertaining to livestock protection

Seconded by Darrel Mecham

Motion passed 5-3 (opposed: Kirk Player, Jace Guymon and Dana Truman)

Jace Guymon made a motion to accept the remaining Furbearer Rule Amendments as presented

Seconded by Todd Thorne

Motion passed unanimously

6) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Trisha Hedin: Questions from the RAC.

Kent Johnson: Do you have data on the overall number of cats taken? Everything you're putting up there is a percentage.

Darren DeBloois: I do.

Kent Johnson: Is the number of cats staying pretty static year-to-year? Is the total number of cats going down or up?

Darren DeBloois: Were you interested in a trend or just what was taken?

Trisha Hedin: Do you want two years' data?

Kent Johnson: Trending would be good.

Darren DeBloois: So total harvest, so 15 and 16, total harvest, 1,683. In 16-17, 1,856. And then 17-18, 2,945. So it's trending up. And one of the biggest drivers of that is pelt price. So it seems like as pelt price increases, people hit it harder. I think combined with that, this is our trend for cottontail rabbit surveys, and we've got this declining prey population, so, we'll have to keep an eye on it. But the plan is in place, it's intended to pick up those shifts in population, and we'd make adjustments accordingly.

Trisha Hedin: Other questions from the RAC?

Kirk Player: Just to confirm that female percent is like right on the border, right?

Darren DeBloois: And it's trending that way, so the intent of the plan is to give people a chance to go out and do this, so that's why we want to have two things out, but it's definitely headed that direction, and I suspect with the way the rabbit numbers are, we may see. But again, we really had quite a few bobcats taken this season. That's what pelt price does. Sometimes they flood the market and it goes down, and people are less interested.

Eric Luke: Probably a good chance that next year there will be a reduction.

Darren DeBloois: It's looking that way. Seasons shorter.

Trisha Hedin: Any other questions from the RAC? Questions from the audience?

Questions from the audience

Jerry Swasey: IS weather a factor on that?

Darren DeBloois: We don't really have any data, but to the extent that drought might affect prey numbers, I would suspect, yeah.

Derris Jones: Darren, were those numbers you just read off, was that tag numbers, or was that harvest?

Darren DeBloois: I thought it was harvest, but let me double-check, Derris. I'm getting

old. That's total harvest.

Derris Jones: Do you tease any of this data out regionally, or is it all statewide combined.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, it's statewide combined.

Derris Jones: Internally, you don't do it by smaller management units as well?

Darren DeBloois: I don't think so.

Derris Jones: I was just wondering if your prey cycle is statewide, or if it's regional.

Darren DeBloois: It's statewide. Yeah. So obviously, you're going to have variation throughout the state. I think I know, we do ask where they took them, so we could probably do that. But for purposes of the plan and for the recommendation, it's statewide.

Derris Jones: I guess I'm just not seeing the rabbit numbers dropping here, so I was curious on if it's a good representative sample of the state or if it's focused on the West Desert with jack rabbits more than cottontails.

Darren DeBloois: I see what you're saying. We have rabbit routes throughout the state, but I'm not 100 percent familiar with where. I know the Northern Region, they have one in Rich County and one out in Box Elder County. So those occur in other regions, too, but that's kind of how it goes.

Trisha Hedin: Could you put one of those in my backyard?

Darren DeBloois: A rabbit or a bobcat?

Trisha Hedin: Any more questions from the audience? I don't think we have any comments from the audience. We don't have any comment cards. So comments from the RAC.

Comments from the audience

No comments.

RAC discussion

Trisha Hedin: Can we entertain a motion?

Kent Johnson: Motion to accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Trisha Hedin: We have a motion by Kent Johnson to accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Eric Luke: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: And a second by Eric Luke. All in favor. That is unanimous.

VOTING

Eric Luke made a motion to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019 as presented

Seconded by Eric Luke

Motion passed unanimously

7) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Trisha Hedin: So before we take questions from the RAC, I just want to tell the audience, if you have comments, make sure you fill out a comment card. We have no comment cards currently. Oh, good job. Thanks. So questions from the RAC.

Kirk Player: Just out of curiosity, does the Division have a rough estimate on population?

Darren DeBloois: We do. I don't remember how much, I know we did a training on this and some of you may have been there and some of you haven't. So let me just quickly explain, and I'm sensitive to your time. What we're doing now is a virtual population reconstruction, and that's based on cougars that are turned in to us. The way that works is say you had this year, when people turned in lions, we had 10 that were four years old that were killed throughout the state. It's more than that, but let's just use that because my math is—I have a hard time. So we'll take 10. That means, theoretically, that last year, those 10 lions were three years old and they were alive because they had to be alive in order to be killed at four years old the year before. You also had a number of three-year-olds that were killed the year before. So you can add the 10 that were four to the three that were killed the year before, and then those numbers can be added to the two-year-olds because they were alive the year before. This works best on a large scale because mountain lions can move around a lot. It's harder on individual units. So if you do that, that'll tell you how many of those animals you had to have in order to support the harvest that you've actually seen. So these are actual physical lions that we get our hands on. So that's an absolute minimum. So that's what we've done. Absolute minimum.

The other thing you can do is if you think about that on a diagonal, it means that you kind of have to go back in time before you get a really good estimate, but if you can collapse the older age groups, the diagonal shortens down, and that can get you further forward in time with an estimate. Does that make sense? I'm seeing it in my mind and I look at it a lot. Anyway, if we do that, what we can say is that we think, well—OK, so here's the results of this. So again, bear in mind, this is an absolute minimum based on numbers, and this adult lions two years old and older, so it doesn't include yearlings, it doesn't include kittens. The one cool thing about this, though, is that even though this is a

minimum, there's a certain amount of natural mortality that occurs and Stoner, in Monroe, found it's probably about 10 percent. That would shift your number estimate up, because you have to add those in, but it doesn't change your trend that much. So I wouldn't get hung up on the 2,000 number as much as this is what we think based on that that the population's been doing since about 2004. It's been growing, and we think we've probably seen some reduction this last year. But in this method, those last years are the most fuzzy. This is 2017. This doesn't include last year's harvest. So again, it's something we need to keep an eye on. But the trend before that is pretty solid. I'm pretty confident that we're probably seeing some leveling.

What's interesting is if you put that on top of the mule deer graph, which is the blue line here, we think what's going on is as we've been growing mule deer in the state, we've been growing mountain lions in the state. Another thing you can see is when the mule deer numbers started to decline in 2015, this is almost too good in terms of predator-prey relationships, is you see this lag in the predator. They'll kind of overshoot, and then you start to see declines. This is the prey-based declines. You got too many mountain lions with too few resources, and you start to see those declines. So this is what we look at. I think the study, and the reason we're doing it is we'd like to get better at this, but that's kind of a long-winded answer. I hope that helps.

Darrel Mecham: Your Paunsaugunt summer hunt stuff, is that up where you have the bear in the unit, too? Can you have the lion hunters hunting your bears?

Darren DeBloois: You might, chasing bears, yeah.

Darrel Mecham: Have you guys thought of that?

Darren DeBloois: That bear population, we need to keep an eye on it. There are bears there. It's relatively low bear population. It's not like a mecca for guys that want to chase a bear. It's not like the La Sals or the Book Cliffs. But the biologists are aware of that.

Darrel Mecham: Does the impact bother you, or it's OK? Collateral damage?

Darren DeBloois: I don't think it's significant enough, but again, they haven't been filling the quota down there. There aren't a lot of guys out there. So if all of a sudden this becomes real popular and we get reports from the field that they're just chasing bears, they're not really chasing lions, we can make adjustments. So we'll keep an eye on that.

Darrel Mecham: OK, No. 2: You keep statistical data on how many lions in the Book Cliff unit and the La Sal unit are harvested by out-of-state hunters?

Darren DeBloois: I have those numbers for the Book Cliffs, I don't have it for the La Sals handy. That's something I'd have to go back to licensing and find. But let me show you. So we figured this would come up since it's come up at every other RAC, so I put a graphic together. So this is what we've seen since 2009 in terms of nonresident harvest and resident harvest. The resident harvest is in green—this is the Book Cliffs unit—and nonresident harvest is in red there. And in 2013, that unit switched from split to harvest objective. So we're seeing a lot more nonresidents taking lions on the Book Cliffs than residents. Those two points are diverging. Usually the next question, I don't want to pre-

empt anyone's question to me, is what do I think about that? Our main concern is we do have some concerns about the mule deer herd out there. We're seeing low adult survival. It's one of the things we want to look at with this study with collared lions and collared bears as well. But whether it's a nonresident that takes that lion or a resident, biologically, it doesn't really matter. We just need to make sure that quota is being hit.

Darrel Mecham: Right. I'm not, for once in my life, I'm not going to have a big argument.

Darren DeBloois: Maybe I'm pre-empting.

Darrel Mecham: I don't have an issue with your numbers. What I have an issue with and that the sportsmen are hitting me with is opportunity. You've got people paying \$5,000 for found tracks, you've got outfitters all over. Your in-state opportunity is tanking. Your sportsman that has a job and tries to go hunting doesn't have an opportunity to go, and where you're talking your split unit, we'll put your hunter there and let him hunt it and hunt it? It sounds tailor-made to let some of the people in state go hunting.

Darren DeBloois: I think that really is a social, this is a perfect opportunity for a group like this to take a crack at.

Darrel Mecham: That's all I got.

Eric Luke: I have a question. I think it was back showing your recommendations, I believe it was in the northeast, northern unit somewhere, you showed two units you were decreasing tags on, and those units were harvest objectives and they were remaining harvest objectives. One of the others you lowered and you changed it from harvest objective to split.

Darren DeBloois: It's probably these two.

Eric Luke: Yeah.

Darren DeBloois: The hope there is that we can still allow that hunt strategy and address the females in the harvest by lowering the permits. I think these are two different regions, they're kind of coming at it from two different directions. And I like to support the local biologist on each district. So you will see things like that.

Eric Luke: Just curious why you did that on one and not the other.

Darren DeBloois: It's just you have two different biologist that are trying some ideas and that's the only reason.

Trisha Hedin: OK, any more questions from the RAC? So if not, let's take questions from the audience, if you'd like to step up to the mic.

Questions from the audience

Guy Webster: You go to your population estimate, can you explain where you come up with your estimates for 2004? Because as per your cougar management plan, 1999, the estimate was 2,500 to 3,900 cougars in the state, and you're only showing 1,000. Can you explain that to me? That's out of your own plan. I've been doing this for 35 years, and I've never seen that number as low as 1,000 ever.

Darren DeBloois: So the number in the plan, Guy, it's not this. It's not based on this population reconstruction. So this is based on cougars checked in to us, and again, don't get too caught up on the number. It's the trend. Because this is just harvested lions. We know there are more lions in the population than what gets harvested. But the number in the '99 plan is based on, what they did is they took cougar habitat throughout the state and they estimated about how many cougars could be supported by those habitat types, and then they just multiplied habitat by lions.

Guy Webster: But to clarify, that would be a minimum, but more than likely, you could have easily had the 2,500 to 3,900 in 1999?

Darren DeBloois: Right. And that would relate to what natural mortality is, so hopefully that helps.

Derris Jones: The difference between limited entry and harvest objective, I know the Division hopes that on harvest objective that you reach the objective. On limited entry, you look at hunter success and add tag numbers, figuring you're going to get the average success. Is there more tags issued than what you really feel is going to be harvested?

Darren DeBloois: We just look at those numbers, and a lot of these units where we're recommending increases, they're way low on females in the harvest, which would indicate you could allow more opportunity. And a lot of these are over on the age, so a general rule of thumb, if it's two or three permits, it's just the biologist seeing there's opportunity and making adjustments. If they're five or six, there's probably some other issue, either a natural prey or a livestock concern.

Derris Jones: And my question is on limited entry, do you issue more tags, you have a target number of cougars you want harvested. But based on hunter success from past years, is there more tags?

Darren DeBloois: I think the biologists take that into account. They do. But there's only two limited-entry units, just flat limited entry. But yeah, the rest would essentially be a quota, once it opens.

Derris Jones: So on the split units, it would be the same as harvest objective? You're hoping to reach that number of harvest? OK.

Darren DeBloois: Maybe the flip-side of that, Derris, would be that we don't want more than that taken.

Derris Jones: But as far as the health of the cougar population, if you did reach your

quota, you wouldn't be worried. What would be the biological impacts of including leg-hold traps as a legal method of harvest on cougars on harvest objective units?

Darren DeBlois: The only biological thing that's come out lately has been the study, the work that was done in Nevada on incidental trapping of lions. That seems to indicate that if lions lose toes, you don't always hold them, but again, these aren't set for lions, they're set usually for bobcats or something like that, you may have an added mortality effect biologically by allowing trapping as a method to take. And then there's the social side. And I think that would be a hard pull to try to add trapping as a method. But I'm just speculating on the social side.

Derris Jones: Would making leg-hold traps a legal method of harvest of cougars, would that be a rule change or a code change?

Darren DeBlois: I'm going to say a rule change. I think that's all it would require. I don't think it's in code. I think the code just says the Wildlife Board will determine methods of take.

Derris Jones: Thanks.

Trisha Hedin: Any more questions from the audience? Alright, so we'll begin to take comments.

Comments from the audience

Brett Behling, Utah Farm Bureau: First of all, we appreciate the recognition of the impacts to livestock predation and we appreciate the increases in tag numbers. Obviously, there's an upward trend with all of our predator species. As we see that, a lot of our livestockmen, especially the sheep guys, are affected significantly. We had some guys last night that were indicating between the two of them they lost 1,500 lambs last year. And when you start putting that into perspective, each of them could buy a brand new pickup truck every year. So as these predation losses affect our ranchers who are very marginal at best with the livestock prices that we have right now, we're really in fear of our sheep men going out of business in the state. So as we look at these units and we see increases in tag numbers, we really appreciate that. The other thing is we're looking at, we'd like to recommend maybe a multiplier effect. We don't think that the actual losses, the documented kills, are accurate. In other states—Wyoming, Idaho and surrounding states—you'll have a multiplier effect of three to four in most cases on lions, and it's different for bears and coyotes and other species. But to accurately reflect the losses, we think we're probably only capturing about 25 percent of the actual losses that are taking place.

So as we go forward, we'd love to find a way to deal with the new reality, which is look at the trend line. I'm not sure what the numbers are, but we know that we're increasing all of our predators, and as we do so, our livestock are being impacted. So in the new reality to keep our people in business, we have to find a way to compensate them and to help them document their losses. So in order to do that, hopefully we could come up with maybe an easier way to document losses. One would be an app that could use

smartphone technology to have more biologists, even in the DNR instead of just Wildlife Services documenting the kills, having them certified and maybe some other self-certification process so we can actually capture the losses that are taking place. That would be a really big help. And then as we do so, we can help to come up with a way to compensate these guys for the losses that they're taking. We recognize it's a multiple-use state, we want to have our sportsmen have plenty of lions. But in the event that there are lions, we'd hope that our houndsmen and our hunters get the opportunity to take those to the maximum extent possible. So when we have problem lions, if there's ways we can include them in the process rather than just our government trappers, we'd love to find win-win solutions for everybody. So we support the recommendations that are made tonight, and we would take all that we can get in the future, too. Thank you.

Shayne Thompson, Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife: I'm here representing our group. As a fulfillment, we voted to accept the recommendations the DNR are proposing to you and to support the recommendation for the Book Cliffs to go to a split unit. And also there was a recommendation, they wanted to start doing some GPS reporting on the harvest too, and we'd support them on that. And that's as our group. And I appreciate everybody's work and effort to do this, and there's some pretty good opportunity for the lions and we want to keep the sportsmen out there. As long as there's predators there and an opportunity to harvest them, let's do it. Appreciate it.

Derris Jones: In light of Darren's kind of opening comments with, I think it was New Hampshire that you indicated showed a lot more support for trapping—Connecticut? Sorry, Connecticut, showed more support for trapping than some people might have predicted, I guess I predict that Utah has a lot more support for trapping than is currently felt at the moment. The Farm Bureau's comment about using sport harvest to help take care of problem animals, I think, ADC would probably use a leg-hold trap to remove problem animals. Why not use licensed trappers to assist, an opportunity to harvest a cougar with a leg-hold trap. I guess in light of that, I would encourage this RAC to make a motion to have the Wildlife Board to kind of look at a possibility of using leg-hold traps as a legal method of harvest for cougars on harvest objective units. Thanks.

Cody Webster: I would just recommend to also move the Book Cliffs to the split unit. We are kind of surrounded here with sheep units that are seeing zero harvest. The sheep units are supposedly the high priority to harvest the cats, there's not really a reason for the houndsmen to go run the sheep units when you've got everywhere else open as well. And as well as the fact that the Book Cliffs is trending upward on the female harvest and is over the 40 percent, I think if we move that back to the split, that would force some of the hunting pressure to the sheep units surrounding kind of curb the bad trend on the Book Cliffs, as well as focus the harvest of the sheep units.

Guy Webster, Utah Houndsmen Association: Hopefully everybody got our email. I know there were some, Darrel didn't do it, update your email or something.

Darrel Meham: My email crashed. It's dead.

Guy Webster: I'm here representing Utah Houndsmen Association and all of our members. We study the management plan, we've been involved with the management

plan. There's some concerns with it. 1999, we're sitting here talking about these populations increasing, we beg to differ with that. 1999, we were claiming to have anywhere from 2,500, 2,600 to 3,900 cougars in the state. 2017, there's estimated 1,900 to 4,000. Essentially the same. We're not seeing an increase in cougars. There's been a little bit quoted possibly a 4 percent increase with populations, but we're not seeing that. Also, going forth looking at this, we're asking for zero increase in tags. Over the last four years, there's been a 26 percent increase in tags statewide for cougars, with an additional asking of 12 percent. It's went 7.5 percent, 7.5 percent, 8, 8 and now we're asking for 12. The plan says we can ask for increases, but the plan also says that there is nowhere in there that increases are required. It says you may, it does not say you shall. We ought to stay with where we're at. We have no business increasing permits again. That's 41 percent increase over the last five years if you go with the DWR's plans. That's ridiculous. We talk about the Book Cliffs. The decrease of deer or the problem of deer, our Wildlife Board voted to increase deer tags this last year. If the deer are in such dire [circumstances], why are we increasing deer tags? Also our management plan. We call to minimize predator management units. We've gone from 22 to 30 in the last three years. That is not a decrease. That is not following the plan. We look at the other part of the plan. When there's 51 units in the state, 10 of those units are over 40 percent female harvest, an additional nine are not meeting the age objective. These are numbers right out the plans. This is actually numbers. The plan's right here. I'd be happy to sit down with any one of you.

But what we're asking for is zero increase statewide, stay with the 2017-2018 numbers, which was still a 26 percent increase over 2015, and we're specifically asking for the Book Cliffs to go with a split, the nonresident issue out there has become absolutely absurd. We got guys paying \$500, like Darrel said, to find them a track. If lions are so prominent, why do we have outfitters paying \$500 for a track? The Monroe unit specifically, 60 percent increase asked for just this year alone. The Southwest Manti proposing six increase. That's 35 percent increase this year, since 2014-15, that's a 200 percent increase in tags on that unit. Also, once again, we're begging for GPS coordinates to be done. We have to do it for coyotes, there's not a houndsman out there that's not running GPS. And if that one houndsman isn't, guess what, Google Earth, you can pull up them coordinates. Gives the tools for the fish and game to go back and verify where that harvest did, in fact, take place, if there's ever a question on that.

But I ask you to take a motion that we maintain where we're at, our population is not increasing, but yet our harvest has gone through the roof, and we just need to be sensible in what it is. Nowhere in the state are we doing anything for any other animal for a 41 percent increase in tags over five years.

Trisha Hedin: So Guy, just really quick—is it OK if I ask him a question? If we go with a motion for zero percent increase across the board and that passes, that basically eliminates this Monroe and Central.

Guy Webster: Yes, it would. If you would not do it across the board, zero increase was specifically on those two units. Those are a little bit more high priority units that we're asking zero percent statewide.

RAC discussion

Trisha Hedin: So we're going to take comments from the RAC, but I think before we start making motions, I think we need to break this up, if you guys are OK with this. And I'm going to mention some things, and if you want to add some things to my list, let me know. So Book Cliffs going to the split, zero percent increase across the board, the GPS coordinates on kills and then leg hold traps on cougars. Do we want to add anything to that? And like I said, if the zero percent increase across the state doesn't go, then we'll look at Monroe and the Central Manti. Are you guys OK with that? But if we have other comments, we should go with that first. But let's not start making motions—

Darrel Mecham: So what you want to do is get the noncontroversial stuff out of the way first.

Trisha Hedin: Do you want to go for it?

Darrel Mecham: Oh you want comments first?

Trisha Hedin: Let's take comments first and then let's get into motions. Are you OK with that? One question, we have the GPS capacity on the coyote kills. Is that correct? This is more of a question. But can we—

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, we're supportive of asking for that. And that's the direction we're headed. I'd like to see this coyote thing work first before we add, I anticipate doing lions and bears, and we'd like to ask Wildlife Services as well, to do something like that. So there's some development time in that. We could require it and then just people would have to, like Guy said, get it off Google Earth or their own GPS unit. With an app, we'd be able to verify it a little bit better. But that would be my plan would be to go that way anyway. We're just not recommending it this year.

Kent Johnson: It's already been talked about.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, I agree. I think it really could help us with our management to know where those lions are being taken. I think a lot of, some of what's being observed in the field and what's showing in the data is a matter of source populations that are filling into these areas where people are hunting pretty hard, so it looks like there's not very many, but they're taking lions year after year because they're being replaced by adjacent units. Was that the only question? OK.

Jeff Christensen: Any reason not going to split on the Book Cliffs?

Darren DeBloois: The only thing I'd say about that is that we're concerned to make sure we're taking enough lions in order to address the concerns we have. So if we go to split, I think that we'd recommend an increase in the permits because in the past, the success for a split has been somewhat less. With harvest objective, they're filling the quota.

Darrel Mecham: But you just said that the split unit was going to guarantee a better harvest in the Paunsaugunt. Which side do you got here? Let's pick a side. Can't have it both ways. That's—I'll calm down. That's bull.

Darren DeBloois: It depends on how hard it is to hunt. You can drive in a two-wheeled drive car out on the Book Cliffs and hunt lions, according to the guys that are talking to me and the houndsmen that have talked to me. Paunsaugunt's hard to hunt. They don't get the snow conditions, it's remote. They're not filling the quota down there. On the Book Cliffs, they are filling the quota. They're hitting 29. Two out of the last three years, they've hit the quota.

Darrel Mecham: OK, so what makes you think that guys that are hunting the split aren't going to hit it either? I mean they're there, they've got the dogs, they're going.

Darren DeBloois: They haven't in the past. That's the only thing that I have to go on. When it was split before, they weren't filling the quota. Biologically, in order to get the harvest we want, we may have to increase tags. I just want to throw that out.

Darrel Mecham: That's bad.

Jeff Christensen: Sorry, I didn't mean to raise your blood pressure again.

Darrel Mecham: You can't have both ways. It doesn't work.

Trisha Hedin: So any other general comments, and if not, I'll kind of start leading us into—

Eric Luke: I've got a couple of comments. When I had some of the houndsmen approach me about the Book Cliffs particularly and the nonresident issue, so I asked Darren to pull some additional data and he included some of that here tonight. And there's no question that in 2014, when that unit went to harvest objective, the number of cougars that were killed by nonresidents increased significantly. And the number taken by resident decreased. Before it was quota, it ranged from 54 to 71 percent of the cougars killed were killed by residents. After that, it's dropped as low as this last year was 21 percent. It is a significant number. However, one thing I want to point out to Guy, and I haven't had a chance to look at all the units that you say, you say it's going against the plan to be over 40 percent females, but if it's a harvest objective unit, the management plan is to harvest over 40 percent females.

Guy Webster: It can be on certain predator management units, correct.

Eric Luke: On a split unit or a limited-entry unit, then the strategy is to take less than 40 percent. So I'm not sure how many of those—but I do know the Book Cliff is a harvest objective unit, and it did go over the 40 percent. But that basically follows the plan. I did want to make that clarification because from your remarks, it sounded like there were a lot of units going against the management plan by going over it. And there may be some, like I said, I haven't looked at all of them. But I know there are some that fall under that harvest objective. So that would actually be following the plan.

I guess the other comment I had was going back to the Book Cliffs, and also concerning the Southwest Manti, I'm going to go to that one first. The Southwest Manti, I think I would have a very hard time not going with the Division's recommendations

there. I know for years, the Division has recommended tag increases there, and it's passed in the RACs numerous times, gone to the Wildlife Board and they've kept it. So there were several years there when there were recommendations to have the tags increased, and they didn't increase them. Looking at the data there, it's certainly eligible for an increase in tags. And where our deer unit, the South Manti is particularly struggling so hard, I would struggle to support a no increase on that unit. Back to the Book Cliffs, even though the harvest objective, I guess my concern is somewhat what the Division or what Darren mentioned. I'm in favor of going back to a split unit, but my concern is if the resident hunters are not filling the quota and we have to look at going back to the harvest objective, but I don't like the idea of the nonresident hunters and taking opportunity away from resident sportsmen.

Trisha Hedin: OK, any other general comments? And if not, I'm going to start with what I deem as the easier ones. Is that OK? Let's start with GPS coordinates. Do we have a motion on that?

Jace Guymon: I'd like to make a couple comments on that and then a motion. So I don't know if everyone fully understands the exact reason for that, but probably the Book Cliffs and the Nine Mile units are the worst units in Utah as far as needing that. You've got guys hunting the exact same roads, I spend over 100 days a year on Nine Mile, and everybody kills, all the outfitters there hunting Argyle Canyon, Nine Mile Canyon, all the easy stuff clear away from where sheep even are. Sheep are down by the river. They're not even hunting that country. They're not going across to Turtle Canyon. It's going to help show the DWR that that's an issue, that the Tavaputs Plateau, Range Creek, all that is a feeder, it's got a huge population of lions, and that's what's keeping Argyle and Nine Mile rotating through so many lions. But the average lion being killed is younger. So I think it's really important. It's definitely something we need, and Book Cliffs is the same there. They're not hunting down by the river. They're hunting the easy stuff.

That being said, I'd like to make a motion that we adopt a GPS thing. And like what Darren said with the looking at having an app or something, every houndsman has a GPS, all they have to do is look on their thing. But like right now we're required if you kill wild sheep to turn in the drainage you killed it in, it's general location, the drainage. I think GPS would be better, but I think we should adopt something immediately and then work toward the GPS.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a motion by Jace Guymon to request that a lion kill come with GPS coordinates. I'm probably not saying that correctly. And we have a second by Kent Johnson. All in favor. OK, that's unanimous.

Let's go to Book Cliffs and the split unit.

Kent Johnson: I'll go ahead and take a stab at the motion.

Darrel Mecham: I'm first. I'll make a motion that we accept the split unit and leave the numbers where they are for right now. You know, we'll find out quick enough if it isn't working instead of taking a knee-jerk stab at fixing something we don't even know is broke. So I'd adopt the split-unit strategy on the Book Cliffs.

Trisha Hedin: So we have a motion by Darrel Mecham to take the Book Cliffs East unit

and move it from harvest objective to split, leaving the numbers at current 2017 numbers. And we have a second by Kent Johnson.

Kent Johnson: Make sure we put in there when you present it to the board why we're doing it.

Trisha Hedin: Yeah, I will. OK, all in favor. It's unanimous. Would anybody like to entertain a motion about a recommendation of using leg hold traps as a method of taking lion?

Jace Guymon: I'll do a brief comment on it first. I personally would love to go out and set a leg hold and catch a lion. I think that would be awesome. But I think the social aspect we'd be opening up a huge can of worms that we'd just see more negative backlash than positive. So I'd make a motion that we not—

Trisha Hedin: It's not on there.

Jace Guymon: Yeah, that doesn't even need anything. That's my opinion.

Trisha Hedin: Does anybody want to make a motion? If not, I just wanted to put it up there because it was presented.

Jeff Christensen: Has the Division looked into any studies on that?

Trisha Hedin: A social study?

Jeff Christensen: Obviously, there's enough contingency on killing them, let alone trapping them.

Darren DeBloois: Right. We did a study, I think in '98, that just looked at attitudes toward hunting lions at all. And there's not a lot of support in the general public, just with the whole concept. I don't know what would happen. But I suspect that if we introduced a new way to hunt that we'd probably get some backlash. But that doesn't mean that the board couldn't consider it. And while I'm up here, I know I've been talking a lot, if we're going to talk about South Manti, I've got a graphic that I think would help with the discussion if we get to that.

Jeff Christensen: I'd make a motion that the board looks at it. I mean, ain't out anything to look at.

Trisha Hedin: So what do you want to look at?

Jeff Christensen: Look at the study on doing it. Derris, do you want to, for us to look into it?

Derris Jones: That was my recommendation, that the board put it on their action log just to consider it.

Jeff Christensen: I mean, we're not out anything.

Eric Luke: Yeah, that would have to be a rule change anyway, so that would have to be something that went through that process. So I think a motion to have them look at that to see if the rule changes—

Jeff Christensen: I mean it's an opportunity out there. I don't see much difference in a lion and a bobcat. I really don't, but I know people do.

Trisha Hedin: So we have a motion by Jeff Christensen for the Board to look at feasibly using leg hold traps as a take method for mountain lion.

Eric Luke: I'll second that.

Trisha Hedin: And a second by Eric Luke. All in favor. Five. And opposed. So we have Darrel Mecham, Kirk Player and Jace Guymon opposed.

And lastly, let's just talk about, well I don't want to lead you. I don't know if what the houndsmen recommend, start there and see how it goes. Jace is ready. I can see it.

Jace Guymon: I'm ready. So first off with the Manti. I know that the drivers are, for one, we're in predator management. Two, I think the Southwest Manti is the highest predation unit based off our statistics. Is that the graphic you had?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, so what we've been doing with collared deer is collecting cause-specific mortality and I've got something here that will show you how that works. So really quickly, you can see the legend there on the right-hand side. Lion predation is represented in yellow, sorry, orange. If you look at the South Manti, there's two that stand out. The Monroe and the South Manti. And what's particularly interesting and concerning about the South Manti is those deer have relatively good body condition when we check body condition scores, when we're checking collars. So that would indicate that it's not, they're not habitat limited, they're getting enough to eat, they're putting on fat. But we've seen increasing lion predation on that unit. You can see the bar is total mortality. It's over half is lion kill. And they're seeing a reduction in adult survival, and we think on that unit and probably on the Monroe that the lion take is a significant factor. That's why you're seeing the recommendations tonight you are for the South Manti and the Monroe. Again, this may help with the discussion, but that's where we're coming from, our concerns.

Jace Guymon: So with that, though, the only thing I'm curious on is with our Manti, our objective for our mule deer, is there at any point that we were actually at objective in history? Because over the last 20 years, we've never actually met that objective. So I'm curious if that's an unrealistic objective.

Brad Crompton: Can I use the short guy microphone? Is that alright? No, those objectives were set in the 90s when we first started those plans. We've never been there. Our cougar management isn't really related to a percentage of objective anymore. It's related to the adult survival on these radio collars. That objective isn't as important in these cougar

recommendations anymore.

Jace Guymon: Also relating to the Southeast Manti, though, where we're in predator management. And our statistics this year, I think, do reflect a change, even if it wasn't in predator management. But just where it is, it's been more of a focus. And I'm curious if we had an unrealistic objective for deer, if there's other aspects, other things contributing why we've never met that, why we're staying at 60 percent or wherever it's at.

Brad Crompton: Yeah, excellent point. What the actual carrying capacity of that deer herd is is due to a lot more factors than cougars, for sure.

Jace Guymon: I just wanted to put that out there to take the focus off lions. Obviously Southwest Manti does have high lion predation, but just in general, put that in everyone's mind that there's something more there than just lions, there's a reason, extra factors why we're staying below that. On the Southwest Manti, I know with the statistics that Guy put forward, is it 27 percent increase from last year?

Trisha Hedin: Thirty-five percent.

Guy Webster: Thirty-five percent increase this year, and since 2014-15, it went from limited entry to split...

Jace Guymon: So if we keep stepping up in this big of steps, I'm not opposed to a raise in tags, but six permits in one year, especially after we've raised the last two years, just seems really excessive where we haven't even seen what the last two years of increase are going to do to the population. Seeing more of a yo-yo effect if we do that many. So if anyone else has other comments, those are just things I wanted to put out. Somebody can add to it before we make a motion.

Trisha Hedin: I think you're close.

Eric Luke: Actually I don't believe there was an increase in tags two years ago, just last year. And that statistic shows the whole, both Southwest and Southeast Manti, not just Southwest.

Jace Guymon: So it's a lot of material to throw out.

Trisha Hedin: The main thing that they stated was zero percent increase across the state. But do we want to, I'm just trying to lead us into something. Do we want to state that with an exception or two?

Dana Truman: Or could we approach it as going unit by unit, and since Central Mountains, instead of saying a six-tag increase, say—

Trisha Hedin: We could, but then we'd have to deal with the rest.

Jace Guymon: Should I make a motion just on Manti? So I'd motion because the Southeast and Southwest have raised in the last couple years, that we lower the numbers,

maybe two on each unit, just to avoid the yo-yo effect. We want to kind of hit the mid ground and see where it goes. So a motion—I'm trying to think how to word it—a motion two tags on each of the two Manti units, the Southeast, Southwest Manti, rather than the four and the six.

Trisha Hedin: So are both the Mantis increasing?

Dana Truman: Increase by four on the Southeast and increase by six on the Southwest.

Trisha Hedin: So you're saying just increase both by two.

Jace Guymon: Yeah. And feel it out. Look into it because the cougar management is on a three-year rotation, so I think if we just keep bumping it every year, where does it end?

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a proposal by Jace Guymon on the Southwest and Southeast Manti that we limit that increase to two tags per unit. Do we have a second on that? We have a second by Kent Johnson. All in favor. Six in favor. All opposed. We've got Eric Luke and Todd Thorne opposed. OK, great.

Chris Wood: So it's two over the 2018 number.

Jace Guymon: Yes.

Trisha Hedin: Yes. OK, so then do we have another motion on another unit, or do we have a motion on the remainder of the state?

Eric Luke: I'd make a motion that we accept the remainder of the state as proposed by the Division.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so I have a motion by Eric Luke to accept the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented. A second by Kirk Player. All in favor. Seven in favor. All opposed. Darrel Mecham. OK, so we are done with that. Thank you. Jace, good job. So finally, we have one more presentation by Brad Crompton, sensitive species.

VOTING

Jace Guymon made a motion to request that cougar hunters be required to submit the GPS coordinates of their harvest to the Division of Wildlife Resources

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

Darrel Mecham made a motion to change the Book Cliffs East cougar unit from a harvest objective strategy to a split strategy and to leave the number of allocated permits unchanged from the 2017-18 season

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

Jeff Christensen made a motion to request the Wildlife Board to consider the

feasibility of allowing leg-hold traps as a legal method of take for cougars
Seconded by Eric Luke
Motion passed 5-3 (opposed: Darrel Mecham, Kirk Player and Jace Guymon)

Jace Guymon made a motion to increase the number of permits on both the Central Mountains, Southeast Manti and the Central Mountains, Southwest Manti cougar units by two permits from the 2017-18 season
Seconded by Kent Johnson
Motion passed 6-2 (opposed: Eric Luke and Kirk Player)

Eric Luke made a motion to accept the remaining Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019 as presented
Seconded by Kirk Player
Motion passed 7-1 (opposed: Darrel Mecham)

- 8) **R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments**
- Brad Crompton, wildlife biologist, Southeastern Region

Questions from the RAC

No questions.

Questions from the audience

No questions.

Comments from the audience

No comments.

RAC discussion

Dana Truman: Motion to accept the changes as proposed.

Trisha Hedin: So we have a motion by Dana Truman to accept the changes by the Division as proposed. Do we have a second on that? Second by Jace Guymon. All in favor. And that is unanimous. We're done. Meeting is adjourned.

VOTING

Dana Truman made a motion to accept the Sensitive Species Rule Amendments as presented

Seconded by Jace Guymon
Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on Aug. 30, 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 Sept. 12, 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
August 2, 2018

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Natasha Hadden, BLM
Randy Dearth, NER RAC Chair
Joe Arnold, Public At-Large
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Ritchie Anderson, Agriculture
Daniel Davis, Sportsman

Rebekah Jones, Non-consumptive
Boyde Blackwell, NER Regional Supervisor
Brad Horrocks, Agriculture
Brett Prevedel, Public At-Large

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT

Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist
Amy Vande Voort, NER Wildlife Biologist
Brandon White, NER Law Enforcement
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist
Shay Farnsworth, NER Landowner Assistant
Tech
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Tonya Kieffer, NER Outreach Manager
Rori Shafer, NER Office Manager
Darrin DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator
Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals
Coordinator
Kyle Kettle, NER Predator Specialist

NERO MEMBERS EXCUSED

Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe
Andrea Merrill, Non-consumptive

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBER

Kirk Woodward

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
Brad Horrocks, second
Passed unanimously

MOTION to approve the minutes from the last RAC meeting.
Rebekah Jones
Dan Abeyta, second
Passed unanimously

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE – Randy Dearth**

Director Fowlks talked about a national archery symposium that was going to happen, and I didn't get the date down on that but it's going to be basically on the recruitment of archers. Then he mentioned that our ex-director Greg Sheehan that is now with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Washington talked about opening up 33,000 acres of Federal land for hunting access that isn't open right now. That would be a big plus for us. Then director Fowlks talked about the drought in Southern Utah and mentioned that we could be asked to increase some of our antlerless tags.

- **REGIONAL UPDATE – Boyde Blackwell**

This summer we had our loon watch, osprey watch, and mountain goats. We get a lot of people from all over the state that come to these and they are really good. People really enjoy them, they come from clear down in Southern Utah. We like to have those. My folks do a really good job of putting those off. They have biologists there with spotting scopes out and of course, Tonya is there doing a good job. Our community fishing pond is looking really good. We are expecting to start filling that in November, and it should have an opening around March or April. I think everybody here has probably heard about the Dollar Ridge Fire. Boy, it's had some major impacts. It covered a handful of our WMA's in that area, Wildlife Management Areas, they were definitely impacted by the fire. I think in the long run as you look into the future, these fires can be very good, but they also can have some immediate impacts that we have to work with. And flooding, when you get a fire and it burns these canyons and up and through the canyons, you're going to get a lot of silt in that comes down and eventually, it will wash all that down but it's got to hit all these drainages. We had a major rain event up there. We had a normal flood around 30 CFS through there. Because this storm was kind of spotty, huge rains went anywhere from 1-4 inches in an hour and we got an estimate of up to 300 CFS in those areas. Measuring stick went from 3 feet to 9 feet in places on that Strawberry River. If you ever get the chance to see pictures you'll see some of those bridges that are above Timber Canyon that were completely blocked off. So the River actually left its banks and was flowing through the woods and down the roads and it was really quite a major event. There are still more canyons that are going to have to have some of that silt washed out. That was a Blue Ribbon fishery that got hit and personally, I'm sad to see it go, I liked fishing that river. The fish can't breathe in that water when it's all full of silt and ash, so we lost a lot of fish. The Division lost a cabin up there as well. Right after the fire, I saw a picture of the cabin and there were just pieces of roof tin that was left there. I guess the flooding didn't quite get down that far, but it was above Timber Canyon. It was quite a fire and quite a flood. We probably have more flooding to go so they will be closing that Strawberry River Road for at least another year. They may open it after that, but it's going to take a lot of work to fix that and get everything washed out. We've already started working with the Forest Service and the County for seeding. We've got to get some grasses planted up there to stabilize

the banks, and to stabilize those canyons. The habitat section is already starting to meet, and they are starting rehab already which is a good thing. The aquatics staff has been preparing for the Steinaker Reservoir drawdown. We've moved a lot of fish out of there. Some have gone to the Wasatch Front to some of the ponds there and others have gone to some ponds out here that we've been able to find. We've put fish in, so we'll be able to take them out and put them back in. Also, we've gotten all of our rotenone in for our Pelican Lake treatment so that will be a go, I believe in November. So we're going to treat Pelican, try to get rid of the carp that cause a lot of mud and damage in that Reservoir. In keeping with some discussion we had earlier in the spring; my wildlife section staff have been paying really close attention to our issues around the region, Book Cliffs in particular. I know I've been out there and that mahogany is already starting to turn brown and it shouldn't be brown at this time. So the wildlife staff is going to be making recommendations to the Wildlife Board to increase antlerless elk permits this coming board meeting this August. We're going to be recommending an increase of 15-20% along with maybe some changes in our hunt strategies to try and reduce the number of mouths on the landscape. When they are being hunted, where they are being hunted. We have a lot of depredation issues going right now. These elk are coming down and they are having to be shot, moved, harassed, whatever we can do. So we are going to start to do that and like I say the increases are going to be anywhere from 15-20% for our next Wildlife Board Meeting and that will come from our region.

- **R657-11 - Furbearer Rule Amendments** - Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Ritchie Anderson: So who has authority in managing raccoons, coyotes and unprotected species?

Darren DeBloois: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Ritchie Anderson: So in your language there you're setting rules and regulations concerning trapping devices for coyotes and raccoons, is that correct?

Darren DeBloois: Our position is that the wildlife authority has the permission to regulate a device that can take a protected wildlife species and the recent studies on coyotes indicates that 23% of the time they catch a protected animal. So when you put a device in the field with a reasonable expectation that you're going to take a protected species of wildlife, then the Wildlife Board can regulate that device.

Ritchie Anderson: What are the odds or the percentage of a protected species getting caught in a trap on agriculture ground in Utah?

Darren DeBloois: I don't have the answer to that Ritchie. I know the study that I'm referring to was based on using best management practices. Using the trap configurations that we regulate and about 23% of the time.

Ritchie Anderson: That's on actual animals that are trapped. That's not on all the animals in the field that could possibly be trapped. Correct? That's just animals that were actually trapped.

Darren DeBloois: Right. They put the sets out and they documented what got caught.

Ritchie Anderson: I've got another question but I need to background it just a little bit. I'm wondering why we don't know how big of an issue this is and why we're spending a whole lot of resources and time on it. So I punched some numbers off of your guy's statistic and the statistics of the State of Utah to try to figure out what are the odds that a protected species get caught on agriculture ground in the state of Utah. And it can be done, those numbers can be punched. So private land percentage in Utah, 24%. You take out residential, subdivided areas, urban areas that's not going to be trapped in, and I left my scribbles at home, but that is going to reduce that 24% quite a bit more. And then you take agriculture land and that reduces it even more; the odds of that being trapped of a protected species being trapped. And then you take, and this was a little difficult to get so I just used you guys trapping number from 2016-17 of protected furbearers taken vs coyotes and raccoons, and I put that number in on what's the odds of a protected species hitting that trap vs a non-protected species. So you do all this formula, and I've got an accounting firm that would love to punch numbers, you've got about a 1% chance of a protected species hitting a trap on agriculture ground unintentionally in Utah. About a 1% chance or less.

Darren DeBloois: Let me tell you the data that we're looking at. When it is 23% of the time in coyotes set, you catch something you didn't intend to. The second is about 40% of the badgers caught in Utah, are caught incidentally. In other words, they've set a trap for something else. So those are the concerns that we have. And I'm not arguing with your concerns either Ritchie, I haven't done that math.

Ritchie Anderson: So what are the numbers, so of your whole badger population, what percentage got trapped accidentally?

Darren DeBloois: I don't have the answer to that question.

Ritchie Anderson: What about fox?

Darren DeBloois: We know how many were taken incidentally but we don't have an overall population estimate for those animals.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok so I'm assuming since we are addressing such a major issue that needs rules and regulations and will need some law enforcement manpower. I'm assuming that you're going to recommend to reduce the furbearer licenses and tags. Is that correct, you're going to recommend that?

Darren DeBloois: No.

Ritchie Anderson: Well why not?

Darren DeBloois: The way that you manage a highly reproductive and abundant species is by watching harvest trends over time and so that's not how we manage them, Ritchie.

Ritchie Anderson: But we're going through a lot of effort here to mitigate a concern and we don't even know how big the concern is. Is that correct?

Darren DeBloois: I don't think I agree with that Ritchie. We know that these types of devices are capable of taking protected species. It would be similar to if you're in the field and you see a coyote chasing a deer fawn, a couple coyotes. And you think I'm going to take a shot at those, I'm going to be a Good Samaritan but you miss and you hit the deer instead. You had a reasonable expectation and you're responsible to make sure that shot doesn't go astray. If you put a trap in the field you have a reasonable expectation that you may trap a protected wildlife species. So that's where we're coming from.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok. But you cannot tell me what the odds are of a protected, other than the numbers I just gave you, you have no idea how big of an issue this is, or what the probability is.

Darren DeBloois: On a population level I think you're right Ritchie.

Ritchie Anderson: So what I'm assuming because there is going to need to be a law enforcement component to this. There is not a rule or regulation in the world that has any value without a law enforcement component, right? I'd like to know what type of training the law enforcement officers have received that are enforcing this regulation. Surely there has been some training done.

Darren DeBloois: I'd have to have a law enforcement officer answer that question.

Boyd Blackwell: I think he went over a rule in the rule how it would be enforced, didn't you? That was the very first thing you covered.

Darren DeBloois: It would be enforced just like we enforce trapping rule across the state. So a trap needs to have a trap registration number on it, it needs to comply with the regulations and the rule like spacers. If it's a leg hole trap you have to check it every 48 hours. If it's a lethal trap, every 96 hours. I don't think, as far as I'm aware, we haven't done any specific additional training but our officers are aware of and familiar with those rules and how to enforce them.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok so who's going to inspect the traps and when?

Darren DeBloois: You know law enforcement, I think it would probably be helpful if they could speak to how their workload is and how they decide.

Ritchie Anderson: Is somebody here from law enforcement? Could they address when are they going to inspect traps? How are they going to inspect them?

Brandon White: Ritchie it's a very big process. Typically someone could be trapping all year round there are issues that come up with that and we're going to deal with it, but typically we're around during trapping season and that's when we are inspecting it. I don't know if your question was directed to who is going to check, the trapper is the one who must check every 48 hours.

Ritchie Anderson: Well right, but I'm assuming you're going to inspect them for registration numbers? Are you not?

Brandon White: Unless you're bringing them into me I don't know what number you've set on your traps.

Ritchie Anderson: Right, but you'd know I have a registration number, are you going to be inspecting those traps to make sure the traps are numbered?

Brandon White: No, not specifically, no. I'm not going to go around to every landowner and say I see you have a trap I'm going to inspect all your traps.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, and that's the training you've been given?

Brandon White: Correct.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok. Because I still work for the state of Utah on a part-time basis and it's actually in a law enforcement capacity. We receive training, and that training is given to us verbally as well as in writing. Have you received that in writing? On how to enforce this new rule and regulation.

Brandon White: We've not received anything specific other than how to and state code and wildlife rule.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok thank you.

Brett Prevedel: On the committee that developed the rule, are they all in support of the rule?

Darren DeBloois: At the end of the night everybody was in agreement with those suggestions. What we ask is that everyone goes back and checks with their constituencies. We asked the group if they felt like we needed to meet in person again, the group felt that we could handle most of this over email, so that's how we did this. So we sent red line copies out of the rule, what you're seeing tonight, to get feedback. I sent them a copy of this presentation for them to review and didn't see.

Brett Prevedel: No splits in the committee.

Darren DeBloois: Right. The committee was on board.

Randy Dearth: Darren this might be a good time to read this letter, it goes along with what Brett's question was. This is actually from Sterling Brown the Utah Farm Bureau Association.

See letter

Sterling called me today and this is, we asked for feedback and this has been almost a year-long process, and this is something that has kind of changed in the past couple of days. I wouldn't say we've ever been opposed to talking and one of the processes of this committee was to get those players in the room and have this discussion. Three members of that board was part of the process. The commissioner, one of the members of the board and of course the director of the Division of Wildlife is the vice chair. So I felt like that board was represented in the process, having said that I don't have any concerns with continuing talking to agriculture and it's clear who's authority is what and where it lies.

Randy Dearth: There was an amended motion made by the southeast RAC, what was that amended motion?

Darren DeBloois: They passed these rule changes as presented. The amendment was to ask the Wildlife Board to create an action item for us to sit down with that board and to bring it full circle. Maybe an extra step. I had felt like we had engaged with members of that board, but the RAC wanted to make sure we talk to the full board.

Randy Dearth: I do have another one, I'll go ahead and read. This one is from Mark Wintch, Utah Cattlemen's President.

See letter

Randy Dearth: I think your slides show that coyotes and raccoons are under the Department of Agriculture.

Darren DeBloois: Yes.

Joe Batty: So last year how many instances were there where a protected species was taken on private ground in a trap set for coyote?

Darren DeBloois: I don't know if we've broken it down that far. The way that law enforcement reports violations are in a database so we could look up violations of the trapping rule and that varies.

Joe Batty: How long will that take?

Darren DeBloois: I've got it here I just need to look it up. Joe, it's going to take a second, but I can get that.

Darren DeBloois: So we looked at that and I showed Joe, I should have put this in a slide. If anyone is curious we can pass it along. It's just on my screen and I'm not that technically savvy. These are the numbers I got from law enforcement. First was unlawful methods of trapping, in 2013 there were 16 violations, 52 in 2014, 113 in 2015, 85 in 2016 and 12 in 2017. I think in 2017 we weren't quite through the whole year so that might be why that looks quite a bit lower. Then for unlawful methods of take, in 2013 23 violations, 82 in 2014, 77 in 2015, 27 in 2016, and 9 in 2017. And we talked about this, we can't break that down into private vs public. And at that period of time the rule wasn't in place, so that wasn't even on the radar.

Joe Batty: You've used this number 23% in the study. Where did that study take place and who did it?

Darren DeBloois: It was done by the American Fisheries, American Association of Wildlife Agencies. They have a whole section that deals specifically with trapping. They put out best management practices. They have guidebooks and what traps to use and what's the best way to do these things. They did a study, it was nationwide, it's actually a little higher in the East, but they have more nontarget animals that are more likely to be caught. Just the nature it's a little less in the West. But that's where that comes from. I think I have a copy of that somewhere. At least an email from them on that.

Joe Batty: I have one final question on that, I know you won't be able to answer it and maybe Wildlife Board will have to work on it. If the DWR wants to regulate the taking of coyotes, are they willing to stand some of the depredations that takes place?

Boyde Blackwell: We pay a lot of money, a lot of money to the Dept. of Ag to fly and kill coyotes and.

Joe Batty: Do you know that in your regulations here you've outlawed flying to kill coyotes?

Boyde Blackwell: The Department of Agriculture can fly and kill coyotes. It doesn't exempt them.

Darren DeBloois: This is for the public. The statute that established the agricultural damage board gives them authority over flying. They actually make decisions over who can fly and they may work with wildlife services to administer that. So that is kind of handled by their side.

Joe Batty: So the regulations are for the general public only?

Darren DeBloois: Right.

Ritchie Anderson: So this was never ran through the predator board?

Darren DeBloois: No, not the full board Ritchie. In fact, they haven't met since the rule passed last year.

Ritchie Anderson: Cause I talked to them today and they have jurisdiction and authority, legal authority over the non-protected species, coyote. So they are really the ones when it comes to trapping rules and regulations, aren't they the ones that need to set those rules and regulations? Because they were given that authority by the state legislature and the Governor years ago.

Darren DeBloois: I want to be careful Ritchie because I'm not a lawyer. So I don't want to speak out of turn on the legislation. But they do in the statute have authority over trapping coyotes. What we're doing here, what we discussed in the committee, this is not to attempt someone from trapping a coyote. This is an attempt to prevent protected wildlife from being caught accidentally in a device that is not discriminatory about what it catches. A trap is a device meant to catch an animal, not specifically a coyote. That is why we feel like the Wildlife Board has authority over the device. In fact, we are supportive of livestock producers being able to do that and we tried to walk a line between making this easy to comply with, we haven't put this in any other rule where we hold someone harmless from prosecution if they are trying to comply.

Ritchie Anderson: But there may need to be some rules and regulations. But it needs to be done legally. It needs to be done through those who have legal authority to set those rules and regulations. So the DWR does not have the legal authority to. That was specifically given to the Department of Agriculture, specifically on these species. And did you guys even bother to run it through the board? And that is a policy setting board like the state Wildlife Board. That's not just a recommended board like we are, they actually set the rules and regulations on trapping, you understand that?

Darren DeBloois: Yes I do.

Ritchie Anderson: So why wasn't that board given the opportunity?

Darren DeBloois: Again, we had three members of that board on the committee. We felt like that board was represented. They had the opportunity to go back to that board and get input and I didn't hear any feedback, so as far as I could tell everything was good. That's the only explanation I can give you Ritchie.

Ritchie Anderson: I'm wondering if that's why the Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association, I'm wondering why they pulled their support as is. I'm wondering why they did that because they recognize that you guys do not have the legal authority to do what you're trying to do. To go through that board that has the legal authority to do that. And, uh, are we going to do that?

Darren DeBloois: I don't have any problem going to that board. But this is before you tonight, so obviously, the RAC will have to...

Ritchie Anderson: I don't think, I really don't think the language in the first of this is memorandum even needs to be presented because it's not legal.

Darren DeBloois: All I can say Ritchie is our Assistant Attorney General has a different opinion about it. Just by way of where the Division is coming from.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok so when do you plan on presenting it to that board?

Darren DeBloois: I would assume as soon as they meet again. I don't even want to assume, I certainly want to take it before the board.

Ritchie Anderson: The Division of Wildlife Resources will abide by the rules and regulations that that board offers.

That's something that will be discussed at the director's levels and with our attorney. I don't know if I can answer that Ritchie, sorry.

Dan Abeyta: How did this go in the other regions?

Darren DeBloois: The first two, very little discussion passed it as presented. The southern region had similar discussions to what we're discussing tonight. If I recall their motion was the same as the southeastern region to recommend passage of these rules but to ask the board to consult with the wildlife damage board. Same with southeastern as we are tonight.

Dan Abeyta: So it sounds like on your committee you had three board members from the board that Ritchie is referring to? Three out of?

Darren DeBloois: Seven.

Dan Abeyta: Ok that's good, thanks.

Comments from the Public:

Morris Carroll: I'm here to represent Utah Trappers Association. Al Robb has asked me to comment this way. He says what I would like you to recommend at the RAC meeting over there

on behalf of UTA is pertaining to the new rule of private landowners trapping coyotes on their property that currently reads, if they trap coyotes further than 600 feet from their buildings they must have a trap tag, number, and trappers education and/or a furbearers license. UTA recommends that the rule be reworded to 600 feet in from their property boundary line instead of 600 feet from their buildings. So they could trap coyotes or other non-protected species out within 600 of their property boundary line. Also, UTA recommends that the season start for beaver, mink, grey fox, spotted skunk, ringtail be changed from September 22nd to October 22nd so that the resource will be utilized in the fur market or by the taxidermist. The furbearers are not prime in September and we feel like this is a waste of that resource. It has been stated that if someone is having depredation problems with any of these furbearers, the earlier opening will allow them to deal with them. Those problems are already dealt with under the depredation permits, so the early opening in that regard is a moot point. And it says Thank you, Al Robb.

Comments from the RAC:

Randy Dearth: Darren, it sounds like the committee you put together was well attended by the right people. It sounds like maybe they went back to their constituents and maybe wanted to have a different voice at that time after you had made decisions. I think its good you guys doing that because it helps the process of bringing all the players together to talk about it.

Brett Prevedel: I believe when we talked about it about a year ago or whenever it was, you were directed to form a committee with the representation of the agricultural community. If they haven't done their communication within their organization, I don't know what we can do about that. Because I think you did what was directed when we left you a year ago.

Ritchie Anderson: I'd like to make a comment on that. The people in that committee was not given the specific language we are looking at tonight. At the time that committee was formed that's why Darren got a call from Luann Adams, Commissioner of Agriculture today, is that correct?

Darren DeBloois: No, this specific redline copy was sent to all members and this presentation was sent to them and they've all had a chance to see it. Luann did call me today, she said they are supportive of our recommendations. They are always willing to talk, she just wanted to make sure I pointed out the language in the rule that indicates that we do not have authority, acknowledges that we do not have authority over coyotes and raccoons. Also to let everyone know that it would be our intention to make a form available for these landowners that are having these problems with the ability to assign people to check their traps. That was our conversation today.

Ritchie Anderson: So I talked to some of the board members on the animal prevention board today and they had not seen this language. Has everyone received this language?

Darren DeBloois: We're talking about two different things Ritchie. Members of the committee that we talked about tonight saw it and members of the wildlife damage board, all the members have not but the three, the director of the division, the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and one other member that was on the committee have seen it.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, so after reviewing the language, why did the Farm Bureau... they were on the committee.

Darren DeBloois: I can't answer that. I can't speak for why. They were on the committee and up until today they seemed to be on board with it, but I can't speak to why it changed. I just don't know Ritchie.

Ritchie Anderson: One more comment I guess. We're looking at a huge issue I guess. We're investing a lot of time management hours into it. But to me, we're looking at a 1% probability that the protected species gets caught. It's probably less than that, I think we need to punch the numbers a little more, get caught on agriculture land. So we're doing new rules and regulations, new law enforcement dollars spent. And Utah has one of the highest rates of suicide in the nation. One of the highest rates of child sex abuse in the nation. One of the highest rates of fraud on senior citizens in the nation. And we're going to invest law enforcement dollars on maybe 1% of probability. That's not going to keep one animal out of the trap and the right animal in the trap. It's physically going to do nothing, nothing at all to prevent the wrong animal from getting in the trap. The only way you're going to physically prevent an animal, the wrong animal from getting in the trap, let's go all the way. Let's GPS every coordinate of every trap set, let's get the manpower from the Division to inspect every trap set every 48 hours. Let's bring in a 3rd party verified source like the Humane Society, PETA. Let's go California style. Let's make sure that if you euthanize an animal, conservation animal. I mean really how big of an issue is that? And how big of an issue is it that the DWR needs to take authority that they do not have from another agency that the State Legislature and the Government never gave them to tackle this issue and cause contention. Who is going to decide if a trap was set for coyote or raccoon? Is that going to be at the digression of the conservation officer? I assume it is. So you're going to have a situation where you're going to have a lot of tension between a food producer. Because there is no specific things in the rules about what the trap has to look like. So they are going to say we are trapping for coyotes and raccoons and they are going to say we're going to site you because no you are not. There's no guidelines on that. So that's my comment honestly where are our priorities? Law enforcement dollars could be going to something substantial. I'm a little bit embarrassed honestly. I mean the governor needs to do an audit. There needs to be an audit of the way time is being spent and the resources and manpower. And it's time. I don't think the governor would support law enforcement and manpower dollars going to this probability when he has a lot bigger issues he's trying to tackle. And I hope Shawn Reyes offices don't put much more time into it either. I'll talk to him, I hope he doesn't put much more time into it. Thank you.

Daniel Davis: When the Utah Hounds men come forward to try to take raccoons after dark, it's always been against the law. A lot of people do realize that it's been against the law for a long time. It wasn't the Division that we had to come to for that approval, because they can't regulate that. We actually had to go to the commission, and get approval from the county commission to be enforced by the sheriff's department. So to me, the state isn't taking authority over how we take raccoons and coyotes in that retrospect. I feel like they are putting the authority over to the right people that have the place for it. Now if my dogs turn and chase Bambi, I'm in violation, just as I'd be if I was trapping the wrong species. Four legs and fur have a mind of their own, just

like a trap can't identify its sex, but it's called a trap. I don't feel like the state is overstepping their boundaries with the raccoons and coyotes. But I do understand the concerns that the private landowners have of the infringement of their property and the potential thereof. It has to be insured by the state, by law enforcement that those trusts are there, that it hasn't turned into a harassment, and infringement of landowner's rights. That's where I stand.

Dan Abeyta: I guess I ask myself a question, has the state done their due diligence here on these changes? And when I hear that you brought in three of the seven committee members from the board of the Department of Agriculture; I feel like they have done their diligence there. Ritchie, you presented some numbers here, 1% you say, and you're using the numbers you got from the Division of Wildlife. I guess hearing that for the first time right now, I'd have to look at those numbers and I guess what I'm trying to say is I wonder about those numbers. You can punch numbers and kind of manipulate the numbers, and I'm not saying you've done that. But I guess I have a hard time sitting here believing that there is less than a 1% chance of catching a protected wildlife species in a coyote or raccoon trap. I have a hard time sitting here accepting that or believing that. Again I feel like the question in my mind is has the state done their diligence and it looks like you've brought in a fairly diverse group of members on this committee. So that's where I'm standing right now.

Joe Batty: I'll be as brief as I can. Several years ago on a cold winter night, I had a heifer calving and there was snow on the ground so it was real easy to see what happened. Coyotes attacked her and she fought them off until she could no longer stand, of course, she is in labor laying down. They ate the calf as it was coming out and of course, then they ate the back side of her. Whether she died from the exertion or bled to death I don't know. At that point, I don't want the state telling me what type of trap I can use or what I can do to capture the offending animal. I am against registration of traps on private property. I had some nieces and nephews that didn't sleep for a month.

Brad Horrocks: I was here last year when we went through this discussion and I appreciate the board looking at it, I believe we had quite a bit of support out there for the state to make this happen. But I totally oppose putting more regulations on the private landowner. You expect me to go down and get a trap registration to get rid of a skunk or a raccoon or coyote on my private property. And if it's outside of 600 feet, you guys are taking away our rights. I don't think we're in the business of doing that, it's private property and I'm totally opposed to regulations stuck on private property owners and when the problem is happening, we had the foxes hit us one night and getting into our lamb herd in the night, I am in no mood to come down and register traps and whatever I need to do to take care of the problems. So I just oppose more regulations being put on the private property landowners.

Randy Dearth: Brad how would you feel if you found a trap on your private property that had your dog in it that wasn't yours?

Brad Horrocks: Probably the same way I'd feel if somebody came into my front yard and took my bicycle. You know you're not going to cure all probability but at that time it's a different scenario, it's somebody that's breaking trespass rights or whatever it is. It's not taking my

landowner rights away from me because somebody comes on to my property and sets a trap illegally. He broke the law, that isn't taking my rights away from me to control my own private property.

Randy Dearth: It's not but I think that's what they are trying to do is help figure out who's doing what to make it mandatory to register that so they know if somebody is doing that they catch them and they can find out who's doing it.

Brad Horrocks: I extremely disagree with you. I think the person trespassing isn't going to have a trap with a number or a name on it. I can't imagine them being that kind of stupid, but if they could do that if any of that happened that would be great. It would be like leaving my business card on your front porch when I stole your BBQ.

Randy Dearth: I could see it being reported and then them kind of keeping an eye on the area where they set that trap.

Brad Horrocks: This thing, it just isn't good.

Daniel Davis: So I've got a question for landowners. Is it a concern about buying the permit and tagging the trap? Is that truly the issue? Or is the infringement law enforcements ability to come onto your property and report a violation when you feel like you're completely legal? I'm torn on the concerns.

Ritchie Anderson: I'll address that in just a little bit. For me, the fee, if \$10 is going to break me I'm already broke. And I don't even know if we need the regulation. I'm fine if that's what the state decides we need. But we need to do it through the right legal authority. So my \$10 if there needs to be a fee of trapping coyotes that needs to go to the Department of Agriculture. And those rules and regulations need to come down from the Department of Agriculture through the predator board. Those are the ones who set the rules. As far as an encroachment on private property, yeah that's an issue, I'm an American. We have private property rights. A lot of people died for those. Don't come in unannounced, don't come in without a warrant, don't come in without probable cause and justification. Those are legal things. Don't come in. If one of these officers called me and said, as a matter of fact recently I had a Division employee on our property with their child hunting turkeys. I gave him the combination to our locks and he still has it. I told him he's welcome any time. If one of these officers called me and said can we come take a look? I'm going to say here is the combination. Our conservation officer in Colorado has the combination to the locks and he's welcome any time. Because he's asked permission and built that relationship. If you come in unannounced, come in without reasonable cause. I'm not going to be the man to let the men who died for those rights die in vain. I'm sorry I don't care if it's a Federal agency, a State agency, whatever. You ask permission, you're coming in, with or without me there you're coming in. I don't care, just do it right. Do it the way this country was set up and meant to be. We had a big law enforcement issue with the DWR that was addressed this spring. There was a big meeting we had Martin Bushman we had everybody there. And we addressed this issue. And it is a concern. If the DWR thinks they have the right or the authority to enter private property whenever they feel like, there is going to be trouble. Because under one part of the law they are exempt from trespass rules, and from the other side they are not. So yeah,

it goes to a larger issue for me. A larger foundational issue of this country. Stay the heck off unless you have legal justification, you go through the right legal channels or you ask permission. There is not a DWR person here that I would not give permission to, not a single one if they asked. Does that answer your question?

Randy Dearth: Ritchie are you saying this law gives them the right to search your property any time they want? Is that what you're thinking?

Ritchie Anderson: How are they going to enforce this rule and regulation without entering the property and checking? They cannot...

Boyde Blackwell: Yes they can. The law enforcement guys would do it exactly how they do it today. They would get a tip or they would get somebody who says there is somebody doing something here. They would come to you and ask for permission to go on and check that trap. Then they could handle the situation that way. But to go on and on about this when we've talked about this and gone through this, it's a waste of our time right now.

Ritchie Anderson: So do the conservation officers handle it that way every time?

Boyde Blackwell: That's the way they are supposed to handle it, yes.

Ritchie Anderson: If they handle it.

Boyde Blackwell: This was discussed at our meeting last fall. They would come to you and ask permission to get on your property.

Ritchie Anderson: Right.

Boyde Blackwell: So why do we need to go over it again?

Ritchie Anderson: He asked the question why are we concerned by it. I was answering his question. Was I not supposed to answer his question?

Boyde Blackwell: You can answer his question, but let's get an answer and move on.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok.

Boyde Blackwell: I gave you my answer of how they would handle it.

Ritchie Anderson: It doesn't get handled like that every time.

Boyde Blackwell: So tell me a time when it wasn't.

Ritchie Anderson: The issue we addressed this spring.

Boyde Blackwell: Ok tell me a time when it wasn't.

Ritchie Anderson: Those officers went in without permission, without asking to that rancher's property.

Boyde Blackwell: So what you're saying is that wasn't cleared up, we need to meet again and discuss it and clear it up again? Is that what you're saying?

Ritchie Anderson: No that is addressing his question.

Randy Dearth: Ok let's move on. I'm going to call for a motion I think we've had more than ample discussion on this one. I'm going to call for a motion.

Brad Horrocks: I'm not quite understanding, it is under our jurisdiction, correct?

Randy Dearth: Raccoons and coyotes are not.

Brad Horrocks: Ok so if I'm taking coyotes, the regulations of this deal. How did it get this far if it's supposed to be the Department of Agriculture? It's kind of hard for me to understand why it's at this point. If it's really truly supposed to be Department of Ag. I mean why are we here if we're not supposed to be here in the first place.

Randy Dearth: Because if you catch one illegally then you're in trouble. This allows you to catch them legally and stay out of risk.

MOTION to approve as presented along with an action item asking the Wildlife Board to have the DWR take these changes to the Utah Animal Damage Prevention Board.

Ritchie Anderson

Joe Batty, second

Passed unanimously

- **Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2018-2019** - Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Randy Dearth: The gentlemen Morris Carrol who was here earlier, he was hoping we would change that September 22nd to October 22nd. Isn't that what they were recommending?

Darren DeBloois: That is my understanding. Biologically I don't think there is a lot of concern there. The concern is primness of fur, but I prefer people to have opportunity. September 22nd is late enough that you're not worried about young of the year. That would be my only comment. I don't think there is a biological reason why you can't go to October but I don't think there is a biological reason.

Randy Dearth: I have one other question. Adult survival, that means one that we took and harvested as an adult, right?

Darren DeBloois: Right, that's a statically analysis that you can do really quickly, and hopefully I can explain this. What you look at is theoretical that you would expect to see in age distribution and your actual data. You can analyze that statically and derive an estimate

of survival for adults. That graph I showed you has a line there is some confidence intervals around that that vary, but it's pretty tight.

Dan Abeyta: Do you have any idea what percentage of the harvest occurs between say September 22nd and October 22nd?

Darren DeBloois: I don't Dan, sorry. I don't think I could look it up quick either. Sorry about that.

Dan Abeyta: I'm just curious, and I'm assuming those who are serious about trapping aren't out in full force.

Darren DeBloois: That has come up in other RACs that guys who are serious about selling their fur know when it's prime. There are some folks that want to start earlier and there is no real concern for the population.

Brad Horrocks: Is there any statistics showing that an animal isn't prime in September?

Darren DeBloois: It's largely subjective but ideally what you want is a big thick winter fur. Some guys prime might be a little bit different than another but if you catch something that won't sell at the first sell you learn pretty quick.

Brad Horrocks: There is a possibility if you move that from the 22nd of September and wait a few weeks there is a possibility that they are snowed out of some areas. I'm not familiar with bobcat trapping but I would be concerned with moving that to October 22nd they would be missing out on opportunities pretty fast.

Darren DeBloois: Brad I think that's a good point. We try to be as liberal as things as we can to allow the protection of things but allow people to go out and do their sport.

Questions from the public:

JC Brewer: This is probably not terribly important but I did notice that you specified specifically spotted skunk. Is there a reason why you don't just say skunk?

Darren DeBloois: Stripped skunks fall under our last discussion they are listed under, well they are not regulated. We do not set seasons on them. So that's the reason why they are not listed.

JC Brewer: My obsession is trail cameras. I take thousands and thousands of pictures. I'll get ten pictures of striped skunks before I get a picture of a spotted skunk. In other words, there are a lot of striped skunks out there and not a lot of spotted skunks and I was wondering if there was a difference in the management. I guess I was wondering why you said spotted skunks on here and not skunks period. That answers my question.

Darren DeBloois: There is definitely less.

MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations as presented.

**Brett Prevedel
Brad Horrocks, second
Passed unanimous**

- **Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2018-2019** - Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Randy Dearth: All the RAC members received a letter from the Houndsmen's Association and it pointed out a couple of things. One was the Monroe cougar unit. They were hoping we'd have zero increase and I think the recommendation is to increase that six. I just wanted to make sure you guys were recommending that because.

Darren DeBloois: There is something I could show the RAC really quick and show you why we are recommending doing that. Some of the data that we get out of these collared deer that we have out there across the state is cause-specific mortality. We try to get out on those deer quick and try to determine what killed them. So if you look at that Monroe up here, that orange bar is lion depredation. That and the South Manti are the two standouts and we're seeing an increase over the last few years in lion depredation in those units. That's why we're making that recommendation on the Monroe. And the Manti unit as well.

Brett Prevedel: You said something about a harvest objective tag where they can move through units.

Darren DeBloois: If you have that tag any harvest objective unit that is open can be hunted.

Daniel Davis: Can you tell me what year this plan started? So in 2015, it looks like we had one of the lowest years of incidents. And then after that, it began to rebound significantly. Can you explain what caused that?

Darren DeBloois: One of the things we do, it's not a management parameter in the plan, but we try to look at other biological data in the area to make sure we know what's going on with the population so we know and we may have talked about this before, it's a population reconstruction. And the way that works is every lion that is killed in the state has to be checked into one of our to one of our offices. So theoretically we see every harvested lion in the state. And what you can do is, say last year there were 10 harvested five-year-old lions. The reasoning is you can say well if they were alive this year to be killed then they had to be alive last year as four-year-olds. And the year before that as three-year-olds. But you also pick up your four-year-olds from last year and move them back. So you just back populate. And by doing that you can get to an absolute minimum population in order to harvest the lions that you've seen come into your office you had to have a minimum number of mountain lions. So that gets you a minimum but what's really cool about it is that the trend doesn't change if there are additional mortalities going on, it only shifts your trend up or down in terms of numbers. You can also catch other age

classes that brings you a little bit closer into the future. If you graph that out this is kind of how it looks. Now again, this is a minimum adult population two years and older. Don't get too caught up in the number 2,000, 1,000 that can shift up and down. And it should because this doesn't account for yearlings, it doesn't account for kittens and it doesn't account for natural mortality, because we know cougars die of other things. This doesn't account for that, this is just harvest. So this is the minimum number of cougars that we would have had to have in order to maintain the harvest that we've seen over since 2004. So you can see the trend. To answer your question, it looks to me like we've seen a growing number of mountain lion population over the last decade or so. It gets fuzzy the further in time you get, so the closer we get to the present day. So it looks like we are detecting a top out in 2016, and this is also a year old so we don't have last years accounted into this. As you move further in time those last dates get a little more solid. And at that endpoint, you can see where we've seen some decline in the deer population numbers. This is classic predator-prey, you can see the predator population will grow with a lag time then react to a reduction in prey base. It looks to me that we've had a growing lion population. They've been growing with their prey base or primary prey source and that is being reflected in the livestock damage. And it could be exasperated if you get an increase of natural prey you may see an increase of livestock depredation because they are trying to compensate. So long answer Daniel, sorry, but that's it.

Daniel Davis: So does Wildlife bring in every lion that they harvest on an incident? To age, sex, and identity.

Darren DeBloois: Yes.

Daniel Davis: What's the typical age, and sex of the animal?

Darren DeBloois: I'd say it varies. It depends, I don't know if there is a trend or pattern. It kind of depends on the lion that's involved.

Daniel Davis: I think we discussed this last June and it was identified that it was more of a sub-adult, is that correct?

Darren DeBloois: I think talking to producers that seems to be something that they say, I don't know if I have any hard numbers on it though. The perception is a lot of times it's the young or females with kittens.

Daniel Davis: Last question I had. With our strategy of management by unit is to help shift pressure, correct?

Darren DeBloois: Right.

Daniel Davis: So we prioritize units based on bighorn sheep, mule deer, or whatever costs us the most amount of money to sustain. I understand I'm a sportsman I agree with it. So with that said, the amount of harvest objective units that we have and the split are we truly achieving that on each one of these units?

Darren DeBloois: To focus harvest? Yeah, and it's probably a little bit more complicated than that but it appears to be, and this is some of the research that Mike Wolf and Dave Stone are

doing in Utah. Mountain lions range much further than the units. So usually what we have is a source synced dynamic where you can hunt a population pretty heavily in localized areas and sometimes that localized area is smaller than the unit itself. But as long as you have the area you've attended a backfill of lions from there. Which is good for the population from a statewide perspective, it means there is some kind of protection there for the population as a whole. We can design hunt units in order to focus pressure as well. Does that answer your question?

Daniel Davis: I understand that we can design those that's why the three units.. and the question in hand is we have 28 units in the harvest objective/split harvest. We have 10 of those closed and 18 still open. So that brings the question to me, are we truly addressing the problem in problem areas? We have unlimited quotas, yet we've killed three in the past five years. If they were truly our concern would we not shift the pressure that direction? That's what my question was.

Darren DeBloois: I think in terms of livestock depredation there are multiple tools so there is kind of a broad-based let's see if we can get the overall population to a lower level. But then there are other tools livestock producers have and one of those are wildlife services who can come out and trap or chase a lion. Landowners can also get a depredation tag if they have chronic livestock depredation so there are multiple things going on at once but in some areas in the state they are not meeting that quota and they are trying to. You saw tonight a couple of recommendations to try and address some of those types of concerns.

Daniel Davis: Final one I promise. We're just going to go hypothetical for a moment. So we have a unit that has a healthy lion population. What happens when we harvest that older age class of males from that population base in that dynamic between males and females and sub-adults?

Darren DeBloois: So the age objective in the plan is to try and address that. Some of the research that has been done tries to suggest that the older age males tend to try to set up larger territories. If you take that animal out there is always this sort of overlying or underlying number of juveniles within a population they get bounced around. So when those territories are vacated then they can move in. Younger males tend to set up smaller territories than older males. So you might get a couple of territories where you might have had one before. Then there is always this overlap in females that overlap multiple males and a lot of times if you look at the genetics of litters you'll see that they are fathered by different males. They kind of make the rounds that way. But does that answer your questions?

Daniel Davis: It does, so with that diversity, they get from there is it fair to say that the population does spike?

Darren DeBloois: I'd say maybe theoretically you could see lion numbers increase in an area. But again that plan is made to try and maintain that older age class and that's why we'd make changes to recommendations if we started seeing... the idea is that people actually select for older animals so if you started seeing a reduction in the older age classes that would really indicate that they aren't there anymore. So we need to make adjustments to try and keep that proportion. And those factors come from a study that Mike Wolf looked at a lot of the data from the Monroe and on those units they had a known population so they could kind of see how that population reacted to other hunting strategies. They said that if it was below 40% females and above 15-

20% of the five-year-olds and older that was a stable population. And you should see a stable growing population.

Daniel Davis: So does the Monroe have those bordering areas that...

Darren DeBloois: It does, that's one of the things they found with that study is I think they were removing about 40% of the population on the Monroe for about three years and they saw a reduction. Once they backed off within about three years that came back to where it was before from neighboring areas primarily.

Brett Prevedel: How quickly are the harvest objectives met? Specifically Book Cliffs?

Darren DeBloois: Dax do you know when you hit it? I would say generally February or March.

Brett Prevedel: Most all of them are not the whole season?

Darren DeBloois: Most of them close. There are a few that Daniel pointed out that don't.

Brett Prevedel: Most of them hit their objective?

Darren DeBloois: Most of them hit their objective in either January or March. But some earlier I think some of them close in January.

Brett Prevedel: Some of them are real quick. This comment that came to us that said that 80% of the lions in the Book Cliffs east are taken by non-residents. I'm trying to figure out why that would be the case?

Daniel Davis: It would be contributed by outfitting and non-residents. There were 23 lions harvested by non-residents in Utah and only six residents.

Darren DeBloois: So on the Book Cliffs we had a split season before 2013, so the green line here are the number of lions killed by residents, the red line is the number of lions that were taken by nonresidents. When that was under split you can see more residents took lions off the Book Cliffs east than nonresidents. When that switched to harvest objective those two lines diverged. One thing I think that is worth pointing out is the concern on the Book Cliffs has similar concerns as some of these other units with mule deer. So our primary concern is an effective way to accomplish the harvest that we need. We were not getting the harvest under split seasons. The success rate on average was about 65% and that is as a split unit. They just weren't filling it. Once we switched to harvest objective the first few years we didn't quite get there but over the last four, at least two of the last four, Dax? Three, we hit it. So over the last three years I think it was 80% and the last three years we've hit 100% of the quota. So as a strategy for management on this unit that's a good way to get them harvested and that's why we're recommending that tonight.

Randy Dearth: Out of the last five years since we've switched to harvest objective, you see the nonresidents are taking more but they've taken three and a half times more females than our residents have. So they are willing to help us out with that I guess.

Brett Prevedel: With the outfitter, it's a window of opportunity to shoot a lion.

Daniel Davis: Yeah because when you walk five miles in butt deep snow, you're not going to walk away from a lion treed if you're paying somebody thousands of dollars.

Ritchie Anderson: I've got a question. I probably should know this. Are we under legal obligation to sell a certain number of nonresident tags?

Darren DeBloois: Not for these types of tags. A limited entry permit where they have to draw out it's a 90/10 split. So if it's under that type of harvest strategy then 90% of the permits would go to a resident and 10% to a nonresident. Now with harvest objective that's open to anybody that wants to buy a permit. It's kind of like fishing. And that's the primary reason why you saw the flip. And these are lions taken.

Ritchie Anderson: So we could limit the number of nonresident tags.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, you could. The season structure would have to change to either split or limited entry to do that.

Daniel Davis: Darren you said that this is similar to other regions in the state, what regions would that be?

Darren DeBloois: I should have done it on the La Sals but I looked on the Cache and it's basically the same quota and it's a harvest objective unit as well so it's the same as the Book Cliffs. And it's not like this. We haven't seen a flip to nonresidents. It's still mainly residents harvesting on the Cache. But the Cache isn't the Book Cliffs so that's about as far as that comparison goes. The Cache is tough to hunt, there are only small areas you can access.

Daniel Davis: So you're saying it's harder to get someone to want to go hunt there.

Darren DeBloois: Yes, that's right, that's exactly what I'm saying.

Dan Abeyta: So that divergence that's what the state wants to see then? The Book Cliffs?

Darren DeBloois: From a management perspective in terms of who is taking the lions, I don't think that matters as long as we're meeting our quota. From a social perspective that's what this board was set up to grapple with. I don't know that we necessarily need to be concerned that more nonresidents are taking lions than residents but obviously if that's a concern then that's a good role for the RAC.

Dan Abeyta: I'm not a lion hunter so I don't know what the local lion hunters feel about that, is there a feeling there?

Darren DeBloois: I suspect you'll hear when we open up to the public.

Dan Abeyta: Ok let me ask another question here, I added up all the increases unit by unit for 76 tags increase, is that about right?

Darren DeBloois: 72.

Dan Abeyta: What percentage is that of the total do you know?

Darren DeBloois: It's like an 11% increase from last year. That's not exactly what you asked, but the totals...

Andrea Merrill: The total is 1,234.

Daniel Davis: If I may ask, am I correct that the plan may support a zero increase across the whole state?

Darren DeBloois: We don't really manage that way Daniel, so we'd be considering on a unit by unit basis. But the plan says if you are within the objectives that you may stay the same or increase. And if you look at all the units, the majority of the units did just that. I know we kind of highlighted the ones that changed but if you think about it as we went through there, there's a lot we kind of skipped over. But that's an option Daniel sure.

Joe Batty: How many lions were taken by officers because of depredation?

Darren DeBloois: Five. And if I remember correctly the number of incidents are on the rise. Here's that graph Joe, so I'd say about 30 and the incidents are going up about five more a year.

Questions from the public:

Robbie Smith: Utah Houndsmens Association. What agency is doing these testings for the teeth samples?

Darren DeBloois: The testing is done at Madsen's which does most of our teeth and most of the western states teeth. That's there in Montana.

Comments from the public:

Kevin Norman: Representing SFW. We want to support the Divisions recommendations as presented, with the exception that we want to support the Hounds men with looking into making the Books a split unit instead of a harvest objective just for the fact of giving residents more opportunity. And also supporting the Hounds men and looking into the GPS reporting similar to the coyote bounty kind of an app. That's our stance I guess, thanks.

Jason Bristol: I'm a hound's men and have been for like 18 years now, most of my life. I've hunted the North Slope most of that 12-13 years, I go up there every year, 10-15 times every year. The last three years not one lion. I've chased 2 lions in the last 3 years. And on this thing it says the quotas always been ten. Such a small area I'm wondering why it's so high. I understand the big horns are there but the big horns are on Bear Top and it never gets hunted. For North Slope, Three Corners. I've wondered this for a long time. In the last ten years I've seen a decline up there when I go up there to hunt. And I've actually hunted it harder the last three years than I ever have in my life. Been on more roads, spent more time up there and found less lions. Most of the lions I find are coming from Wyoming or Colorado and if they stay there very long it seems like they die, get killed. I found one tom up there and it was killed within a week of me finding it. I'm just wondering why the quota hasn't gone down for that area? Cause in the last years you haven't killed one over five years old. The eight lions not one of them has been over five years old.

Amy Vande Voort: So that quota has been ten because it is a bighorn sheep unit. It is under a management control for bighorn sheep. So we keep it at ten because we want it open to try to get lions out of there.

Jason Bristol: You said all your big horns were on Bear Top, correct? Are there some on Goslin?

Amy Vande Voort: We currently have big horns in Clay Basin and Goslin, along the Green River and on Bear Top.

Jason Bristol: But with ten lions on such a small unit you're not going to have a steady population if you keep killing every lion that comes into the unit. Are you saying the big horns are worth more than these lions?

Randy Dearth: This is just the comment period, not the questions. So you just need to make your comment.

Jason Bristol: Sorry I lost myself. It is a small unit, it's the smallest I know of. That unit in the whole entire time I've been in the Hounds men has never met max, not close. The most I've ever seen killed on it was 4-5. Why couldn't we drop it down to 4-5 and make it manageable? Plus the majority of the unit is Bear Top which is inaccessible for most of the season unless they have a horse. Most aren't going to spend the day on Bear Top looking for a lion when they could go to other places. Especially in the winter when it's cold. I'm just wondering if we could lower it down to a more manageable quota so maybe it could get filled once every five years.

Randy Dearth: Alright, thank you. I appreciate that Jason.

JC Brewer: My primary concern unit is the Book Cliffs. The last two years I've gotten up here and complained about the numbers of predators in the Book Cliffs; coyotes, bears, and cougars. This year I'll just complain about the Cougars. As you all know I run lots of cameras. That's my obsession, taking wildlife pictures. I passed out a cougar picture just a few minutes ago for you folks to look at. Right at the moment, I can't count 1, 2, 3 or I don't do models like you folks do, I do trends. I've been living and seeing in the Book Cliffs for 70+ years. I see trends. And the trend recently on our deer herd... our deer herd was pretty devastated here a couple of years back, it got quite low. Then for two years, we saw an increase in our deer herd. We were doing good we were gaining, but we were still quite a long ways away from the objective. This year we've plateaued, we're not gaining any more deer this year than we have the past two years. We're also right in the middle of a severe drought. Considering those two items the drought and the plateauing deer herd, I'm questioning why we aren't increasing the harvest objective numbers we are planning on taking from the Book Cliffs. The last two years we've not increased that. Clint is bigger than me so I can't twist his arm too hard, but I think that we need to increase that unit some at least to hold the cougar numbers in check until we get that deer herd up to objective. We're not gaining on that objective now, we've plateaued. Thank you.

Clayton Beckstead: Farm Bureau. Just want to tell the Division we support their recommendation in this. One of the interesting facts is the livestock producers aren't reporting the depredations because it's really an ineffective way to report them, and they don't really get anything out of it.

We believe that the information you've gathered, those numbers are significantly higher. So we certainly support the increase in numbers.

Comments from the RAC:

Brad Horrocks: What is the problem, what was your studies out there if we did increase those cougar tags? Out there with the drought, and it sounds like we're wanting more opportunity. What's the problem with it?

Darren DeBloois: So if we're talking about the Book Cliffs specifically, we haven't done the lions side so maybe I could have Clint or someone talks about the prey side. But we do intend, we're going to start this winter, start collaring some lions out there and address that aspect, but maybe Clint could address what's going on with deer.

Clint Sampson: To speak on the deer, we are going off the best technology there is up to date. We are doing some things that have never been done before with wildlife management. It's really, really exciting stuff. We have several deer out in the Book Cliffs that are collared. We're able to track their movements, track their migration patterns, but we're also able to track what kills them. Especially adult doe survival is what we're worried about most of all. Right now currently with the amount of collars we have out there we're at about 74% survival. On good years you're looking at mid-90 is where you want to be at with that. Our adult does are down considerably, a lot of these does are hitting the dirt in the summertime. And with the GPS collars we are able to get on site with these kills, sometimes within a day of when we get the mortality signal to determine what kills them and what time of year they are dying. We are losing a significant amount during the summer months, spring to summer, and that right off the bat leads more towards predator related mortality. I'd say about 75% of our mortality we can credit to cougars so there is a significant amount of take out there from those. If you look at this graph and look at the amount of success we've had taking lions, it's probably the greatest success story in the state. If you look at how many cougars we were harvesting before when we were back to split units and now with harvest objectives, everyone gets a chance to hunt who wants to; and granted our residents aren't the ones filling the tags. But it's our backyard, I think we have more of an opportunity to hunt out there than somebody from Wisconsin coming out here, hiring a guide, spending a lot of resources. It is in our backyard and we have more opportunity to hunt than the nonresidents, so that's just something to take into account. If you look at the amount of harvest we've had its been ideal. I kind of shudder to think about what would happen to our deer herd if we were to go back to those numbers in 09.

Brad Horrocks: Is there room to get more tags, get more opportunity out there? It sounds to me with the drought and what you're saying we should increase those tags.

Clint Sampson: That's up to the RAC, you guys yourselves. Like Darren was saying at the start of his presentation. We look at what's happening on the ground and it's not only the biological side if we look at only biology that wouldn't matter to a lot of people. But it's not only biology, it's the social side we take into account. So we could increase permits, we could have increased permits last year as well. But we're sticking with that 29 for now.

Randy Dearth: Do you know if the side boards have a plan to increase that and how many off hand, do you?

Darren DeBloois: On the Book Cliffs it does, they are over on their female objective but that qualifies for predator management under the plan, so we can recommend more. That's the thinking between both the strategy and the number of permits. The only thing I'd add to that is if it is the RACs preference that we switch to a split you should expect us to raise the permits, because back when we had a split before we were not harvesting the mountain lions like we need to and the only way we'd be able to that is to increase the number of permits on the unit.

Randy Dearth: I do have some number I want to talk about. When it was split, for eight years it was split, we had an average of filling about 65% of those tags. Since we went to harvest objective we're 100% the last three of the four years. Before that, it was a harvest objective back in '03, '04, and '05 and it was about 44% so we went from 44% to 65% to 100% which I think is a good thing for our deer population. I wanted to address Jason's question on the drop in the tags of the North Slope, Three Corners. Can we address that? What would happen if we drop that to say six tags? Would it make any difference?

Amy Vande Voort: So the reason we have it high, it is because of the sheep. We don't really want to hit the objective. If we get a lion in a place where it is killing sheep we want to bring in a hunter to harvest it. So it's not necessarily a unit where we want the objective met. We've kept it high because we could technically go unlimited if we wanted, a lot of the other sheep units are unlimited. It might not change but we do like having the option of having more. It gives more opportunity for hunters to pursue lions throughout the year instead of limiting it.

Brett Prevedel: Your goal is no lions there, right?

Amy Vande Voort: Yeah, technically.

Brad Horrocks: How is the sheep herd up there?

Amy Vande Voort: It's struggling. We've had disease issues going through and some lion issues the last couple of years.

Brad Horrocks: We are having lion issues up there?

Amy Vande Voort: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Where at specifically?

Amy Vande Voort: Goslin, and Bear Top. The Goslin ones we've kind of taken care of, but Bear Top we still get them.

Daniel Davis: Is there any chance of opening accessibility to that?

Amy Vande Voort: That's a discussion for a different time I think.

Brad Horrocks: Is that with that Flaming Gorge stuff up there too?

Amy Vande Voort: Yeah, it's with the Forest Service.

Dan Abeyta: I guess I've got a question for Clint. I need a little help understanding why the Division is holding back on increasing cougar permits in the Book Cliffs. Given the fact that you identified adult doe survival is low and that is contributed to lion depredation. What is holding the Division back from proposing an increase of those cougar tags out in the Book Cliffs?

Dax Mangus: We made the change to the harvest objective from the split, it was a fairly aggressive change. And the intent with the change was to harvest more lions to reduce the lion population, and we got a lot of push back a lot of social pushback about how the Book Cliffs is their favorite unit and they love hunting there they want to see a bunch of lions there. The data we've been collecting back on lions that are harvested we're seeing the amount of females is going up a little bit, age is going down a little bit and those are both indicators that we are starting to see that lion population start to decline a little bit. There were a couple of years that it didn't show that but the last couple of years it's really starting to show that. So since we were seeing that trend move in a direction that we wanted to go and because we had a lot of pushback from the Hounds men we finally just said ok you know what we're getting there, not as quick as we would like to, but we are getting there so we just kind of left the recommendation around 30. We were looking at the math. If this were to change to a split unit we would probably recommend somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 based on historical success rates and to try to get a comparable harvest to what we're getting now.

Ritchie Anderson: I have a question and maybe Daniel can answer this. Would the Hounds men like to see more of these lions harvested by residents, do you care?

Daniel Davis: Absolutely. So like everybody else we have jobs to live to sustain our family, or livelihood. So the time for me to go to my backyard, my work schedule allows me a couple of days a week to maybe go. Dax and I were fortunate enough to go this winter. To sit here and preach that there are not lions in the Book Cliffs is a bold faced lie. To go out there and catch a lion with Dax and have a good time and talk about the management we fulfilled that. The opportunity that we have to harvest those lions, no we don't want to kill a sub adult, no we don't want to kill females. We're about a healthy population. Is there a lot of healthy population out there? There is an imbalance of the mature lion's vs what we see. I was going to wait for everyone else's comments but I'm going to explain something real quick. So over the last couple of years when this management plan was passed, it was always talked about and we'll never kill all these lions, we won't. The days of the cyanide poisoning and those days are gone. We're not going to kill all these lions. We have the state of Colorado on the south side of the Book Cliffs if you're familiar with that area, you're not going to kill those lions, then you've got the tribe. So what's happening is, and the reason I keep bringing up these statistics about the last three years is because the dynamic we've seen in the lions and the population. Mr. Brewer brings a good point every year, he's been coming to this for a long time and seeing his mountain lion pictures in groups of 3-4 at a time. The reason for that being we've removed the ability for cougars to effectively manage themselves. When we take a mature tom out of an area, all those females he's had, and kittens, now have a place to stay. So that one, two, three females that comes roaming through his area has a place to stay now, they aren't going to try to take those kittens and disperse. So what we've seen is there were draws I could go cut, I'd cut three lion tracks on it.

It's not a lie, there's pictures. We haven't seen that before. So when this happens it allows the female population, the kitten population to surge to the point where your deer herd population pays for it, so does your livestock. The deer herd has been on a downhill trend for the past three years. What was the population in 2009, can you tell me that for deer? Currently the plan is 15,000 and we're at 7,100. That's the lowest I've seen that deer herd population in a long time since I've even been coming to this RAC. Attributing factors, the Division is doing a great job. I myself volunteered to go participate in the deer study. It was probably one of the funnest things I've got to do is go collar some deer and capture them and help out with that study. But the dynamic people don't see if you're not out there with these animals following their habits, their prey and seeing what we're causing it's easy to buy a graph and say why don't we give more then? If our deer herd numbers are down, why don't we give more? That's a sensible thought process, absolutely. But it's not well educated in my... well never mind don't go there. So back to the point, we've created an issue where the females with kittens are leaving Colorado because they don't have the harvest strategy we do, they aren't harvesting the lions to the extent we are, so those females leave Colorado, and come into the eastern side of the Book Cliffs where they don't have the tom to naturally disperse or push those females or kill the kittens, that's the natural side of their cycle. Same thing from the south side, same thing from the tribe. So to say we're going to kill all these lions and reduce the population, it's going to plateau because we can't. But we're not going to do it from what we've seen, and this is collectively from Utah Hounds men, the members in this area. The biggest fight we fight right now in that area is with the deer herd and kittens harvesting the deer. And that is an increase since we went to this management strategy. Now we can talk about the split and what permits we've harvested, it was a 20 permit split harvest objective prior to this plan. It went to a 40 permit combined between the east and west Book Cliffs. I think we harvested 35 of them on that side the very first year. Our deer herd keeps going down. How is that? We've harvested over 300 lions since we started this management change, but our deer herd keeps going down. So there is a dynamic there and its proven I've read a lot of California stuff, you've all got the same emails I have, right? But it's also the issue with the livestock, we talked about it last year. It was brought up, that's why I asked the question again. Our livestock issues primarily from younger lions. Well if we address those younger lions around the livestock they're not going to go away. Tell me an area where they are going to go away. The livestock on open range with predators they are going to coexist no matter how hard we try to mitigate them. But would anybody want to take their house and turn it over to a group of teenagers, go on cruise for a week and come back and see how it looks? It's the same dynamic am I an expert? No. Collectively, I've spent a lot of time out there, I've seen the dynamic that takes place and what happens with the fluctuation with these animals. There is a biological side to it, and a social side to it. I didn't want to get too long, but from the experience we had out there, there's a lot different dynamic than just kill all the lions. We feel like we are imposing a situation not resolving one.

Brad Horrocks: The Divisions recommendation if we went to that, we'd go 47-50 lion tags. If we went split we'd have to raise them from 30-47, is that right? To get the same amount of numbers. I think with biology here and to listen to them we need to kill a lot more lions or if we change this we've got to go with to kill at least as many as we're doing right?

Randy Dearth: I'm looking at some data here that Darren gave me. On the five years previous to us going to harvest objective it looks like we took seven females, the residents took seven females and they took 30 males. So they took a total of 37 cougars in the five years preceding. It looks like the nonresidents took five females and 14 males. That's quite a big difference here, about 60-70% taken by residents and 30% taken by nonresidents during the split. Ritchie asked a question directed towards the Hounds men, typically we don't do this but I'm going to let you.

Robbie Smith: So I gave all you guys a copy I'm sure you've read it. It's getting late so I'm just going to touch on the key points. Ask the RAC to vote on these four key points. We asked the Book Cliffs to go back to a split unit. Please note that all the other RACs have voted unanimously to go back to a split unit. We're asking for a zero increase on the Monroe. They are increasing it by six tags, that's a 60% increase. Central Mountains South West cougar unit, were asking for a zero tag increase on that. Since 2014 that has been up 200%. Also we're asking for GPS coordinates on all lion harvests just a location of where that lion has been harvested at so we can find out hey where did you really get that lion at? It's just a good idea. The whole association just feels like it will help out with a lot of issues across the state.

Brett Prevedel: So I had a question for you. The difference is the female harvest? That's what was not being harvested before. So if we went back to a split the locals would not want to harvest females we're going to be right back where we started from, aren't we?

Robbie Smith: Those questions are better off for Daniel. And also we don't want to create a nonresident hunting unit in the state. We get these problems with outfitters that get a female up in a tree and think that's a nice cat and shoot it.

Brett Prevedel: That's exactly what happens but if you can't meet the objective without shooting the females, and we have the deer problems. Going back to the split won't that just put us back into the same problems?

Robbie Smith: In my opinion, I think we need to level it out.

Brett Prevedel: You're saying manage for lions and not for deer?

Robbie Smith: Look at deer management, they did that on Filmore, Oak Creek. I had that unit last year, it's a hard unit to hunt. The state had a problem with that so they got all these does off of Antelope Island and hauled them in to help that limited entry unit. A lot of people wait 12 years to get a tag out in the Book Cliffs and they get out there and get frustrated because they are seeing a bunch of three points. That's not the lion's fault.

Daniel Davis: So the point I was making answering Ritchie's question that he had is if I'm going to go hunt for trophy lion, I'm not going to hunt in the low dense deer population areas. I'm going to hunt higher in the deeper snow where the lion is going to eat an elk because a three-year-old tom is going to take down elk regularly and make that his diet. Does that make sense? So if I'm going to hunt a trophy, I'm going to go high. Well you still have that area because of the dominance, there is still going to be mature toms down in those areas because they don't intermingle well. But when we remove that ability and disperse its huge, I never thought I'd see that dynamic until it's been so evident in the last couple of years watching our deer trends trying

to get more educated in what happens and how we harvest the lions. Beyond aggressive compared to historical, yet our incidents rise. How do our incidents rise if we are killing more and more lions every year? That's my point. When you remove the natural side of that species to manage itself, its livestock related, its schools and some of those in urban areas are from the dominant males pushing the kittens out. It's usually the younger lions, that's the dynamic that takes place. And by overharvesting the older age class, we're never going to kill them all. So is this the solution? Keep harvesting them down til its all younger lions? Stuff that's illegal to harvest? I can't kill a female that's wet with kittens. Does it happen? Oh, I'm sure it happens. Are they caught? Yeah, they have to check them all in, I'm not doubting the Divisions ability to do that. But you're not going to kill every lion, every female when they have kittens. The prey base is going to be fawns, it's going to be sheep, and it's going to be the easy prey. So those are my comments.

MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations as presented

Brad Horrocks

Rebekah Jones, second

Passed six in favor, two opposed

Daniel Davis: I think, again, a livestock producers wellbeing. We're creating our own problems. I don't see how that happens. The Division is doing what the Division's doing. They want dead lions, they don't care how they die. But me as a resident of this state would like to utilize our abilities and see them being managed as such. There isn't another unit in the state that gives twice the amount of tags in a limited entry unit for nonresidents only or provide nonresidents that opportunity. So I'd like to make an amendment to accept the Utah Houndsmens Associations proposal as presented.

Randy Dearth: So there has been an amendment. You basically have the Divisions presentation as presented with the exception of the four items that the Houndsmens Association. Do I have a second on that? Not hearing a second, that amendment dies. We'll go back to the original motion. Do we have any further discussion?

Ritchie Anderson: Is there a way to have the best of both worlds? Can we reach...?

Daniel Davis: To go to split and issue more permits to reach the objective.

Ritchie Anderson: Is there a reason to not have the best of both worlds? What is the argument against that?

Randy Dearth: I think the argument of going to split is that they'll raise tags. They need to raise tags because previously when it was a split they were only get 65% of the lions killed. Whereas now they are getting 100% or close to.

Ritchie Anderson: So it would put more hunters in the field? I don't want to prolong this, but I guess I don't quite understand why we can't have both.

Darren DeBloois: Just real quick under harvest objective anybody can hunt, it wouldn't necessarily mean more hunters overall, but it would mean more permits on a limited entry basis. Does that make sense?

Brad Horrocks: How does this limit residents hunting opportunity?

Darren DeBloois: I'm not familiar with the nuts and bolts of the Books Cliffs and how or why we are seeing this dynamic, so maybe Dax could speak to that.

Dax Mangus: A harvest objective strategy is actually the ultimate opportunity, anybody who wants to buy a tag every single year, resident or nonresident. So I don't know that it's an opportunity issue, it's a harvest issue. Who is willing to harvest a younger lion and that tends to be nonresident hunters who are hunting with a guide. Where our local hound's men, I'm assuming, can pursue a lion and be more selective for an older tom, that's my assumption. So I don't know if it's an opportunity issue so much, it's an amazing opportunity. Anybody can buy a tag and go hunt over there every single year. It costs \$200 less for a resident than a nonresident to buy the tag, plus most of them probably aren't hiring a guide. So the opportunity is there for residents it's just a matter of selectivity of what they are willing to harvest.

Daniel Davis: See that's where that objective of split comes in, if the harvest is not met during the limited entry portion it goes to a split which then becomes a harvest objective. So it allows anyone with one of those permits to go fill the remainder of that quota. So at that point, if it's not harvested it opens the doors for everybody.

Brett Prevedel: But they only got 65% harvest when they were on the split for some reason.

Dax Mangus: It probably has to do with timing. When a split unit transfers from limited entry to harvest objective, isn't that February? The Book Cliffs anyway is more mobile early in the season. You know those first few snow storms is when you really see a lot of the harvests. There are harvest throughout the whole season, but more of them happen earlier in the season. And I think that is part of why we didn't always hit the harvest objective quota when it was back in the split unit because it doesn't switch until February. So you only have March, April some of those late season storms. It just seems like harvest happens earlier in the Book Cliffs.

Daniel Davis: The other dynamic is the residents when you're in an open quota you don't like that when there is that high of an objective is being the first one to a track. It's more than just harvesting the lion if you catch it, but being the first one to a track. These outfitters are bringing in these nonresidents, employee 3-4 people per outfit to go out and cut roads starting at midnight, hell they don't even go to bed most of the time on a good snow storm. They go straight out when the darkness falls and the snow quits and they cover every road they can. Dax was with me. How far did we leave that track? Not very far. The only reason I'm going to cut that track even further is to see if it crosses the road again and somebody else parked down on the lower end of it. The opportunity isn't just to take. It's been over infiltrated, to the point where the opportunity to just go out and perform it because there are so many that it's not regulated. And a dead lion has a price tag. So it's more important having those 4-5 people out there doing it than me, I go do it alone. I don't hunt in a group. So when I find a lion I'm not leaving. Other than to find out if it

crossed the road further or if somebody else is parked on its track the next ridge over. You can't leave it.

Natasha Hadden: I am just a little confused by with the split and the open hunt. You were saying before that with all the females and the young they come in and are killing the deer populations but you're saying that the nonresidents are killing them during the open hunt. Wouldn't that help reduce livestock conflict and them killing deer? Do you see what I'm saying? It seems a little contradictory a little bit.

Daniel Davis: So over time when this first rolled out, the older age class was the first to pay for it. Because you can be more selective, the resident take was higher because that was the desire at the time. That older age class doesn't exist now, our deer population has dropped significantly.

Natasha Hadden: The older age class. The nonresidents are killing the young females.

Daniel Davis: They have no priority over what they harvest, again.

Natasha Hadden: I just thought you had said they were killing more of the females and younger ones.

Daniel Davis: They kill those because that is all that's left. I shouldn't say that's all that's left, but that's the primary population base right now. They're not going to leave that tree once they get there. So early on we harvest our age class.

Natasha Hadden: Do they run into issues with the split hunt? Because if you're hunting the objectives later in the year then maybe that's why they aren't hitting their objective?

Daniel Davis: So back when we had the split we were talking 18 permits? 17 permits? There were years that we did fill it, there were years that we didn't fill it, within 1-2 tags. So with that low of a number, the percentage increases, so it looks like a higher margin. So now we substantially increase the quota harvest objective wise. We didn't even get the chance to increase the permits under the split to see how it would actually play out. We don't have a unit with that many permits in a split management plan to see how it would actually play out.

The greater than five-year-old harvest is 29% which is over the 20% goal. So there is actually more than one in three lions that are over five years old.

Dan Abeyta: Mr. Chair, I have a proposal or an amendment I'd like to make as well. So to accept the Divisions proposal as it's presented here also to include the Utah Houndsmens Associations proposal but only items one, and four. Does that make sense?

Randy Dearth: Yeah, you're talking about only the Book Cliffs and the GPS and you're going to leave the Monroe and the Manti...

Dan Abeyta: So it's similar to what Daniel just proposed but without item number two and three.

Randy Dearth: Ok we had an amendment, do we have a second on that? Daniel made a second on that. The first motion has been canceled because there was a second on this. So we're going to vote on the amendment. Two in favor, five opposed, one abstention. So that motion failed. We

will go back to the original motion that Brad made. All those in favor of the original motion? Six in favor, two opposed. It passed.

- **R657-48 – Sensitive Species Rule Amendments** - Kimberly Hersey, Nongame Mammals Coordinator

See slideshow

Questions from the RAC:

Randy Dearth: How big is a burrowing owl?

Kimberly Hersey: About wee big.

Randy Dearth: I thought they'd be smaller than that.

Brad Horrocks: Your involvement with this and the sage chickens, isn't that a prime example of success? Are we having a lot of success with the sage chickens coming back or what?

Kimberly Hersey: You know the sage grouse is a prime example of one of our most political species and obviously have had a lot of contention around that and has a lot of threats and working together with a lot of agencies trying to address those to keep the population strong and keep it off the list.

Dan Abeyta: Can you provide an example of a current threatened or endangered species that there would be a reason not to add it to your sensitive species list?

Kimberly Hersey: The only ones I could potentially think of would be like the grizzly bear or the whooping crane. Because currently it says any endangered species that was ever found in Utah. So the whooping crane is on our list we're not going to do any management actions for that species and I wouldn't want to make somebody have to consider and comment on that when they're bringing up any sort of proposal.

Brett Prevedel: Is this list on the website?

Kimberly Hersey: Yes.

MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations as presented
Brett Prevedel
Natasha Hadden, second
Passed unanimous

MOTION to adjourn at 10:07 pm



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

August 15, 2018

Mike Fowlks, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources
Kirk Woodward, Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Byron Bateman, Vice Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Utah Wildlife Board Members

RE: 2017 Expo Permit Internal Audit – Rule R657-55

Dear Director Fowlks and Wildlife Board Members,

In accordance with Rule R657-55, an audit of the Expo Permit program has been conducted. This audit is attached for your review and the results will be presented at the Utah Wildlife Board Meeting on August 30, 2018.

If you have any questions please contact me at 801-538-7437.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenny Johnson".

Kenny Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Internal Audit of the 2018 Expo Permit Program

Dated August 15, 2018

Background

The Western Hunting and Conservation Expo was held in Salt Lake City from February 8 – 11, 2018. In accordance with Administrative Rule R657-55, an annual audit of the Expo permit program has been conducted. This audit was not performed using generally accepted auditing standards, but is an internal audit designed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Services Section to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual obligations.

This audit report covers the 2018 Expo performance specifically, and uses historical data from the outset of the Expo permit program in 2007 for some comparative items, as well as to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual terms.

Overview

As has been the case each year, the focus of this audit is to assist the Division and the Wildlife Board to ensure contract compliance. Our report focuses on verifying that data is protected and secure, and that the drawing procedure used is random for the permits being issued. Additionally, we reviewed data regarding the number of applicants, success rates, and programming code related to drawing procedures and issuance of permits. We reviewed revenue amounts retained by the contractor for use on Division-approved projects. We also reviewed the remainder of the revenue, which is to be used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives. In addition to verifying revenue totals, we look to verify that the funds designated for Division-approved projects, as well as the funds designated for other conservation initiatives, are kept separate from other funds in Federally insured bank accounts. Finally, we seek to verify that funds are appropriately spent on Division-approved projects, or are used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives, as required.

Review of handling personal and sensitive data

The Division considers the handling of personal data and information a top priority. Because the contractor conducting the draw is allowed limited access to DWR data for populating the hunt applications, we require adherence to protocols that will safeguard this data.

The contractor has two process components regarding sensitive and confidential data from the applicants. For these purposes, sensitive and confidential data is defined as social security number, driver's license information, height, weight, gender, and hair/eye color.

The first process component is the handling of sensitive information given by applicants at the Expo to apply in the drawing manually. This is done on a paper form completed by the

applicant. Once completed and submitted, these forms are cross-shredded on site. No paper applications are retained by the contractor.

The second process component is the handling of electronic data that is used in the electronic application process. Certain data elements are used during the application process for customer lookups into the Division database. This data transmission is through a secure socket layer using 128 bit encryption. Once the customer information is retrieved, no sensitive information is stored in the contractor database.

The Division monitored the processes of data collection and input, securing of personal and confidential data received, and performance of the actual draw process. The contractor completed a third party system scan prior to the application period going live, and has provided a current Payment Card Industry (PCI) self-assessment questionnaire and attestation.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2018 for securing personal data. One issue was recognized in the timing of signing and submitting a PCI self-assessment attestation. The Division would like this signed and submitted prior to the application opening each fall.

Review of the drawing process

Division of Wildlife/Department of Technology Services personnel go through an extensive review of the draw processes used by GraySky Technologies, the subcontractor selected by SFW to conduct the Expo permit drawing. The Division is represented by technical experts from the Utah Department of Technology Services, who reviewed the following:

- 1) The process of the draw is reviewed for its soundness.
- 2) The database structure is reviewed to make sure that a customer can't flood a certain hunt by making multiple entries for that hunt.
- 3) A review of the code is conducted to make sure that there is no chance that a seeded record could exist in the database prior to the assignment of random numbers. This is done to ensure that the result table is empty and no records can be inserted independently of the drawing code. This ensures that a record with an abnormally low random number isn't placed in the table thereby guaranteeing a permit to that record.
- 4) The code is reviewed to ensure that all records are treated equally in the process that assigns random numbers to the entries. Care is given to make sure that when the random numbers are being assigned, no records are identified to get a number other than a random number which is generated by the system.
- 5) The code is then reviewed for inserts that may occur after the drawing to make sure that a secured opportunity record is not placed in the result table after the assignment of random numbers takes place.

This was an exhaustive and thorough review; no compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2018.

Conducting the Draw

The actual drawing was conducted at the Division Office in Salt Lake City on February 13, 2018. Attendees included Division and Department staff, representatives from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Mule Deer Foundation, and the general public. The public is welcome to attend the drawing and at least 4 individuals unrelated to the Division or contractors were in attendance. The draw was then conducted by GraySky Technologies where the following occurred:

- 1) An impromptu passphrase was given to the GraySky representative and was witnessed as typed into the code prior to beginning the draw process. Later this same passphrase was verified by all in attendance to display on the result page to ensure the code reviewed by the Division was the actual code used during the draw.
- 2) The draw was then run assigning random numbers to applicants hunt choice entries and then sorted in descending order.
- 3) The results of the draw were printed and immediately given to a Division representative to ensure that there were no edits to the results table.
- 4) This list was then given to the Division Law Enforcement and Licensing sections to validate eligibility before any results were posted.
- 5) Any applicants selected through the draw that receive multiple permits for the same species are contacted by the Division and asked to select their preferred hunt choice. The unclaimed permits are issued to alternates.

The passphrase was witnessed being added to the code, and the same passphrase was verified at the conclusion of the draw. Results were instantly printed and the process to validate began immediately.

New for 2019 will be verification that applicants selected for more than one permit for any species will need to select a single permit.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2018.

Note about Random Drawings

In any truly random drawing there always seems to be a few “lucky” individuals. Statistically when randomness is discussed it is always possible to view the final result and pick out certain trends. The key to these trends is that results cannot be predicted prior to the event or drawing. This is the very essence of randomness. Random is not an assurance that an event will be spread evenly across a population, or distributed equally among participants.

There were no abnormalities observed in the 2018 drawing.

Draw Related Information

The Division reviewed data from the Expo regarding attendance, application numbers, and success rates. Applicant validation numbers showed that at least 10,000 individuals attended the Expo in 2018 as required by rule. The reported number of attendees at the 2018 Expo was 50,641, with a verified 17,399 unique applicants.

There were no attendance issues in 2018.

Applicant data for years 2007-2017 is as follows:

Year	Applicants	Applications	Resident	Nonresident	Gross Revenue@ \$5 per app
2007	10,527	205,462	163,054	42,408	\$ 1,027,310
2008	8,745	138,988	116,465	22,523	\$ 694,940
2009	9,927	169,988	139,748	29,375	\$ 845,970
2010	9,700	165,866	139,920	25,946	\$ 847,285
2011	12,154	196,360	170,539	25,821	\$ 981,800
2012	13,388	207,870	179,077	28,793	\$ 1,039,350
2013	14,043	197,312	173,192	24,120	\$ 986,560
2014	14,148	206,506	178,250	28,256	\$ 1,032,530
2015	14,910	228,530	192,420	36,110	\$ 1,142,650
2016	15,507	233,210	195,973	37,237	\$ 1,166,050
2017	16,127	247,148	204,016	43,132	\$ 1,235,740
2018	17,399	280,472	230,155	50,317	\$ 1,402,360

Resident versus Nonresident Success

Data was reviewed comparing the number of resident applications to nonresident applications. In 2018: 82% of the applications were Utah residents who drew 160 permits or 80% of the total. 18% of applications were nonresidents who drew 40 permits or 20% of the total.

There were no anomalies in this data in 2018.

Draw Probability Statistics

The Expo offers a limited number of permits annually and attracts exponentially more applicants who compete for them through a secure and random draw process. It should be noted that this dynamic implies a statistically low probability of obtaining a permit. While the draw odds are not a controllable variable or concern of the Division, we want to acknowledge the expediency with which this information is made available to the public. The Expo contractor publishes these statistics annually on their website prior to the next year application period.

License Sales

The Division requires that anyone applying for a permit at the Expo have a valid hunting or combination license at the time of application. To ensure compliance, the computer programming will not allow applicants to apply without a valid license in the system. For the Expo in 2018, there were 1,022 combination and hunting licenses sold on site. The resulting license revenue generated for the Division was \$45,355.26. The entirety of these funds are owed to the Division with the same reporting stipulations as other third party license vendors; the invoice was paid promptly and in full.

There were no compliance issues with license sales, reporting, or payment in 2018.

Application Revenue

For the 2018 expo permit draw, the Expo accepted applications beginning in November 2017, and continuing through the end of the Expo, which was held from February 8 – 11, 2018. The draw processed 280,472 applications, generating \$1,402,360.00 in gross application revenue.

Use of Application Revenue for Division-Approved Wildlife Projects

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for use on Division-approved projects is \$1.50 per application, or \$420,708.00 in 2018. This revenue was split 50/50 between SFW and MDF, with each organization receiving \$210,354.00. This initial deposit was verified in a federally insured bank account for both MDF and SFW. These funds will need to be spent on Division-approved projects, or transferred to the Division by August 1, 2020.

Beginning in 2018 the annual audit will not include tracking and reporting funds that are committed to projects. Rather, we will be tracking and reporting only those funds spent on Division-approved projects or transferred to the Division. This allows the Division to report hard figures each year. To meet the contractual obligation in 2018 all project revenue collected in 2016 must be spent or committed before September 1, 2018. The 2016 and 2017 funds have been spent entirely as shown in the table below, with more detail in attachment 1.

Table 1 - Revenue and Expenditures Division-Approved Projects

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2018	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$177,266.25	\$210,354.00	No Interest	\$387,620.25	\$237,612.50	\$150,007.75
SFW	\$41,905.81	\$210,354.00	\$194.36	\$252,454.17	\$252,274.03	\$180.14
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$219,172.06</i>	<i>\$420,708.00</i>	<i>\$194.36</i>	<i>\$640,074.42</i>	<i>\$489,886.53</i>	<i>\$150,187.89</i>

SFW

Carry Over Project Revenue	\$41,905.81
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects 2018	\$210,354.00
Interest	\$194.36
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$252,274.03)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$180.14

MDF

Carry Over Project Revenue	\$177,266.25
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects	\$210,354.00
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$237,612.50)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$150,007.75

Use of Application Revenue for Contractor-Approved Conservation Initiatives

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for support of contractor-approved policies, programs, projects, and personnel that support conservation initiatives in Utah is \$3.50 per application, or \$981,652.00. Of these funds, \$292,717.00 were spent by SFW on expenses directly related to advertising expo permits, accepting expo permit applications, credit card fees, and conducting the actual expo permit draw, all in concert with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo. The remaining \$688,935.00 of these funds were split 50/50 between MDF and SFW, with each organization receiving \$344,467.50. Bank records and project expenditures were reviewed. To date, SFW has spent all of their 2017 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, they have \$108,631.70 remaining of 2018 revenue. MDF has spent all 2017 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, and has \$304,607.16 remaining of 2018 revenue. A list of these conservation initiatives for both groups can be found in Attachment 2. The deposit and required balance were verified in a federally-insured bank account held separate from other funds for both SFW and MDF. See attachment 2 for additional expenditure detail.

Table 2 - Revenue and Expenditures Contractor-Approved Projects

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2018	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$293,642.60	\$344,467.50	No Interest	\$638,110.10	\$333,502.94	\$304,607.16
SFW	\$284,148.41	\$344,467.50	\$496.65	\$629,112.56	\$520,480.86	\$108,631.70
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$577,791.01</i>	<i>\$688,935.00</i>	<i>\$496.65</i>	<i>\$1,267,222.66</i>	<i>\$853,983.80</i>	<i>\$413,238.86</i>

SFW

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$284,148.41
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2018	\$344,467.50
Interest	\$496.65
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$520,480.86)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$108,631.70

MDF

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$293,642.60
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2018	\$344,467.50
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$333,502.94)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$304,607.16

Conclusions

The measures in place to ensure that data is secure and that any unauthorized external access is prevented served to safeguard information once again in 2018. We reiterate that with data being under constant threat, the need to create processes and systems that are up to the challenge of securing information is critical. Third party system penetration scans and current PCI assessment questionnaires greatly relieve the fear of data becoming compromised. We believe that the measures set in place by SFW, MDF, and GraySky, ensured data was properly secured. Our review of the programming code satisfied the Division that the drawing was conducted in a random, transparent, and consistent manner. PCI self-assessments should be signed prior to the application system going live.

Additional oversight and program requirements in recent years have bolstered the Expo's impact on the ground statewide. Project revenues for both Division-approved projects and contractor approved projects were verified by bank statements, and expenses were supported with the appropriate documentation. New requirements for paying invoices, due dates, and revenue handling have been identified and communicated to the contractor for future audits.

Revenue from expo permit application fees has funded numerous efforts that benefit wildlife habitat, wildlife species, and hunters in Utah. This funding is an important component of the conservation work that has improved our state's wildlife populations and made Utah an outstanding place to hunt.

We would like to thank Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and the Mule Deer Foundation for their time, prompt responses, and their willingness to provide the information requested for the preparation of the audit. Their information was clearly presented and very much appreciated. If there are questions regarding this report, please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Kenneth Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

cc: Michal Fowlks, Director
Kirk Woodward, Board Chair
Bryon Bateman, Board Vice Chair
Utah Wildlife Board Members
Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
Miles Moretti, Mule Deer Foundation

Attachments:

1. How Revenue has been spent Division-Approved Projects
2. How Revenue has been spent Contractor-Approved Projects
3. Draw Process Roll Sheet
4. Current Expo Rule R647-55

Attachment 1

How revenue from each year has been spent

Division Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2016 Revenue \$ 174,907.50

Project Expenses with 2016 Funds

3650 Warm Spring Hills Juniper removal project phase 2	2017	\$	2,597.29
3659 Monroe Mountain Aspen Ecosystems Restoration Project Phase 1	2017	\$	20,000.00
3662 Cedar Fort Chaining	2017	\$	15,000.00
3673 South Bookcliffs Phase 4 (Sagers)	2017	\$	10,000.00
3690 Went Ridge Guzzlers	2017	\$	5,000.00
3701 Hardware Plateau Lop and Scatter	2017	\$	10,000.00
3742 Fish Park Gunnison Sage-grouse Habitat Improvement	2017	\$	5,000.00
3769 Cedar City and Summit I-15 Deer Fence and Cattle Guards	2017	\$	29,500.00
3773 North Elk Ridge Aspen Restoration Phase II	2017	\$	2,000.00
3774 Mormon Pasture Mountain Wildlife Habitat Improvement Phase I	2017	\$	10,000.00
3782 Little Davenport Slashing/Lop & Scatter	2017	\$	5,000.00
3794 Paradise Valley Restoration Project	2017	\$	3,000.00
3795 Spring City Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement	2017	\$	2,000.00
3797 Willow Creek Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction	2017	\$	1,000.00
3830 FY17 Effects of Habitat Treatments on Mule Deer	2017	\$	21,245.00
3831 FY17 DeerFawn/Adult Survival	2017	\$	15,000.00
3913 Box Elder SGMA Aerial Infrared Lek Searches	2017	\$	4,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2017	\$	14,565.21

TOTAL \$ 174,907.50

All 2016 Funds Expended

2017 Revenue \$ 185,361.00

Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2017	\$	594.75
4200 Outdoor Adventure Days	2017	\$	7,500.00
3823 MDF Stewardship Position FY17	2018	\$	30,000.00
3918 Little Valley North Sheeprocks PJ Removal	2018	\$	19,000.00
3943 Long Hollow Sheep/Parowan Gap (Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment I	2018	\$	15,000.00
3969 Cockey Hollow Vegetation Management Project	2018	\$	10,000.00
3979 Temple Fork Juniper Restoration 3	2018	\$	30,047.50
3995 Mytoge-Tidwell Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Phase 1	2018	\$	20,000.00
4036 South Horn Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	2018	\$	15,000.00
4078 Trail Mountain Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Aspen Regeneration Project	2018	\$	20,000.00
4085 Little Creek Ridge Guzzlers	2018	\$	10,000.00
4089 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase IV	2018	\$	5,000.00
4103 La Sal/Elk Ridge Prescribed Burn Projects	2018	\$	3,218.75

\$ 185,361.00

All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue \$ 210,354.00

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4103 La Sal/Elk Ridge Prescribed Burn Projects	2018	\$	6,111.25
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4128 Cedar City to Parowan I-15 Deer Fence and Double Cattle Guards Ph 2	2018	\$	10,000.00
4129 Traverse Mountain Winter Range Improvement	2018	\$	13,885.00
4202 Blue Peak Chain Harrow-PJ Chain Re-treat and Guzzler Install	2019	\$	5,350.00
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019	\$	25,000.00
		\$	<u>60,346.25</u>
		Remaining Balance	\$ 150,007.75

How revenue from each year has been spent

Division Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

	2016 Revenue		\$ 174,907.50
Project Expenses with 2016 Funds			
3397 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase II	2016	\$	17,221.45
3499 South Slope Feral Horse Gather Phase II	2016	\$	40,000.00
3848 Richfield Pheasant Project	2016	\$	47,440.56
3849 Wild Turkey Feeding SFW	2016	\$	4,503.68
3589 Timpanogos Guzzler Project	2017	\$	5,000.00
3662 Cedar Fort Chaining	2017	\$	2,500.00
3746 Wide Canyon Water Enhancement Project	2017	\$	45,250.00
3795 Spring City Fuels Reduction and Habitat Improvement	2017	\$	2,000.00
3831 FY17 DeerFawn/Adult Survival	2017	\$	5,000.00
3832 FY17 Determinants of Population Growth in Utah Moose	2017	\$	5,000.00
3913 Box Elder SGMA Aerial Infrared Lek Searches	2017	\$	991.81
	TOTAL	\$	<u>174,907.50</u>
All 2016 Funds Expended			
	2017 Revenue		\$ 185,361.00
	2017 Interest Revenue		\$ 14.33
	Total		\$ 185,375.33
Project Expenses with 2017 Funds			
3913 Box Elder SGMA Aerial Infrared Lek Searches	2017	\$	3,008.19
3929 Westside Northeastern Region WMA's Water Development Project	2018	\$	20,000.00
3980 Book Cliffs Lower Elevation Guzzlers phase II	2018	\$	25,000.00
4089 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase IV	2018	\$	29,500.00
4104 Helicopter Lift of Remote Watering Facilities	2018	\$	2,500.00
4180 FY18 DeerFawn/Adult Survival	2018	\$	10,000.00
4182 FY18 Determinants of Population Growth in Utah Moose	2018	\$	3,447.00
4188 FY18 Wildlife Migration Initiative	2018	\$	50,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2018	\$	20,786.24
4344 SFW Pheasant Projects	2018	\$	21,133.79
4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$	0.11
		\$	<u>185,375.33</u>
All 2017 Funds Expended			

2018 Revenue	\$	210,354.00
2018 interest Revenue	\$	180.03
Total	\$	<u>210,534.03</u>

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$	5,414.80
4565 Ogden Bay WMA Upland habitat shrub complex II	2019	\$	17,000.00
4566 Harold Crane WMA South pond project	2019	\$	112,500.00
4611 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase V	2019	\$	25,439.09
4623 Ogden Bay WMA water control structures installation	2019	\$	50,000.00
			<u>\$ 210,353.89</u>

Remaining Balance	\$	180.14
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Attachment 2

How revenue from each year has been spent

Contractor Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2017 Revenue \$ 293,642.60

Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

3868 Pine Canyon to Koosharem Creek Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project - Pha:	2018	\$	5,000.00
3917 Stansbury Mountain Catastrophic Fire Juniper Removal and Seeding	2018	\$	5,000.00
3918 Little Valley North Sheeprocks PJ Removal	2018	\$	6,000.00
3934 IndianPeak/Spanish George (Hamlin Valley Habitat Restoration Project - Sagek	2018	\$	5,000.00
3950 Swasey Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Phase 8	2018	\$	5,000.00
3961 South Bookcliffs Phase 5 (Bryson)	2018	\$	3,000.00
3965 Antelope-Pine Valley Hand Thinning	2018	\$	5,000.00
3966 Antimony (Forest Creek)	2018	\$	5,000.00
3980 Book Cliffs Lower Elevation Guzzlers phase II	2018	\$	13,108.00
4084 White Horse Pasture Habitat Improvement Project Phase I	2018	\$	10,000.00
4087 Stateline (Hamlin Valley) Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Project (Year 3)	2018	\$	5,000.00
4096 Hardware Ranch Juniper Lop and Scatter II	2018	\$	12,000.00
4149 Watts Mountain Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	2018	\$	13,100.00
4180 FY18 Deer Fawn/Adult Survival	2018	\$	6,950.00
4187 FY18 Parker MT Pronghorn Capture and Monitoring	2018	\$	1,000.00
4188 FY18 Wildlife Migration Initiative	2018	\$	25,000.00
3947 Tavaputs Plateau Sagegrouse Habitat Restoration	2018	\$	2,500.00
4195 Middle Fork WMA acquisition	2018	\$	75,000.00
4215 MDF Stewardship Position FY18	2018	\$	30,000.00
Central Region Guzzler Work Portables	2018	\$	1,878.34
Mod to Urban deer trailer	2018	\$	3,439.39
Natural Resources Results Consulting	2018	\$	5,000.00
Urban deer trailer - Signs and mats	2018	\$	1,366.36
Congressional Sportsmans Foundation	2018	\$	5,000.00
MULEY Trailer	2018	\$	4,150.00
Project Mule Deer Educational Video	2018	\$	40,000.00
Guzzler WRI Project	2018	\$	150.51
			<u>\$ 293,642.60</u>

All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue \$ 344,467.50

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4709 Utah Youth Hunter Education Challenge - FY18	2018	\$	2,500.00
3823 MDF Stewardship Position FY17	2018	\$	30,000.00
Panels and trimming for Guzzlers	2018	\$	2,085.85
Guzzler WRI Project	2018	\$	5,274.49
			<u>\$ 39,860.34</u>

Remaining Balance \$ 304,607.16

How revenue from each year has been spent

Contractor Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

2017 Revenue	\$ 293,642.60
2017 Interest Revenue	\$ 384.39
Total	\$ 294,026.99

Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

Pheasants for UDWR Youth Day -Millard County	2017	\$ 9,750.00
Reconstruct five guzzlers and two ponds	2018	\$ 15,266.73
San Juan County Pond Lining Project	2018	\$ 460.00
Tarantula Mesa Water Project	2018	\$ 24,036.12
Urban Deer Transplant Trailer	2018	\$ 14,706.48
Predator control	2018	\$ 15,000.00
Paunsaugunt Deer Habitat P&J Removal	2018	\$ 15,000.00
Perch Reduction Project/Fishlake Tournament	2018	\$ 3,500.00
Utah Chukar Foundation donation	2018	\$ 1,200.00
Utah Airboat Associations	2018	\$ 1,200.00
Consulting Bears Ears Access and Monument Reduction Effort	2018	\$ 45,800.00
BLM Water East Pausaugunt	2018	\$ 830.45
Utah Regional Calling Championship	2017	\$ 5,000.00
Youth Waterfowl Fair Farmington Bay WMA	2018	\$ 5,843.27
San Juan County Pond Cleaning	2018	\$ 2,880.00
Biologist travel to Big Horn Sheep Convention	2018	\$ 623.00
Ogden Bay WMA Habitat Improvement	2018	\$ 12,129.00
Pheasant chick projects - chicks, construction, feed, heaters	2018	\$ 88,359.35
Waterfowl Calling Contest Expenses	2018	\$ 8,258.04
Paunsaugunt Water Project Winter Mule Deer	2018	\$ 23,926.52
4416 California Quail Transplant FY18	2018	\$ 258.03
		\$ 294,026.99

All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue	\$ 344,467.50
2018 Interest Revenue	\$ 368.07
Total	\$ 344,835.57

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4416 California Quail Transplant FY18	2018	\$ 9,741.97
4479 Salt Creek WMA Water Share Purchase	2018	\$ 12,500.00
4725 California Quail Transplant FY19	2018	\$ 10,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2018	\$ 751.81
4707 Ogden Bay WMA Kubota RTV	2018	\$ 3,375.00
4560 Ogden Bay WMA upland/wetland enhancement project	2019	\$ 6,000.00
4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$ 2,585.09
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019	\$ 25,000.00
4713 Pahvant WMA water purchase	2019	\$ 10,000.00
4722 Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area UTV	2019	\$ 3,750.00
4723 Farmington Bay Waterfowl Area UTV	2019	\$ 3,750.00

4724 MarshMasters for phragmites control on Great Salt Lake waterfowl mgmt are	2019 \$	131,250.00
4553 Salt Creek Channel Cleaning island restoration	2019 \$	17,500.00
		<u>\$ 236,203.87</u>

Remaining Balance \$ 108,631.70

Attachment 3



On Tuesday, February 13, 2018 the electronic random drawing for the 200 Expo permits will take place at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. These permits were awarded to the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo by the Utah Wildlife Board.

The following are witnesses of the drawing and were present during the entire process. Once the successful applicants have been drawn, all names will be given to Division of Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement. The names will be checked for any compact violations and will be deemed eligible by the Division of Wildlife and the successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Start Time: 10:11 am

End Time: 10:27 am

PASSCODE And the winner is!!

Print Name	Signature	Date
<u>Chris Carling</u>	<u>Chris Carling</u>	<u>13 Feb 2018</u>
<u>Kevin Noeman</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>13 Feb 2018</u>
<u>Cory Anderson</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>13 Feb 2018</u>
<u>Kyle Anderson</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>13 Feb 2018</u>
<u>GREG EVANS</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/13/2018</u>
<u>Brian Swancer</u>	<u>Brian Swancer</u>	<u>2/13/2018</u>
<u>Robert Gray</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/13/2018</u>
<u>LINDY Varney</u>	<u>Lindy Varney</u>	<u>2/13/18</u>
<u>Stephen Newsen</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/13-18</u>

Print Name

Signature

Date

Brian Fienhold



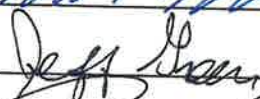
2/13/18

Miles Moretti



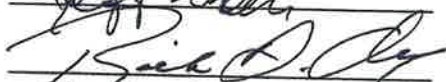
2-13-18

Jeff Green



2/13/18

Rick Olson



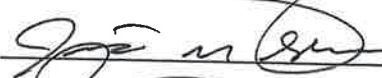
2-13-18.

Mike Canning



2/13/18

Justin Strasser



2-13-18

Jeremy Withers



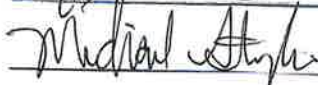
2/13/18

Phil Gray



2/13/18

Mike Styler



2/13/18

Attachment 4

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-55. Wildlife Expo Permits.

R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife expo permits.

(2) Wildlife expo permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting and supporting a regional or national wildlife exposition in Utah.

(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at an exposition held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife expo permits.

(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife expo permits per year to a qualified conservation organization.

R657-55-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conservation organization" means a 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit chartered institution, corporation, foundation, or association founded for the purpose of promoting wildlife conservation.

(b) "Special nonresident expo permit" means one wildlife expo permit for each once-in-a-lifetime species that is only available to a nonresident hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah.

(c) "Wildlife exposition" means a multi-day event held within the state of Utah that is sponsored by one or more wildlife conservation organizations, acting through a single conservation organization, as their national or regional convention or event that is open to the general public and designed to draw nationwide attendance of more than 10,000 individuals. The wildlife exposition may include wildlife conservation fund raising activities, outdoor exhibits, retail marketing of outdoor products and services, public awareness programs, and other similar activities.

(d) "Wildlife exposition audit" means an annual review by the division of the conservation organization's processes used to handle applications for expo permits and conduct the drawing, the protocols associated with collecting and using client data, the revenue generated from expo permit application handling fees, and the expenditure of designated expo permit application handling fee revenue on division-approved projects.

(e) "Wildlife expo permit" means a permit which:

(i) is authorized by the Wildlife Board to be issued to successful applicants through a drawing or random selection process conducted at a Utah wildlife exposition; and

(ii) allows the permittee to hunt the designated species on the designated unit during the respective season for each species as authorized by the Wildlife Board.

(f) "Wildlife expo permit series" means a single package of permits to be determined by the Wildlife Board for:

(i) deer;

(ii) elk;

(iii) pronghorn;

(iv) moose;

- (v) bison;
- (vi) mountain goat;
- (vii) desert bighorn sheep;
- (viii) rocky mountain bighorn sheep;
- (ix) wild turkey;
- (x) cougar; or
- (xi) black bear.

(g) "Secured opportunity" means the opportunity to receive a specified wildlife expo permit that is secured by an eligible applicant through the exposition drawing process.

(h) "Successful applicant" means an individual selected to receive a wildlife expo permit through the drawing process.

R657-55-3. Wildlife Expo Permit Allocation.

(1) The Wildlife Board may allocate wildlife expo permits after May 1 of the year preceding the wildlife exposition.

(2) Wildlife expo permits shall be issued as a single series to one conservation organization.

(3) The number of wildlife expo permits authorized by the Wildlife Board shall be based on:

- (a) the species population trend, size, distribution, and long-term health;
- (b) the hunting and viewing opportunity for the general public, both short and long term; and
- (c) a percentage of the permits available to nonresidents in the annual big game drawings matched by a proportionate number of resident permits.

(4) Wildlife expo permits, including special nonresident expo permits, shall not exceed 200 total permits.

(5) Wildlife expo permits designated for the exposition each year shall be deducted from the number of public drawing permits.

R657-55-4. Obtaining Authority to Distribute Wildlife Expo Permit Series.

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the wildlife expo permit series is issued for a period of five years.

(b) The original five-year term may be renewed for an additional period not to exceed five years, provided:

(i) the conservation organization, Division of Purchasing and General Services procurement officer, Wildlife Board, and division mutually agree in writing to the renewal term; and

(ii) the procurement officer determines in writing pursuant to Section 63G-6a-1204(7) that the renewal term is in the division's best interest and places the writing in the conservation organization's procurement file.

(2)(a) The wildlife expo permit series is available to eligible conservation organizations for distribution through a drawing or other random selection process held at a wildlife exposition in Utah open to the public.

(b) The division may unilaterally discontinue or suspend issuing the wildlife expo permit series at:

(i) the conclusion of the original five-year contract term or renewal term described in Subsection (1) and prior to issuance of a contract under this rule; or

(ii) any time during the term of a contract when in the interest of wildlife conservation, management, or compliance with law.

(3) Prior to expiration of a current wildlife exposition term or renewal term, the division may issue through the Division of Purchasing and General Services a request for proposal consistent with the Procurement Code in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code to solicit bids from conservation organizations desiring to distribute the wildlife expo permit series at a wildlife exposition.

(4) The request for proposal will solicit information relevant to successfully conducting a wildlife exposition, competently distributing the expo permit series, protecting confidential personal information acquired in distributing permits, and generating revenue for wildlife conservation in Utah, including:

- (a) the name, address and telephone number of the conservation organization;
- (b) a description of the conservation organization's mission statement;
- (c) documentation establishing the conservation organization meets the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(a) and is eligible to submit a proposal;
- (d) the name of the president or other individual responsible for the administrative operations of the conservation organization;
- (e) a detailed business plan describing how the:
 - (i) proposed wildlife exposition will take place;
 - (ii) proposed wildlife exposition will satisfy the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(c);
 - (iii) wildlife expo permit drawing procedures will be carried out; and
 - (iv) confidential personal information acquired in the drawing process will be safeguarded;
- (f) the conservation organization and any partnering entities' ability, including past performance in marketing conservation permits under R657-41, to effectively plan and complete the wildlife exposition;
- (g) the conservation organization's commitment to use expo permit handling fee revenue to benefit protected wildlife in Utah; and
- (h) historical contributions of the conservation organization and any partnering entities to the conservation of wildlife in Utah.

(5) Proposals submitted in response to a request for proposal under Subsection (4) will be processed, evaluated, and acted upon consistent with the procurement requirements set forth in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code.

(6) The conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series must:

- (a) require each wildlife expo permit applicant to possess a current Utah hunting or combination license before applying for a wildlife expo permit;
- (b) select successful applicants for wildlife expo permits by drawing or other random selection process in accordance with law, provisions of this rule, and orders of the Wildlife Board;
- (c) allow applicants to apply for wildlife expo permits without purchasing admission to the wildlife exposition;
- (d) notify the division of the successful applicant of each wildlife expo permit within 10 days of the applicant's selection;
- (e) maintain records demonstrating that the drawing was conducted fairly; and
- (f) submit to an annual wildlife exposition audit by a division appointed auditor.

(7) The division shall issue the appropriate wildlife expo permit to the designated successful applicant after:

- (a) completion of the random selection process;
- (b) verification of the recipient being eligible for the permit; and
- (c) payment of the appropriate permit fee is received by the division.

(8) The division and the conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series will enter into a contract with terms that include the relevant provisions in this rule, the request for proposal, and the conservation organization's proposal.

(9) If the conservation organization awarded the wildlife expo permit series withdraws before the end of the 5-year period or any extension period under R657-55-4(1)(b), any remaining co-participant with the conservation organization may assume the contract and distribute the expo permit series consistent with the contract and this rule for the remaining years in the applicable period, provided:

(a) The original contracted conservation organization submits a certified letter to the head of the procurement unit, as defined in Section 63G-6a-103, and the division identifying that it will no longer be participating in the exposition;

(b) The co-participant conservation organization submits a request with the head of the procurement unit and the division for authorization to assume the remaining term of the contract ; and

(c) the head of the procurement unit, in consultation with the division and Wildlife Board, approves the application.

(10) The division may suspend or terminate the conservation organization's authority to distribute wildlife expo permits at any time during the original five-year award term or any renewal period for:

- (a) violating any of the requirements set forth in this rule or the contract; or
- (b) failing to bring or organize a wildlife exposition in Utah, as described in the business plan under R657-55-4(4)(e), in any given year.

R657-55-5. Wildlife Expo Permit Application Procedures.

(1) Any person legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife expo permit, except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident expo permit.

(2) The handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall be \$5 per application submitted.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife exposition to be eligible to participate in the wildlife expo permit drawing.

(i) No person may submit an application in behalf of another.

(ii) A person may validate their wildlife expo permit application at the exposition without having to enter the exposition and pay the admission charge.

(b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife exposition as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided exposition administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:

(i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

(ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

- (iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and
- (iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.

(c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f), when requested by the division.

(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.

(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.

(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.

(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a wildlife expo permit.

(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife expo permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

R657-55-6. Drawing Procedures.

(1) A random drawing or selection process must be conducted for each wildlife expo permit.

(2) Preference and bonus points are neither awarded nor applied in the drawings.

(3) Waiting periods do not apply, except any person who obtains a wildlife expo permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in R657-62 and the guide books of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(4) No predetermined quotas or restrictions shall be imposed in the application or selection process for wildlife expo permits between resident and nonresident applicants, except that special nonresident expo permits may only be awarded to a nonresident of Utah.

(5) Drawings will be conducted within five days of the close of the exposition.

(6) Applicants do not have to be present at the drawing to be awarded a wildlife expo permit.

(7) The conservation organization shall identify all eligible alternates for each wildlife expo permit and provide the division with a finalized list. This list will be maintained by the conservation organization until all permits are issued.

(8) The division shall contact successful applicants, and the conservation organization shall post the name of all successful applicants on a designated website.

R657-55-7. Issuance of Permits.

(1) The division shall provide a wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant, as designated by the conservation organization.

(2) The division must provide a wildlife expo permit to each successful applicant, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(3) The division shall provide each successful applicant a letter indicating the permit secured in the drawing, the appropriate fee owed the division, and the date the fee is due.

(4)(a) Successful applicants must submit the permit fee payment in full to the division before receiving the permit.

(b) Subject to the limitation in Subsection (8), the division will issue the designated wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant.

(5) Residents will pay resident permit fees and nonresidents will pay nonresident permit fees.

(6) Beginning in 2019, applicants are eligible to obtain only one expo permit each year, regardless of species.

(7) If an applicant is selected for more than one expo permit, the division will contact the applicant to determine which permit the applicant selects.

(a) The applicant must select the permit of choice within 2 days of receiving notification.

(b) If the division is unable to contact the applicant within 2 days, the division will issue to the applicant the permit with the most difficult drawing odds based on drawing results from the division's big game drawing for the preceding year.

(c) Permits not issued to the applicant will go to the next person on the alternate drawing list for that permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit.

(8) Any successful applicant who fails to satisfy the following requirements will be ineligible to receive the wildlife expo permit and the next drawing alternate for that permit will be selected:

(a) The applicant fails to remit the appropriate permit fee in full to the division by the date provided in Subsection (3);

(b) The applicant does not possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license at the time the expo permit application was submitted; or

(c) The applicant is legally ineligible to possess the permit.

R657-55-8. Surrender or Transfer of Wildlife Expo Permits.

(1)(a) A person selected to receive a wildlife expo permit that is also successful in obtaining a Utah once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry permit for the same species in the same year or successful in obtaining a general permit for a male animal of the same species in the same year, may not possess both permits and must select the permit of choice.

(b) In the event a secured opportunity is surrendered before the permit is issued, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive the permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not:

(i) have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit; or

(ii) possess any other expo permit valid in the same year.

(c) In the event the wildlife expo permit is surrendered, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (b).

(d) The permit fee on a surrendered expo permit may be refunded, as provided in Sections 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2, and R657-42-5.

(2) A person selected by a conservation organization to receive a wildlife expo permit, may not sell or transfer the permit, or any rights thereunder to another person in accordance with Section 23-19-1.

(3) If a person is successful in obtaining a wildlife expo permit but is legally ineligible to hunt in Utah, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (1)(b).

R657-55-9. Using a Wildlife Expo Permit.

(1) A wildlife expo permit allows the recipient to:

(a) take only the species and sex printed on the permit;
(b) take the species only in the area and during the season specified on the permit; and

(c) take the species only with the weapon type specified on the permit.

(2) The recipient of a wildlife expo permit is subject to all the provisions of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code, and the rules and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing wildlife.

R657-55-10. Wildlife Expo Permit -- Application Handling Fee Revenue.

(1)(a) All wildlife expo permit application handling fee revenue generated by the conservation organization under R657-55-5(2) will be deposited in a separate, federally insured account to prevent commingling with any other funds.

(b) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue retained by the conservation organization for administrative expenses under Subsection (2) may be retained and used by the conservation organization.

(c) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue committed to fund wildlife conservation projects under Subsection (3) shall be used by the conservation organization to fund approved wildlife conservation projects.

(2) The conservation organization may retain up to \$3.50 of each \$5.00 application handling fee for administrative expenses, unless the conservation organization pledges a greater percentage of the application handling fee to wildlife conservation in:

(a) its response to the request for proposal; or

(b) the expo contract with the division.

(3) The remaining balance of each \$5.00 application handling fee and accrued interest, less standard banking fees assessed on the account where the funding is deposited, will be used by the conservation organization to fund projects advancing wildlife interests in the state, subject to the following:

(a) project funding will not be committed to or expended on any project without first obtaining the division director's written approval;

(b) cash donations to the Wildlife Habitat Account created under Section 23-19-43 or Division Species Enhancement Funds are authorized projects that do not require the division director's approval; and

(c) application handling fee revenue dedicated to funding projects must be completely expended on approved projects or transferred to the division by August 1st, two years following the year in which the application handling fee revenue is collected.

(4) Application handling fee revenue committed to division-approved projects will be transferred by the conservation organization to the division within 60 days of being invoiced by the division.

(a) If the division-approved project to which funds are committed is completed under projected budget or canceled, funds committed to the project that are not used will be kept by the division and credited back to the conservation organization and made available for the group to use on other approved projects during the current or subsequent year.

(5) All records and receipts for projects under Subsection (3) must be retained by the conservation organization for a period not less than five years, and shall be produced to the division for inspection upon request.

(6) The conservation organization shall submit a report to the division and Wildlife Board each year by August 1st that accounts for and documents the following:

(a) gross revenue generated from collecting \$5 wildlife expo permit application handling fees;

(b) total amount of application handling fee revenue retained for administrative expenses; and

(c) total amount of application handling fee revenue set aside and dedicated to funding projects, including bank statements showing account balances.

(7) A partner organization that individually receives application handling fee revenue from the expo permit drawing pursuant to a co-participant contract with the conservation organization, is subject to the provisions in Subsections (1) through (6).

KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Change: August 9, 2018

Notice of Continuation: May 5, 2015

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 16, 2018

To: Wildlife Board

From: Justin M. Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

Subject: Expo Permit Allocation

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending 200 hunting permits for the Hunt Expo (see the attached tables for details). Some proposed changes this year include:

- Reduce 5 turkey permits and add 5 antlerless elk permits,
- Reduce 2 bison permits on the Henry Mtns and add 2 bison permits to the Book Cliffs,
- Add 1 cougar permit on the Central Mtns, Southeast Manti and reduce 1 cougar permit on the Chalk Creek/Kamas unit.



2019 Expo Permits by Species and Residency

		TOTAL PERMITS		
		Res	NonRes	Total
Grand Total		145	55	200

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bison	Book Cliffs	Hunters Choice	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Hunters Choice (late - non resident only)	0	1	1
Bison	Book Cliffs	Cow Only	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Cow Only (late)	1	0	1
TOTAL			3	1	4

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	Summer, Any Legal Weapon, No Dogs	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mile	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-North	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
TOTAL			8	3	11

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, North	Any Weapon	6	3	9
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oak Creek LE	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Management Buck	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1	1	2
TOTAL			32	13	45

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Any Weapon	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Archery	6	3	9
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Multi-Season	1	0	1
TOTAL			69	22	91

Species	Area	Condition	Permits		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	2	1	3
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	1	0	1
Antlerless Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	0	1	1
Total			3	2	5

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns		1	0	1
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns	(non resident only)	0	1	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Cougar	Plateau, Boulder	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Plateau, Fishlake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Nebo	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Panguitch Lake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Fillmore, Pahvant	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
TOTAL			7	0	7

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Zion	(early - non resident only)	0	1	1
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Kaiparowits, West		1	0	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Any Weapon	3	0	3
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Archery	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Archery	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Any Weapon	3	2	5
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	2	2	4
TOTAL			16	6	22

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn	(early)	1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Nine Mile, Gray Canyon	(early - non resident only)	0	1	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Mountain Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas West		1	1	2
Mountain Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak	(early - non resident only for 1 of the hunts)	1	1	2
TOTAL			2	2	4

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Turkey	Northern Region		0	1	1
Turkey	Northeast Region		1	0	1
Turkey	Central Region		0	1	1
Turkey	Southern Region		1	0	1
Turkey	Southeast Region		0	1	1
TOTAL			2	3	5



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 16, 2018

To: Utah Wildlife Board

From: Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

SUBJECT: Overview of Additional 2018 Big Game Permit Recommendations

The attached tables summarize the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recommended additional permits for antlerless elk, doe pronghorn, and bison for the 2018 big game hunting season. These recommendations for additional permits are due to severe drought across portions of Utah. The increases in permits are designed to protect habitat and minimize conflicts.

Highlights:

- 1) Antlerless elk: we recommend increasing 723 permits in areas of concern across 37 hunts on 9 management units.
- 2) Doe pronghorn: we recommend increasing permits by 35 in areas of concern across 3 pronghorn hunts.
- 3) Bison: we recommend increasing 109 permits on the Henry Mountains. We recommend adding permits to the 5 bison hunts currently approved and adding 4 new hunts in January 2019.



2018 Additional Antlerless Elk Permits

HUNT NAME	HUNT INFORMATION	SEASON DATES	ORIGINAL PERMITS	ADDITIONAL PERMITS REC	TOTAL 2018 PERMIT RECOMMENDATION
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek East		11/19-12/9	60	15	75
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	No Vehicle Access	10/6-10/18	30	8	38
Central Mtns, Central Manti		10/6-10/18	30	20	50
Central Mtns, Ephraim		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	50	10	60
Central Mtns, Ferron Canyon		10/6-10/18	30	20	50
Central Mtns, Gordon Creek-Price Canyon		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	40	20	60
Central Mtns, Milburn		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	50	10	60
Central Mtns, Mohrland-Stump Flat		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	40	20	60
Central Mtns, North Manti		10/6-10/18	250	50	300
Central Mtns, South Manti		10/6-10/18	50	20	70
Central Mtns, South Manti		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	100	20	120
Central Mtns, West Manti		11/21/2018-1/31/2019	100	20	120
Fillmore, Pahvant		10/6-11/9	90	20	110
Fillmore, Pahvant		12/1/2018-1/19/2019	90	20	110
La Sal, La Sal Mtns		10/6-10/18	100	20	120
La Sal, La Sal Mtns		11/21/2018-1/6/2019	75	20	95
Mt Dutton, Deep Creek	No Vehicle Access	12/1-12/16	75	15	90
Mt Dutton, East		12/17-12/31	75	20	95
Mt Dutton, East		1/1/2019-1/14/2019	75	20	95
Paunsaugunt		10/6-10/19 and 11/19-12/31	50	20	70
San Juan		10/6-10/18	80	30	110
San Juan, Elk Ridge		10/6-10/18 and 11/21/2018-1/6/2019	50	20	70
South Slope, Bonanza-Vernal	Private Lands Only Permits	8/1/2018-1/31/2019	300	60	360
South Slope, Bonanza-Vernal		10/6-10/18	50	15	65
South Slope, Diamond Mtn		11/1-11/14	55	11	66
South Slope, Diamond Mtn		11/21-12/4	55	11	66
South Slope, Diamond Mtn		12/19-12/31	55	11	66
South Slope, Little Mtn-Buckskin Hills	Very Low Elk Numbers, Low Success Hunt, Primarily Private Land	12/1-12/31	75	15	90
South Slope, Little Mtn-Buckskin Hills	Very Low Elk Numbers, Low Success Hunt, Primarily Private Land	1/1/2019-1/31/2019	75	15	90
South Slope, Mosby Mtn	Excludes Tribe Lands	11/10-12/9	50	15	65
South Slope, Yellowstone	Excludes Tribe Lands	10/6-10/18	100	15	115
South Slope, Yellowstone	Excludes Tribe Lands	11/17-11/25	100	15	115
South Slope, Yellowstone	Excludes Tribe Lands	12/1-12/9	100	15	115
South Slope, Yellowstone	Excludes Tribe Lands	12/15-12/31	100	15	115
South Slope, Yellowstone	Excludes Tribe Lands	1/12/2019-1/31/2019	150	22	172
Southwest Desert		11/19-12/19	160	25	185
Southwest Desert		12/20/2018-1/20/2019	40	25	65
Total			3055	723	3778

2018 Additional Doe Pronghorn Permits

HUNT NAME	HUNT INFORMATION	SEASON DATES	ORIGINAL PERMITS	ADDITIONAL PERMITS REC	TOTAL 2018 PERMIT RECOMMENDATION
Box Elder, West		11/10-12/31	35	15	50
Southwest Desert, Milford Flat	CROPLAND DEPREDATION	8/1-8/17	25	10	35
Southwest Desert, Milford Flat	CROPLAND DEPREDATION	10/6-10/28	25	10	35
Total			85	35	120

2018 Additional Bison Permits

HUNT NAME	HUNT INFORMATION	SEASON DATES	ORIGINAL PERMITS	ADDITIONAL PERMITS REC	TOTAL 2018 PERMIT RECOMMENDATION
Henry Mtns (hunter's choice)		11/3-11/15	25	2	27
Henry Mtns (hunter's choice)		11/17-11/29	23	4	27
Henry Mtns (cow only)		12/1-12/14	22	5	27
Henry Mtns (cow only)		12/15-12/31	25	3	28
Henry Mtns (archery)		10/5-10/19	15	5	20
Henry Mtns (cow only)	New Hunt	1/1-1/7/2019	0	23	23
Henry Mtns (cow only)	New Hunt	1/8-1/14/2019	0	23	23
Henry Mtns (cow only)	New Hunt	1/15-1/21/2019	0	22	22
Henry Mtns (cow only)	New Hunt	1/22-1/28/2019	0	22	22
Total			110	109	219

GREGORY B. HANSEN (13730)
Assistant Attorney General
SEAN D. REYES (7969)
Utah Attorney General
Utah Attorney General's Office
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
Telephone: (801) 538-7227

BEFORE THE UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE	:	MOTION TO DISMISS
PRIVILEGES OF LANCE E.	:	
LUCK TO HUNT BIG GAME	:	Case No. 2015-001939
IN THE STATE OF UTAH.	:	

The Division of Wildlife Resources (Division), by and through counsel, Gregory B. Hansen, Assistant Attorney General, hereby respectfully submits the following Motion to Dismiss Lance E. Luck's (Petitioner) administrative appeal for failure to prosecute.

FACTS

1. In September 2015, Petitioner shot and killed a 6-point bull elk in Utah without a valid Utah permit and was issued a citation.

2. On December 15, 2015, Petitioner entered a provisional guilty plea as part of a diversion agreement, wherein a 3rd degree felony charge of Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife pursuant to Utah Code § 23-20-4 was resolved. (See Exhibit A).

3. On June 28, 2016, the Division issued a Decision and Order suspending Petitioner's big game hunting privileges in the State of Utah for a period of ten years, beginning June 28, 2016 through June 27, 2026. (See Exhibit B).

4. On or around July 29, 2016, the Wildlife Board received a written notice of appeal from Petitioner, marked by the Division as “received” on July 29, 2016. (See Exhibit C). The Division accepted the appeal as timely filed because it could not verify the exact day Division personnel received the appeal.

5. The Division made numerous attempts to contact Mr. Luck to schedule a hearing. Mr. Luck eventually agreed to a hearing date of December 8, 2016.

6. Counsel for the Division called Petitioner on December 7, 2016, to confirm his attendance at the hearing and answer any remaining questions. During that phone call, Petitioner stated that he could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. The Division agreed to reschedule the hearing.

7. Over the subsequent months, the Division and counsel made numerous attempts to reschedule the hearing. Mailed correspondence was returned non-deliverable, and phone messages were not returned.

8. To the Division’s knowledge, the Petitioner did not contact the Division or the Wildlife Board during that time to inquire about the appeal or to reschedule the hearing.

9. On April 3, 2018, the Division delivered by certified mail a letter to Petitioner, indicating that if he did not contact the Division and pursue scheduling his appeal, that the Division would file a Motion to Dismiss with the Utah Wildlife Board. (See Exhibit D).

10. The Division received confirmation that the April 3 correspondence was delivered on April 26, 2018. (See Exhibit E).

11. The 30-day response period described in the Division’s October 2017 correspondence has lapsed, and the Division did not receive any correspondence from Petitioner indicating he wished to pursue his appeal.

ARGUMENT

The Wildlife Board should dismiss Petitioner's appeal pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure for failure to prosecute his case. Under Utah Code §23-14-2.1, "[t]he Division of Wildlife Resources shall comply with the procedures and requirements of Title 63, Chapter 46B, in is adjudicative proceedings." Title 63, Chapter 46B was renumbered by the Legislature in 2008 to Title 63G, Chapter 4 of the Utah Code and is entitled the "Administrative Procedures Act" (hereafter referred to as the "Act"). The Act describes its scope in Section 63G-4-102(1), as follows:

"... the provisions of this chapter apply to every agency of the state and govern: (a) state agency action that determines the legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of an identifiable person, including agency action to ... suspend ... an authority, right, or license..."

It further states in Subsection (4) that:

"This Chapter does not preclude an agency, prior to the beginning of an adjudicative proceeding...: from:

* * *

(b) granting a timely motion to dismiss or for summary judgment if the requirements of Rule 12(b) or Rule 56 of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure are met by the moving party..."

This section of the Act incorporates the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure insofar as motions to dismiss are concerned. Rule 41(b) establishes the criteria for dismissing an action consequent to the moving party's failure to prosecute their case or appeal, and describes the requirements for involuntary dismissal upon a motion by the defendant or respondent:

Involuntary dismissal; effect. If the plaintiff fails to prosecute or to comply with these rules or any court order, a defendant may move to dismiss the action or any claim against it. Unless the dismissal order otherwise states, a dismissal under this paragraph and any dismissal not under this rule, other than a dismissal for lack of jurisdiction, improper venue, or failure to join a party under Rule 19, operates as an adjudication on the merits.

This rule allows for dismissal of a case when the claimant has either failed to prosecute the case or otherwise failed to move the case forward. The responsibility to prosecute is a duty of due diligence imposed on the plaintiff, not on the defendant, and non-action by the plaintiff is construed as an abuse of the judicial process. *Country Meadows Convalescent Ctr. v. Utah Dep't of Health*, 851 P.2d 1212, 1216 (Ut. Ct. App. 1993); *Maxfield v. Rushton*, 779 P.2d 237, 240-41 (Ut. App. Ct. 1989). Therefore, "[i]t is well within a trial court's discretion to dismiss a case under rule 41(b) when a party fails to move forward according to the rules and directions of the court, without justifiable excuse." *Westinghouse Elec. Supply Co. v. Paul W. Larsen Contractor, Inc.*, 544 P.2d 876, 879 (UT 1975).

A court's discretionary power to dismiss claims must be balanced against the priority of affording disputants an opportunity to be heard and to do justice between them. *Id.* The propriety of dismissing an action for failure to prosecute rests on the following five factors first recognized in the *Westinghouse Elec. Supply Co.* case: (1) the conduct of both parties; (2) the opportunity each party has had to move the case forward; (3) what each party has done to move the case forward; (4) the amount of difficulty or prejudice that may have been caused to the other side; and (5) 'most important, whether injustice may result from the dismissal.'" *Id.* These factors are analyzed under the totality of the circumstances. See generally *Country Meadows Convalescent Ctr.* 851 P.2d 1212, 1215.

The *Westinghouse* criteria were used to evaluate an involuntary dismissal in *PDC*

Consulting, Inc. v. Porter, 196 P.3d 626, (UT App. Ct. 2008). This case involved a settlement agreement stemming from an employment dispute. *Id.* at 626. The agreement was not initially enforced, and when defendant Porter later attempted to do so, PDC Consulting contested its validity. *Id.* The court held that because PDC Consulting had done nothing for the two years that the agreement had laid dormant, that Porter suffered from being named in a lawsuit and incurring costs in preparing a case, and that no injustice resulted from the dismissal as PDC had ample opportunity to present its case, involuntary dismissal was justified. *Id.* at 629-30.

Like the petitioner in *PDC*, Petitioner commenced an action through the Wildlife Board appeal process challenging the Division's Decision and Order to suspend his hunting privileges. The Division wishes to enforce its validity. Like *PDC*, Petitioner initially expressed interest in appealing that decision, and has since failed in his duty of due diligence to move the case forward. The Division fully prepared for a hearing in December 2016, and out of an effort of cooperation agreed to reschedule when Petitioner notified the Division the day before the hearing that they were unable to attend. Division employees and counsel repeatedly attempted to contact Petitioner to reschedule, through regular mail correspondence, telephone calls, and finally certified mail - all to no avail. Ultimately a certified mail correspondence was delivered to Petitioner explaining that the Division would pursue dismissal of his appeal absent him initiating efforts to move the appeal forward. Still Petitioner failed to communicate with the Division or the Wildlife Board or move his appeal forward. This indicates that the Division has satisfied the first three *Westinghouse* criteria.

Second, the Division has invested a significant amount of time and energy in attempted communication, research, hearing preparation, and drafting of documents, while Petitioner has apparently invested little. The Division is not aware of any progress made by Petitioner to move

his appeal forward - Petitioner has not submitted any briefing, responded to any Division correspondence (aside from updating a mailing address), nor requested a new hearing date. The Division is not aware of any financial or time investments made by Petitioner in preparation of its case, and therefore will not be prejudiced by dismissal at this juncture. This satisfies the fourth Westinghouse criterion.

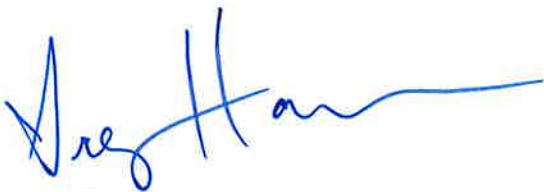
Lastly, the final Westinghouse criterion is satisfied because Petitioner has been provided every opportunity to present his appeal to the Wildlife Board and has failed to do so. If an appearance before the Wildlife Board was critical for him to obtain justice, more attentiveness should be required. The Division has already prepared for one hearing, and there is no indication that if a second is scheduled that Petitioner will make an appearance. Even if Petitioner claims injustice by losing his opportunity to present his appeal to the Wildlife Board, courts have found dismissal appropriate where the plaintiff “had more than ample opportunity to prove his asserted interest and failed to do so.” *Westinghouse* at 1216, citing *Maxfield v. Rushton*, 779 P.2d 237, 239 (Ut.Ct.App. 1989). Petitioner was afforded an initial hearing date, which he cancelled, and was then provided a second notice to move his case forward or potentially face a motion for dismissal – which he ignored.

Dismissing this action is consistent with how courts have handled similar dormancy periods. *Maxfield v. Fishler*, 538 P.2d 1323 (UT 1975) (dismissing action after two-year dormancy period); *PDC Consulting, Inc. v. Porter*, 196 P.3d 626, (UT App. Ct. 2008) (dismissing action based on two-year dormancy period). Petitioner has been provided ample opportunity to move his appeal forward, has simply failed to do so, and has provided no justification for their delay. Dismissal at this point is appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Based on foregoing argument and Petitioner's failure to prosecute his appeal, the Division respectfully requests the Wildlife Board to enter an order dismissing Petitioner's appeal with prejudice.

DATED this 6th day of August, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory B. Hansen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory B. Hansen
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for the Division

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR DELIVERY

I certify that on the 6th day of August, 2018, I caused to be deposited in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the attached Motion to Dismissed, addressed to:

Lance Luck
9334 North 1000 West
Roosevelt, UT 84066

Kirk Woodward
Utah Wildlife Board
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301



Kirk Woodward

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF UTAH
COUNTY OF Uintah
I hereby certify that the document to
which this certificate is attached is a
true and correct copy of the
record filed in the Utah State Courts.
I have my hand and seal
this 18th day of December
2015
DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT
Sheryl White



The Order of the Court is stated below:

Dated: December 18, 2015
12:07:59 PM

/s/ CLARK A MCCLELLAN
District Court Judge



EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT - VERNAL
UINTAH COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH,

Plaintiff,

: MINUTES
: CHANGE OF PLEA
: DIVERSION
: NOTICE
:

vs.

LANCE E LUCK,

Defendant.

: Case No: 151800771 FS
: Judge: CLARK A MCCLELLAN
: Date: December 15, 2015

PRESENT

Clerk: jillas

Prosecutor: DRECHSEL, MICHAEL C

Defendant

Defendant's Attorney(s): KING, RICHARD L

DEFENDANT INFORMATION

Date of birth: November 23, 1945

Audio

Tape Number: vern1 Tape Count: 09.21.40

CHARGES

1. WANTON DESTRUCTION OF PROTECTED WILDLIFE - 3rd Degree Felony

Plea: Guilty - Disposition: 12/15/2015 Diversion

Court advises defendant of rights and penalties.

The defendant is advised that this offense may be used as an enhancement to the penalties for a subsequent offense.

HEARING

Defendant is present with counsel. The defendant waives his right to have a speedy trial and consents that the Court stay this matter and hold this case in diversion for a period of (24) twenty-four months. State stipulates to early termination if fine is

paid in full. Upon entry of this Diversion Agreement the State agrees to prepare and file a motion to dismiss without prejudice and upon successful completion of this agreement, the State will have no objection to the dismissal being entered with prejudice.

DIVERSION

Defendant enters into diversion agreement.

Defendant waives time for sentence.

Conditions of Agreement:

Probationer shall enter plea(s) of guilty (or no contest) to the charge(s) as contained in the information.

Probationer is to report to the Court whenever requested to do so.

Probationer is to keep the Court and their attorney advised of his/her correct mailing address at all times.

Probationer is to violate no laws during the term of agreement other than minor traffic violations.

In the event Probationer is arrested or cited for an alleged violation of the law, Probationer shall notify the County Attorneys office within 72 hours of said violation(s).

If the County Attorney feels the Probationer has violated terms of agreement and Order to Show Cause is issued, Probationer waives personal service of Order to Show Cause and service of such may be had upon defense counsel.

If the Court finds Probationer has not met terms of agreement and violations have occurred, Probationer shall be sentenced accordingly.

DIVERSION ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Upon the Courts acceptance of plea, the Court stays matter for the period of time set forth in the agreement.

Defendant agrees to pay restitution in the amount of \$8000.00 to the Help Stop Poaching Fund.

Tracking review date for Plea in Abeyance: 12/12/2017

Restitution Amount: \$8000.00 Plus Interest

Pay in behalf of: HELP STOP POACHING FUND

Case No: 151800771 Date: Dec 15, 2015

SENTENCE TRUST NOTE

Restitution shall be paid in installments of at least \$350.00 per month beginning no later than the last day of January 2016, and every month thereafter until paid in full.

DIVERISON REVIEW HEARING is scheduled.

Date: 12/12/2017

Time: 09:00 a.m.

Location: ROOM 1

Vernal District Court

920 East Hwy 40

Vernal, UT 84078

Before Judge: CLARK A MCCLELLAN

Individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should call at three days prior to the hearing. For TTY service call Utah Relay at 800-346-4128. The general information phone number is 435-781-9300.

End Of Order - Signature at the Top of the First Page

Case No: 151800771 Date: Dec 15, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF NOTIFICATION

I certify that a copy of the attached document was sent to the following people for case 151800771 by the method and on the date specified.

EMAIL: MICHAEL C DRECHSEL mike@uintahcountyattorney.org

EMAIL: RICHARD L KING richardkinglaw@outlook.com

12/18/2015

/s/ JILL SHEFFIELD

Date: _____

Deputy Court Clerk

EXHIBIT B

STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

In the matter of: **Lance E. Luck's** license
and permit privileges to harvest protected
wildlife in the State of Utah.

DECISION AND ORDER

Case No. 2015-001939

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 Lance E. Luck's privileges to harvest protected wildlife in Utah. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) alleges that Mr. Luck committed Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife and that Mr. Luck did so intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly.

The Division recommended suspending Mr. Luck's Big Game license and permit privileges for fourteen 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 ten 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. Luck, which commenced this informal adjudicative proceeding under Utah Code section 23-19-9 and Utah Administrative Code Rule 657-26-3. Mr. Luck requested a hearing within the appropriate time and participated in a

hearing held on June 1, 2016. At the hearing, Sean Davis, Larry Wheatcraft, and Douglas Messerly represented the Division. Mr. Luck represented himself.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on evidence appearing in the Division's case file and on the testimony and evidence presented during the hearing, the Hearing Officer makes the following findings of fact. In September 2015, Mr. Luck was hunting near the Colorado/Utah border. He had a valid Colorado elk archery permit, but did not have a valid Utah permit. On September 25, after the Utah archery hunt had ended, Mr. Luck shot a 6 point bull elk that died in Utah. The next morning, he and his son returned to retrieve the meat and antlers, which they hiked to a shady area to keep the meat from spoiling. That day, someone called the Division's UTIP hotline reporting that he had seen two people—later identified as Lance Luck and his son—with archery equipment deboning a bull elk in Utah. When Division Conservation Officers arrived and began their investigation, they found the Lucks near their truck, which was parked about 70 feet into Colorado. Mr. Luck's son led Conservation Officers to the location of the meat and antlers, and then to the elk carcass, which was about half of a mile into Utah from the Colorado border.

The State of Utah charged Mr. Luck with one count of Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife, a third degree felony, in Case No. 151800771.

IV. ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

For the Hearing Officer to suspend Mr. Luck's Big Game privileges, the Division must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Luck: (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. Luck's privileges, the Division must prove that a court of law sentenced Mr. Luck 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. Luck was sentenced for Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife in the Eighth District Court of Utah, Case No. 151800771 (December 15, 2015). Therefore, the Division proved the first element of this suspension action.

B. State of Mind

To suspend Mr. Luck’s privileges, the Division must also prove that Mr. Luck committed the underlying offense intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly. *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 violation underlying the wanton destruction conviction was taking protected wildlife or its parts without the necessary permit or authorization under Utah Code § 23-20-3.

The Wildlife Resources Code defines “take” to include possessing protected wildlife. Utah Code § 23-13-2(43). Elk are considered protected wildlife. *See id.* §§ 23-13-2(35), (49)(c). Thus, it is unlawful to possess protected wildlife or its parts without the necessary authorization. *Id.* § 23-20-3(1).

Both at the hearing and in his post-hearing written statement, Mr. Luck argued that he was in Colorado when he shot the elk, and that he tracked the elk west before it died. The Division argued that Mr. Luck’s story was unlikely, and that it was more likely than not that the elk had been shot in Utah.

The Hearing Officer recognizes that Mr. Luck’s account of events might not be as unlikely as the Division has argued. It is entirely possible that Mr. Luck did shoot the elk while standing in Colorado. Based on the Division’s evidence, it is also possible that Mr. Luck shot the elk while in Utah. Where the shooting took place is a significant point of contention; however, the parties do not dispute that at some point, the elk crossed the border and died in Utah. Once the elk crossed into Utah, it became protected wildlife in Utah under the Wildlife Resources Code, and Mr. Luck needed authorization to take or possess its parts. Thus, regardless of where Mr. Luck shot the elk, he committed a violation because he did not obtain authorization to possess protected wildlife in Utah.

To suspend Mr. Luck's privileges to take protected wildlife, the Hearing Officer must also find that Mr. Luck acted at least recklessly with respect to the location of the elk carcass. During the hearing, Mr. Luck stated that he had hunted in the area numerous times in the past, and that he knew that he was near the Colorado/Utah border. In addition, he admitted to knowing that the border was marked on a nearby road. Given this knowledge, Mr. Luck was aware of a substantial risk that the elk had crossed the border and died in Utah. He disregarded this risk when he field dressed the animal without verifying its location. An ordinary person in Mr. Luck's position would have verified the location of the elk, found that it died in Utah, and sought to obtain proper authorization to take the elk. Mr. Luck therefore acted at least recklessly with respect to the underlying offense. The Division satisfied the second element of this suspension action.

In sum, the Hearing Officer finds that the Division met its burden of proving that Mr. Luck 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. Luck'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 third degree felony, which allows a suspension of up to seven years. However, subsection 23-19-9(5) gives the Hearing Officer authority to double the suspension for an offense involving a trophy animal. For a bull elk to be a trophy animal, it must have six or more points on at least one side. *Id.* § 23-13-2(46)(b). Here, the bull elk had 6 points on at least one side. Therefore, the maximum suspension allowed is fourteen years.

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

Mr. Luck has more than 25 years of experience hunting big game, and he has hunted in this general area four or five times. The Division argued that, given Mr. Luck’s experience, he should have been more diligent about knowing the location of the Colorado/Utah border. This circumstance is aggravating, but it must be weighed against the mitigating circumstances discussed below.

B. Mitigating Circumstances

Mr. Luck argued that the fact that he took actions to avoid wasting the elk warrants a deviation from the Division’s recommended suspension. In addition, Mr. Luck has no other wildlife violations, and he cooperated with Division Conservation Officers throughout their investigation. Mr. Luck also stated that he does not hunt simply for the sport of killing—when he has sufficient meat in his freezer to feed his family, he will not kill another animal. Finally, Mr. Luck allows elk and deer to graze on his property and has never sought depredation permits from the Division. The Hearing Officer will take these mitigating circumstances into account in issuing this Decision and Order.

VI. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

On balance, the Hearing Officer finds that the mitigating circumstances in this case slightly outweigh the aggravating circumstances. Mr. Luck parked his truck only 70 feet from the Colorado/Utah border and field dressed the elk without verifying the animal's location. At the same time, Mr. Luck has never been convicted of violating the Wildlife Resources Code in the past, and he cooperated with Conservation Officers throughout their investigation. He also allows elk to graze on his property and chooses not to seek depredation permits or compensation from the Division. The Hearing Officer finds that these mitigating circumstances call for a deviation from the Division's recommendation. Therefore, the Hearing Officer orders that Mr. Luck's Big Game privileges be suspended for ten years starting June 28, 2016 and ending on June 27, 2026.

ORDERED on June 28, 2016.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE HEARING OFFICER



Melissa L. Reynolds
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.

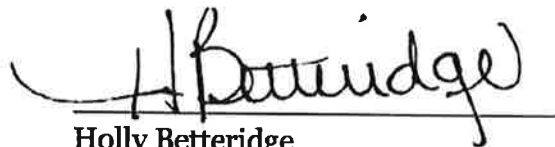
THE EFFECTS OF THIS ORDER

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 28th day of June 2016 to:

**LANCE E. LUCK
RR 1 BOX 1215
ROOSEVELT, UT 84066**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Holly Betteridge", written over a horizontal line.

**Holly Betteridge
Executive Secretary
Law Enforcement Division
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources**

EXHIBIT C

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2016

Wildlife Director's Office

Lance E Luck

RR 1 Box 1215

Roosevelt, Utah 84066

Case No.2015-001939

Chairperson of the Wildlife Board

1594 West North Temple

Suite No. 2110

Salt Lake City, Utah, 84114-6301

Dear Sir:

I am writing to appeal the sentence handed down to me by the Hearing Officer of ten years as being too harsh and of long duration. During the appeals process on June 1, 2016 I brought up the ~~fact that a~~ individual had taken 5 elk in Grand Teton National Park and was only given a \$3000 dollar fine. A Washington State man was given a \$5000 fine for shooting a grizzly bear, a threatened species. I have already paid \$8000 plus a \$1200 bow for this elk, a non- threatened species. There are mitigating circumstances I feel were also not weighted heavy enough in my favor.

If, however the board could be a little lenient and not be reciprocal with other states under the Wildlife Violator Compact I would not appeal the decision made by the Hearing Officer.

Thankyou,

Lance E Luck

Lance E Luck

EXHIBIT D



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

April 2, 2018

Lance E. Luck
RR 1 Box 1215
Roosevelt, Utah 84066

Dear Mr. Luck:

My name is Greg Hansen and I am an Assistant Attorney General representing the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. If you recall, I have been assigned to handle your appeal before the Utah Wildlife Board regarding Case No. 2015-001939. An administrative hearing was scheduled for your appeal on December 8, 2016; however, you were unable to attend the hearing and requested that it be rescheduled. Since that time, both myself and the Utah Wildlife Board Coordinator have made numerous attempts to contact you. None of our phone messages have been returned, nor do we have any record of you inquiring with the Division regarding rescheduling your appeal date. I have also sent correspondence to the addresses we have on file for you, both of which were returned as non-deliverable.

Please respond to this correspondence within 30 days and indicate whether you wish to pursue your appeal. If we do not hear from you within that 30-day time period, I will assume that you no longer wish to pursue your appeal and will move to file a Motion to Dismiss with the Utah Wildlife Board.

You may contact me with any questions at (801) 538-4744.

Sincerely,

Greg Hansen
Assistant Attorney General
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

cc: Staci Coons, Utah Wildlife Board Coordinator



EXHIBIT E

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT
 (Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)

For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com

OFFICIAL USE

7171 9876 3198 4171
 0000 1000 0110 0110 7171

Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$

Wildlife
 Board
 Here
 Appeal
 4-13-18

Send To Lance Luck
 Street, Apt. No.,
 or PO Box No. 9334 North 1000 West
 City, State, Zip+4 Roosevelt, Ut 84006

PS Form 3800, August 2005 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Lance Luck
 9334 North 1000 West
 Roosevelt, Utah 84006

2. Article Number
 (Transfer from service label)

7011 0110 0001 3198 4171

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
 Maureen Luck Agent
 Addressee
 B. Received by (Printed Name) Maureen Luck
 C. Date of Delivery 4/26/18
 D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail® Priority Mail Express™
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail Collect on Delivery

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 13, 2018

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons
Wildlife Board Coordinator

RE: Variance Request from Mr. Cliff Leavitt for the personal possession of a Marmoset Monkey

On January 24, 2018, a Division of Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement Officer was notified of the possible possession of a marmoset monkey by Cliff and Crystal Leavitt of Gunnison, Utah. After investigating the complaint, it was determined that the Leavitts had purchased a marmoset monkey 2 ½ years prior to the day and were in unlawful possession of the prohibited animal. On February 27, 2018, Mr. Leavitt contacted Staci Coons at the Division of Wildlife Resources to request a variance to lawfully possess the marmoset.

The division in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Food and the Department of Health and Human Services evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-53-11. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The Department of Health and Human Services expressed concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public, specifically related to if a bite were to happen. There were also concerns expressed about the marmoset being taken into public places and approached by people, especially because marmosets are known to carry enteric disease in their feces.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The division had no significant concerns with impacts on wildlife or domestic animals because the likelihood of the marmoset surviving for very long outside of a captive environment is slim due to climate and predators.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts** - The division had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
4. **The suitability of the facilities** – Both the division and the Department of Agriculture and Food expressed concerns with the suitability of the facilities. Currently the marmoset roams the residence freely in the evenings and is only placed in a cage from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. while the office staff is in the home. Mr. Leavitt stated that the marmoset is in the cage solely because he isn't fond of one of the workers, otherwise it is assumed he would roam freely the entire



time. The marmoset is often taken on family trips in the motorhome. The Leavitts openly admit to having the marmoset outside where he “only ventures about 5 feet away from us”. The chances of the marmoset escaping these facilities are high.

5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The Leavitts began the process to obtain a marmoset 3 years ago from a breeder in Florida. By their own admission, the Leavitts knew it was illegal to possess a marmoset in Utah; however, they continued with the purchase and brought the marmoset into the State without an Entry permit from the Department of Agriculture and Food and without a Health Certificate stating the marmoset was disease free. A veterinarian has not evaluated the marmoset to date.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The division had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The division, after careful evaluation and much discussion, recommends that the request be approved with the following stipulations:

1. The division recommends that appropriate documentation be provided to both the Division of Wildlife Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Food proving the marmoset purchased was legally acquired from a reputable dealer.
2. The division recommends that Mr. Leavitt’s COR be limited to the possession of this one marmoset. At the demise of this animal, no other exotic animal would be allowed.
3. The division recommends that the stipulations put into place by the Monroe City Council during the June 26, 2018 city council meeting also be placed on the Certification of Registration. This includes proof from a certified veterinarian that the marmoset is disease free. The city council also reserves the right to require the animal be removed from city limits if a complaint or concern similar to a nuisance is brought to the city council.
4. The division recommends that the marmoset be placed in a pet container when it leaves the residence to reduce the chance of escapement and to limit contact with the general public.
5. The division expressed significant concerns about the risk of the marmoset administering a bite. In which case, if a bite were to occur, the division would recommend that the marmoset be treated as a wild animal and euthanized with its head sent to a laboratory for rabies testing and other diseases as appropriate.

Dear Stacie

We found Gatlin through a breeder online.

The breeder was located in Florida. We started the process to get Gatlin 3 years ago.

My husband and I flew out to Florida to meet the breeder we talked about nutrition and other helpful things and then he went and got Gatlin I immediately fell in love with him!!!

My husband and I both grew up on farms and have always loved being around animals.

When Gatlin was a baby he would hide in my shirt or behind my hair on my neck.

When Gatlin was small he would go everywhere with me.

His favorite thing is going in the truck and stretching out on the warm dash.

When Gatlin knows he is in trouble he will turn his head away and ignore you just like a 2 year old.

Gatlin only leaves the house when our family goes on vacation in the motorhome.

Gatlin will only venture about 5 feet away from us when we are outside.

Gatlin eats dinner with us as a family at the kitchen table.

During meal time Gatlin will go around to each plate and try what they are eating he usually ends up eating everyones meat off there plates.

Monday- Friday he is in his cage from 7 A.M. – 4 P.M. while our office staff is there he isn't fond of one of the girls who works for us.

From 4 P.M.- on he roams around at his leiure.

Gatlin loves it when the whole family sits down for a movie he plays with everyone in the room he is a Cuddler.

Gatlin either sleeps with me or our daughter Audrey.

He is a part of our family. He has been there with me through my cancer.

I believe that once you bring an animal into your home they become a part of your whole life.

My animals are valuable members of our family just as our children are.

I don't believe Gatlin should be taken away from the only people/family he knows.

I would travel far and wide to make sure Gatlin gets what he needs.











Public Copy

Case Details

Case Number: 2018-000146
Disposition: Active
Referred To: Referred to Detectives
Original Date: Jan 24, 2018, 4 p.m. - Feb 26, 2018, noon
Original Location: [REDACTED]
Last Modified: Feb 6, 2018, 4:34 p.m.
Status: Assigned
Nature: Gunnison Monkey Case
Description: WR2400: Unlawful Taking/Possession of Protected Wildlife (23-20-3(1)(a))

Offense

(6201.3) WR2400: Unlawful Taking/Possession of Protected Wi (Misdemeanor)

Offense: (6201.3) WR2400: Unlawful Taking/Possession of Protected Wi
UCR: (90Z)
State: (23-20-3(1)(a))
Attempted/Completed: Completed
Location Type: residence
Bias Motivation: None (no bias)
Suspected Of Using: Not Applicable

People

CLIFTON KENNETH LEAVITT Suspect

Aliases:
Gender: Male
Race: White
Ethnicity: non Hispanic
Incidents: I18024009

CRYSTAL DANIELLE LEAVITT Suspect

Aliases:
Gender: Female
Race: White
Ethnicity: non Hispanic
Incidents: I18024009

Property

Marmoset Monkey None

Notes

Monkey illegally possessed by Leavitts in Gunnison Utah

Public Copy**Incident****I18024009**

Occurred Time: **Jan 24, 2018, 4 p.m. - Feb 26, 2018, noon**
 Reported Time: **Jan 24, 2018, 4 p.m.**
 Field Report: **R978778 Crime - 2018-000146 (WR2400: Unlawful Taking/Possession of Protected Wildlife)**
 Reporting Officer: **Mickelsen, Casey Kent**
 Organization Level: **Manti (500-532-MTI)**
 People: **CRYSTAL DANIELLE LEAVITT**
CLIFTON KENNETH LEAVITT
 Property: **Marmoset Monkey**

Mickelsen, Casey Kent R978778 Jan 26, 2018

Criminal Investigative Report:

Initial Complaint about Illegally Possessed Marmoset Monkey:

01/24/2018, I, Conservation Officer Casey Mickelsen - Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, received a phone call from a Confidential Informant (CI) regarding a Marmoset monkey being illegally possess in Gunnison, Sanpete County. The CI reported that Cliff and Crystal Leavitt currently had in their possession a live Marmoset. The CI believed it was illegal for the Leavitt's to possess this Marmoset and asked that it be investigated. I told the CI that I would investigate this report and asked the CI to provided as much information about it as possible about the monkey. Through text messaging, I received several photographs and short video clips which all showed a small marmoset monkey in the photos. I also received contact information for the Leavitts. I began to investigate whether the possession of marmoset monkeys is a violation of Utah State statute. I requested assistance from headquarters in Salt Lake City. Through this investigation it was determined that marmosets are illegal to possess in Utah.

I also corresponded with Gunnison City Police Chief Brett McCall. Chief McCall also determined that the possession of a monkey in Gunnison City limits was illegal per their city ordinances.

Phone Interview of Clifton Leavitt:

02/06/2018, I intended to visit the Leavitts at their home in Gunnison and interview them about the monkey. However, before I went to Gunnison I received a text from the CI that the Leavitts had discovered they had been turned in for the monkey and they knew they were going to be visited about it. I decided to call them initially due to this information. I attempted to call Crystal Leavitt's phone number several times with no answer. A short time later I received a phone call from Clifton Leavitt. Clifton stated he was driving his semi truck in the Eastern part of the country. He asked why I had been contacting Crystal Leavitt on her phone. I identified myself to Clifton Leavitt and stated I needed to speak with them about their marmoset monkey.

Clifton initially lied about possessing a monkey. He claimed they did not possess any monkey and only babysat a monkey for a friend several years prior for about a weeks time. I explained to Clifton that I knew he was lying and that I had good information that they did indeed possess a monkey at their residence in Gunnison. Clifton then admitted they do possess a marmoset monkey. The following information about the monkey was learned and/or confirmed while speaking to Clifton on the phone:

- * Clifton and his wife Crystal own and possess a marmoset monkey
- * The monkey resides in their home in Gunnison
- * The monkey is a male and is named Gatlin
- * They have possessed the monkey for several years
- * They purchased the monkey from a private dealer in Florida
- * They picked up the monkey in Florida and transported it to Utah
- * They knew it was illegal to possess a marmoset in Utah
- * They were willing to take the risk and did not believe it would be a big deal were they to be caught.

I agreed to give the Leavitts some time to contact the Salt Lake Office and pursue a Certificate of Registration (COR) allowing them to legally possess the marmoset in Utah. I also explained I still needed to visit their residence in Gunnison and speak with them further. Clifton agreed and stated he would contact me when he returned to Utah. Our conversation then ended.

Interview of the Clifton and Crystal Leavitt:

Public Copy

Incident

Mickelsen, Casey Kent R978778 Jan 26, 2018

02/26/2018, I had not received any word from Clifton Leavitt about his return to Utah for several weeks. I drove to Gunnison and went to the Leavitt residence. I met Crystal there and introduced myself. She knew why I was there and had Clifton connected on her cell phone so he could be part of the conversation. I asked if Crystal would show me the monkey. She agreed and showed me the marmoset in the basement. The marmoset was in a small enclosure under a heat lamp. The monkey appeared to be healthy and in a good state of care.

I then interviewed Crystal in person and Clifton over the phone about their marmoset. Several points of the interview are detailed as follows:

- * I informed them that no one was under arrest or in custody, they stated they understood and were willing to speak with me
- * I explained the steps the Leavitts would need to take in an attempt to get a COR for the possession of the marmoset
- * I explained that marmosets are illegal to possess in Utah
- * Crystal admitted they knew it was illegal to have marmosets in Utah
- * Crystal admitted the dealer in Florida told them that marmosets are illegal in Utah when they purchased the monkey
- * I explained the possession of a monkey is a violation of Gunnison City ordinance
- * I explained Gatlin was essentially "seized in place" as evidence and that he needed to stay at their residence. They agreed to that point.
- * Clifton admitted they have possessed the monkey in Utah for two and one half (2 1/2) years

(CASE NOTE: The entire interview of the Leavitts was digitally recorded on my cell phone. The file is retained in the case file).

Further Case Information:

I received a phone call from Clifton Leavitt a few days after the interview. He explained that he had corresponded with the Salt Lake Office about obtaining a COR for the monkey. He also explained that they were arranging to petition the Wildlife Board for a COR at the board meeting on May 31, 2018. It was agreed they could retain possession of the marmoset until that time frame.

Case Summary:

Information was obtained from a CI that Clifton and Crystal Leavitt of Gunnison illegally possessed a marmoset monkey. An investigation by the UDWR showed the Leavitts do indeed possess a marmoset monkey which are illegal to possess in Utah. Upon several interviews with the Leavitts, they admitted they knew it was illegal to possess marmosets in Utah. The Leavitts were given a time frame to apply for a COR to legally retain possession of the marmoset.

Report

Date Created	Report No.	Reporting Officer	Title	Supplemental	Pending Review / Status
Jan. 26, 2018	R978778 [Open / Print]	Casey Mickelsen	Crime - 2018-000146 (WR2400: Unlawful Taking/ Possession of Protected Wildlife) Referred to Detectives		Committed

NOTICE AND AGENDA
MONROE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 26, 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Monroe City Council will hold its regular meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at the Monroe City Hall, 10 North Main.

The agenda shall be as follows: The order of business may be changed as time permits.

Welcome and call to order: Mayor Johnny Parsons
Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: By Invitation
Roll Call:

Citizen input:

1. Consider Service Project for Centracom – Saylyn Catmill
2. Mike Torgerson – Hinton Burdick CPAs & Advisors- Enterprise Zoning
- 3 Private Garage Building permit exceeding the minimum of 1400 sq. feet, submitted by Craig Curtis located at 191 W 200 S.
4. David Coe- Discussion about Red Hill Property timeline
5. Approval of Public Entity Resolution
- 6 Staff Reports
7. Department Business
8. Adjournment

Posted this 25th day of June, 2018

I hereby certify that the foregoing notice and agenda was posted at the Monroe City Hall, website littlegreenvalley.com, posted on the Utah Public Notice website and personally delivered to each member of the Monroe City Council.

Allison Leavitt, Monroe City Recorder

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations, or assistance during this meeting shall notify Allison Leavitt, City Recorder, at 435-527-4621 at least 24 hours prior to this meeting. Monroe City is an equal opportunity employer and provide.

**MINUTES
MONROE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 12, 2018**

7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Monroe City Council was called to order by Mayor Johnny Parsons at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Payne. A prayer was offered by Councilmember Washburn

Roll Call:

Mayor – Johnny Parsons

Councilmembers

Michael Mathie

Janet Cartwright

Fran Washburn

Joseph Anderson

Perry Payne

Public Works Director Devin Magleby

City Recorder Allison Leavitt

Citizens:

Keith Cartwright

Emalee Curtis

Nan Roberts-Little Green Valley Fun Civic League

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 22, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Payne made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 city council meeting as corrected. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Corrections

Line 53 remove "a" before HB 164

Line 56 change "a of" to "of a"

Line 91 inserted last name "Canbelaria"

Line 138 change "need" to "needed"

2. Warrant register/Adjustment register/Cash Disbursements

Members of the city council reviewed and signed the June 2018 warrant register and cash disbursement register, and May 2018 adjustment register.

71 Ms. Roberts asked if the city would include in our next newsletter an article to explain the
72 circumstances for the delay in completing the splash pad. She feels some in the community do
73 not trust her and feels an explanation may help with raising the remaining funds needed to
74 complete the project.

75 **Councilmember Payne made a motion to accept Splash Pad USA tentative proposal of**
76 **\$60,000.00 for construction of splash pad, with the understanding that the project cannot**
77 **exceed the \$60,000.00 budget and that the city may have to cover the shortfall of funds**
78 **raised until Little Green Valley Civic League can raise the additional funds needed.**
79 **Councilmember Washburn seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were**
80 **Councilmembers: Payne, Anderson, Cartwright, Washburn and Mathie. All were in favor.**
81 **Motion passed.**

82 **5. Consider approval for an animal which is not listed in current ordinance**

83 Clifton Leavitt, resident requesting permission to have a pet Marmoset monkey, which is
84 classified as an exotic animal, at his residence located at 585 W 370 S.

85 The City's current ordinance states that any animals not listed in the ordinance will be
86 addressed on an individual basis.

87 City Recorder Leavitt explained to the council that the Utah Division of Wildlife main concern
88 with an exotic animal in your community is that they can carry diseases and could cause
89 physical harm to others.

90 Mr. Leavitt was unable to attend tonight's meeting; however, he could be reached by
91 telephone if needed. Pictures of their monkey were sent in a text message to Allison, which
92 she showed to those in attendance.

93 After discussion the council decided on the following conditions:

94 *Provide proof from certified veterinarian the monkey is disease free.

95 *If a complaint or concern similar to a nuisance is brought to the city council, the council
96 reserves the right to require the animal be removed from the city limits.

97 *At the demise of this animal no other exotic animal will be allowed.

98

99 **Councilmember Mathie made a motion to allow the exotic animal (monkey) with stated**
100 **conditions. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were**
101 **Councilmembers: Payne, Anderson, Cartwright, Washburn, and Mathie. All were in favor.**
102 **Motion passed.**